



Weekly Intercessions



in the Scottish Episcopal Church
in the Charges of St Margaret, Renfrew & St John, Johnstone
Week beginning Sunday 20 December 2020

Advent 4

The aim of this leaflet is to help you pray at home as part of the Worldwide Anglican family in the Scottish Episcopal Church. Please use this sheet in conjunction with weekly Pewsheets and the SEC Daily Offices of Morning and Evening Prayer.

Join in the Daily Offices at
<https://tinyurl.com/SECStJohnStMargaret>
9am Morning Prayer & 530pm Evening Prayer
(Monday to Friday)

You can follow these Daily Offices online at
www.scotland.anglican.org/spirituality/prayer/daily-offices/
where you will find Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer and Night Prayer each day of the week. All the Psalm and Bible texts are automatically there for the day and any commemoration or Festival.

Just before the Lord's Prayer you can insert these prayer intentions for the day and the names of those for whom we have been asked to pray in their different needs from the Pewsheets. Also are included the Benedictine Prayers of Union which Rev Reuben uses everyday being an Oblate of Alton Abbey in Hampshire.

www.SECStJohnStMargaret.org.uk

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER **each SUNDAY 7pm**

The Call to a National Day of Prayer, is in response to the Covid -19 pandemic, people of faith across our nation are invited to join in prayerful solidarity with this witness. Light a candle at 7pm each Sunday, in the window of our homes as a visible symbol of the light of life, Jesus Christ, the source of hope in this life.



A prayer to use when you light your candle:

For all that is good in life, thank you,
For the love of family and friends, thank you,
For the kindness of good neighbour and Samaritan stranger, thank you.
May those who are vulnerable, hungry, or homeless,
experience support,
May those who are sick, know healing,
May those who are anxious or bereaved, sense comfort.
Bless and guide political leaders and decision-makers,
with wisdom,
Bless and guide health workers and key workers,
with strength and well-being,
Bless and guide each one of us,
as we adapt to a new way of living.

And may the light shining from our windows, across
road and wynd, glen and ben, kyle and isle, be
reflected in our hearts and hands and hopes.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Some prayers for use during the pandemic

God of all mercy and compassion,
life and death are in your hands.

Hear our prayers in this time of illness and infection,
of isolation, fear, and uncertainty:
for the sick, and those weighed down by pain, distress,
loneliness, and anxiety;
for all who care for them, conscious of the risks they bear;
and for those who have responsibility for public health and social order.

Hear the cry of the afflicted and let them be comforted,
so that all who suffer may come to know
that they are joined to the sufferings of Christ,
who gave his life for the salvation of the world;
and by your blessing on them and those who care for them,
may they be restored, according to your will,
to soundness of body and mind,
and offer you joyful thanks in your Church.

Through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.

God of our Salvation,
you have ordained that we should serve you
in serving one another.

Look upon this nation,
burdened at this time with many cares and anxieties,
with infection, sickness, and untimely death.

Grant us grace to work together,
with honest and faithful hearts,
each caring for the good of all;
that, striving first for your kingdom and its righteousness,
we may have added to us all things that we need
for our daily sustenance
and the common good.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

(Based on a prayer of Geoffrey Fisher)

O God, whose love we cannot measure,
nor even number thy blessings:
we bless and praise thee for all thy goodness,
who in our weakness art our strength,
in our darkness, light,
in our sorrows, comfort and peace,
and from everlasting to everlasting art our God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, world without end.

(Supplement to the Indian Book of Common Prayer)

The doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked (John 20. 19)

Ever-present God,
be with us in our isolation,
be close to us in our distancing,
be healing in our sickness, be joy in our sadness,
be light in our darkness, be wisdom in our confusion,
be all that is familiar when all is unfamiliar,
that when the doors reopen we may with the zeal of Pentecost
inhabit our communities and speak of your goodness
to an emerging world.
For Jesus' sake.

