

## Call to Prayer: Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Prayer @ 7pm

### The Baptism of the Lord

As we journey into the year to come, we find ourselves once more in a desert place and in that place there are many who are deeply uncertain as to what the year will bring. At this time, there are many who feel locked out of the pattern that has previously shaped their lives and the absence of that pattern can be profoundly unsettling. Yet even in the most uncertain of times, there are moments of discovery, and rediscovery, where we are shaped by a new pattern. As this takes place, we are renewed and affirmed as those who are made in the image of God.

The Gospel of Luke opens by taking us to a desert place and in that desert place there takes place a renewal signified in baptism which marks the beginning of new life. Indeed, Jesus Christ himself comes to the waters of the River Jordan to be baptised. As he does so, he hears the words of affirmation: 'You are my Son, The Beloved; my favour rests on you.' (Luke 3:15-16, 21-22) In our own desert place, may we find renewal, affirmation and the living presence of God. We pray:

Living God,  
Be with us in the desert place  
And renew us as those who are made in your image. Hear us as we call to you  
And answer our cry.  
Lord, in your mercy,  
Hear our prayer.

Living God,  
Be with us in the desert place  
And meet us in the place of suffering. Hear us as we call to you  
And bring healing to the broken. Lord, in your mercy,  
Hear our prayer.

Living God,  
Be with us in the desert place  
And come beside those who are sorrowing. Hear us as we call to you  
And have compassion upon us.  
Lord, in your mercy,  
Hear our prayer.

Living God,  
Be with us in the desert place  
And lead us to the places of discovery and rediscovery. Hear us as we call to you  
And reshape the pattern of our lives.  
Lord, in your mercy,  
Hear our prayer.

Living God,  
Be with us in the desert place  
And may we know that Christ is with us.  
Hear us as we call to you  
And lead us to the place where we hear your word of affirmation. Lord, in your  
mercy,  
Hear our prayer.

Signed by:

Lord Wallace, Moderator of the General Assembly, Church of Scotland

Most Rev. Leo Cushley, Archbishop of St. Andrews and Edinburgh, Roman Catholic  
Church

Most Rev. Mark Strange, Primus, on behalf of the College of Bishops, Scottish  
Episcopal Church

Rev. Dr David Miller, Moderator, United Free Church of Scotland

Rev. Neil MacMillan, Moderator, Free Church of Scotland

Rev. Paul Whittle, Moderator, United Reformed Church (Scotland)

Rev. Martin Hodson, General Director, Baptist Union of Scotland

Rev. Mark Slaney, District Chair, Methodist Church (Scotland)

Rev. Thomas R. Wilson, Chair, Congregational Federation in Scotland

Lt. Col. Carol Bailey, Secretary for Scotland, Salvation Army

Adwoa Bittle, Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Rev. Ruth Turner, District Superintendent, British Isles North District, Church of the  
Nazarene

Pastor Chris Gbenle, Provincial Pastor, Province of Scotland, Redeemed Christian  
Church of God

Bishop Francis Alao, Church of God (Scotland)/Minority Ethnic Churches Together in  
Scotland (MECTIS)

Rev Fred Drummond, Director, Evangelical Alliance (Scotland)