

Call to Prayer Sunday 27th March 2022

Prayer at 7pm

It always surprises me how often the Gospels say that Jesus needed to “withdraw” from the crowds, and even the disciples to pray. Like all of us, Jesus needed prayer, in his case, with the Father. And while the Gospels don’t afford us much access to Jesus’ inner life, we know that his prayer was real: that is, he truly sought help from the Father.

We know also that Jesus was really tempted. After his baptism, the Gospels describe Jesus as being “driven” or “led” into the desert for a period of testing. In Matthew and Luke we read the familiar incidents of Satan tempting Jesus in three ways: to turn stones into bread (to feed himself), to throw himself from a high tower (to prove God’s loving care), and to worship Satan (in exchange for power and glory).

Like the most difficult temptations in our own lives, Jesus’ temptations were cloaked in apparent goodness. Why wouldn’t you want to feed yourself? Why not let God show you love? Why not acquire some wealth and power? The most tempting temptations rarely appear 100 percent evil, for then they would be easy to identify and reject. After much prayer, Jesus realized that giving into these lures would prevent him from becoming the person he was meant to be.

In the desert of our temptations, our lives can seem dry indeed. But if we follow the voice of conscience, and remember that God is always with us, we can, like Jesus, reject anything that leads from becoming the flourishing person God wants us to be.

(“In All seasons for All Reasons”, “Praying in the Desert”, By James Martin SJ).

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on my lips;
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and be glad.

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Glorify the Lord with me.

Together let us praise his name.

I sought the Lord and he answered me;
from all my terrors he set me free.

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Look towards him and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.

This poor man called, the Lord heard him
and rescued him from all his distress.

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

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)