(A prayer by Andrew Nunn, Dean of Southwark)

Faith in action – HIV/AIDS

1st December is International AIDS Day. In the SEC prayer cycle for December we pray for unconditional acceptance of people living with HIV/AIDS as equal members of the body of Christ. The HIV pandemic affects every part of our world, including Scotland. Thanks to the development of effective treatment, many people are now living with HIV rather than dying from AIDS. Recent years have seen an increase in new HIV infections in Scotland - the majority within the heterosexual population. People living with HIV face stigma and discrimination on a regular basis.

We remember the millions of people throughout our world who are living with HIV. People in the developed world who have access to life saving treatments, but who often struggle to manage the regimes. People in the developing world with little or no access to treatment, families who have lost an entire generation; orphaned children who struggle to bring up their siblings. We pray for all those who are committed to changing this situation God of love and compassion, hear the prayers of your people.

AMEN

Daily Intercessions in the United Charges of St John's Johnstone & St Margaret's Renfrew

Sunday 20 December intentions –Advent 4

In the Anglican Communion

Pray for mission agencies and their ministry throughout the Anglican Communion, including the Mothers' Union around the world.

In the SEC we pray for

- Bishop Kevin Pearson, Bishop of the United Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway; Bishop Mark Strange, Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church; the people of Scotland.
- Porvoo Link: The Lusitanian Church of Portugal.
- Diocesan Centre Staff (Christine Hughes, Iolanthe Stack, Marion Noble).
- St Oswald's, King's Park (Vacant).
- St Ninian's, Pollokshields (Paul Romano, Eamonn Rodgers, Kenneth Roach).
- Holy Cross, Portnacrois (Diocese of Argyll and The Isles).

In our local Charges

We pray for hope for an end to the coronavirus pandemic throughout the world & healing for all who are suffering from covid-19 at home and in hospital.

We pray for those named on our pewsheet – for health, healing, and wholeness in their lives.

We pray for each other as we worship together whether in our church buildings, by telephone or online.

We pray for our plans to keep the feasts over the Christmas season, that we may feel connected as we share celebrations from our homes.

We pray for growth in the lives of our Charges, we pray that we may each take part in inviting new people to become part of the life of our churches in Johnstone & Renfrew.

In our communities

We pray for all affected in their lives, work and finances by the increased restrictions required for the safety of all and especially for those who cannot visit loved ones at home or in care homes.

We pray for those living with HIV/AIDS and for an end to discrimination. We pray for wisdom and integrity and a worldwide vision for our Nation's leaders – may they help us to work together for the common good of all. We pray for all those involved in the vaccination programme against COVID.

We pray for parts of the world suffering because of war, terrorism, or natural disasters and that we may share in responsibility for our brothers and sisters across the world.

Monday 21 December intentions

In the Anglican Communion we pray for

Dioceses of

South West Tanganyika (*Tanzania*) The Rt Revd Matthew Mhagama
Esan (*Nigeria*) The Most Revd Friday Imaekhai

In the SEC

- Bishop Kevin Pearson, Bishop of the United Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway; Bishop Mark Strange, Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church; the people of Scotland.
- Good Shepherd & Ascension, Hillington; Holy Trinity & St Barnabas, Paisley (Deborah Davison).
- St Paul's, Rothesay, Isle of Bute (Diocese of Argyll and The Isles).



In our local Charges

as Sunday and we pray for those in the leisure, travel, hospitality and retail sectors as they deal with a period of severe restrictions.

We pray for any who are anxious about what to do for the best to keep others safe but still keep in contact with loved ones, that in this season they may feel hope for a safer world in the coming year.

We pray for Charges in the Renfrewshire Region as they prepare their worship to celebrate Christmas: Heartlands Group, Holy Trinity Paisley, St John's Greenock, & St Bartholomew's Gourock.

We pray for our online and telephone worship on Wednesdays that we may find this a time of blessing.

We pray that we may find quiet amidst the business of preparation to prepare our hearts to welcome the Christ child among us.

In our communities

We pray for our Government Ministers and the Scientific advisors as they make plans for our future as a nation and as they face difficult decisions in the light of rises in the rates of COVID-19 in different areas.

We pray for the areas of the UK facing further restrictions due to the coronavirus, especially remembering the impact on the BAME communities.

We pray for all those with responsibilities for migrants and asylum seekers and for just and compassionate responses to those risking their lives to escape violence, persecution and exclusion to find safety. We pray especially for children separated from their families.

Tuesday 22 December intentions

In the Anglican Communion we pray for

Dioceses of

Etche (*Nigeria*) The Rt Revd Precious Nwala

Etsako (*Nigeria*) The Rt Revd Jacob Bada



In the SEC

- Bishop Kevin Pearson, Bishop of the United Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway; Bishop Mark Strange, Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church; the people of Scotland.
- Bishop Kevin Pearson, Bishop of the United Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway; Bishop Mark Strange, Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church; the people of Scotland.
- Porvoo Link: The Spanish Episcopal Reformed Church.

- Diocesan Protection of Vulnerable Groups Co-ordinator (Anne Jones).
- St John's, Johnstone; St Margaret's, Renfrew (Reuben Preston).
- St Peter's, Stornoway and St Moluag's, Eoropaidh, Isle of Lewis (Diocese of Argyll and The Isles).

In our local Charges

as Sunday and for the youngsters in our families at church and in our extended families who are away from us.

We pray for any whose lives are particularly restricted at this time because of long-term conditions or disabilities, that are not lonely and may feel hope for a time when restrictions can be safely lifted.

We pray for all those who have lost a loved one at this season and find this a difficult time, that they will be consoled.

We pray for trans young people that they are accepted for who they are and receive the support they need and for all young people that are free to discover and live out their identities.

We continue to pray for ecumenical relationships and for a shared Christian witness to the people of Scotland.

In our communities

We pray for all mothers and fathers and for foster carers and especially any who are stressed by the demands of providing for their families at this time .

We pray for people living completely alone and feeling isolated and cut off, we give thanks for people helping neighbours.

We pray for those who feel vulnerable and frightened by all that is happening, and those who are anxious or scared to go out.

We pray for people who must shield or self-isolate, especially those protecting and supporting vulnerable family members.

We pray for homeless people and for those in unsuitable or unsafe accommodation, including those living in buildings with cladding that is not fully fireproof.

Wednesday 23 December intentions

In the Anglican Communion we pray for

Dioceses of

Evo (*Nigeria*) The Rt Revd Innocent Ordu

Exeter (*England*) The Rt Revd Robert Atwell

In the SEC

- Bishop Kevin Pearson, Bishop of the United Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway; Bishop Mark Strange, Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church; the people of Scotland.
- St Bartholomew's, Gourock (Vacant).
- St John the Evangelist, Greenock (Wilhelmina Nesbitt).
- The Episcopal Congregation from the Isles of Easdale, Seil and Luing meeting at Kilbrandon, Isle of Seil (Diocese of Argyll and The Isles).

In our local Charges

as Sunday and for people working from home and all those looking after children at home.

We pray for the households, couples, families, and our friends in our congregations.

We pray for our telephone church service this afternoon that it may help us to be an inclusive church.

We pray for our online service this evening: that it may be a time of blessing to us all.

We pray that the message of the Angels will be heard above the noise of last minute shopping.

In our communities

We pray for Key workers and those who are working as child-minders and carers in the residential care settings of our Charges.

We pray for Outreach Workers of Glasgow City Mission and their support to the homeless and the vulnerable children of our region and for all those community initiatives that are helping to feed those in need.

We pray for anyone who has had to change their Christmas plans because of coronavirus and will miss meeting up with loved ones this year.

We pray for our Prime Minister – Boris and First Minister – Nicola in their work for the common good. May they be wise in the discharge of their duties for the Nation.

We pray for areas of conflict throughout the world and for the work of international agencies and charities who provide relief.



Thursday 24 December intentions

Christmas Eve

In the Anglican Communion we pray for

Dioceses of

Ezo (*South Sudan*) The Rt Revd John Kereboro Zawo

Faisalabad (*Pakistan*) The Rt Revd John Samuel

Falkland Islands (Parish of) (*Falkland Islands*) The Rt Revd Timothy Thornton (*Diocesan Bishop*)

In the SEC

- Bishop Kevin Pearson, Bishop of the United Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway; Bishop Mark Strange, Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church; the people of Scotland.
- Porvoo Link: The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Denmark.
- Heartland Group: St Mary's, Bridge of Weir; St Fillan's, Kilmacolm; St Mary the Virgin, Port Glasgow (David Gifford, Heller Gonzalez, Robert Chambers, Gerard McKeown).
- The Chapel of St Columba, Bishop's House, Isle of Iona (Diocese of Argyll and The Isles).

In our local Charges

as Sunday and we pray for ourselves as we worship together in this Christmas season, in our buildings, online or by telephone, may we be a blessing to one another as we gather.

We pray for Bishop Kevin as he gets to know people around the Diocese on the phone and virtually and for his recent move to Bishop's House.

We pray for our crib service at St John's this afternoon that we may once again feel the joy of journeying to Bethlehem to worship the Christ child.

We pray for the mission of all Christian churches as they bring the Nativity joy to the people of Scotland.

In our communities

We pray for manual workers, street repair workers, refuse collectors and open-spaces maintenance workers.

We pray for a renewed sense of neighbourliness in our streets.

We pray for those living in care homes and their families who hope to be able to visit them safely soon.

We pray for people feeling frustrated and anxious, those worried about jobs, those seeking work and employment and for any who face economic hardship.

We pray for the groups which used to use our hall in Renfrew – AA & CA, and the Brownies and Dance classes, may they find new ways of working.

We give thanks for all volunteers helping to sustain the most vulnerable in our community.

We pray for Mental Health Services in the NHS and voluntary sector. May they have the resources and capacity to respond to the great needs at this time.

We pray for anyone who is working over the next few days that they will meet courtesy and respect and be able to rest when the time comes.

Friday 25 December intentions Christmas Day



In the Anglican Communion

Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem and the People of Bethlehem

In the SEC

- Bishop Kevin Pearson, Bishop of the United Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway; Bishop Mark Strange, Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church; the people of Scotland.
- Scottish Episcopal Church: St Andrew's, Dunkeld and Dunblane (Bishop Ian Paton).
- Canon Missioner (Audrey Stewart); Digital Missioner (Petko Marinov).

- Holy Trinity, Motherwell; St Andrew's, Wishaw (Richard Kilgour, Charles Sargent).
- The Episcopal Church on the Isles of Skye and Raasay: St Columba's, Portree, St Michael and All Angels, Raasay, St Mary's, Sleat (Diocese of Argyll and The Isles).

In our local Charges

We pray for all those who feel excluded from the messages of hope and joy, those struggling financially, those without homes, those depressed or unwell, may God's mercy bring them consolation and resilience.

We pray for the BAME communities as they face the pains and challenges of the ongoing COVID19 situation in Britain and the impact it is having on them along with the issues raised by the BLMs campaigns in the UK and abroad.

We pray for all our Christmas services that through them we may again realise the amazing gift of love given to us in the coming of God's Son.

In our communities

We pray that we may find an end to homelessness in our society once and for all and for the Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Action Group as they seek to find ways forward.

We pray for children living in refugee camps that homes may be found for them in safe places and that we may connect with their plight as we hear the story of Mary and Joseph.

We pray for spiritual renewal in Johnstone and Renfrew and that we may all feel empowered by the Holy Spirit to share the Good News.

We pray for peace and justice in the Middle East and for reconciliation and dialogue across religious, ethnic and political divides.

Saturday 26 December intentions

In the Anglican Communion we pray for

Dioceses of

Fianarantsoa (*Indian Ocean*) The Rt Revd Gilbert Ratelison
Rakotondravelo

Florida (*The Episcopal Church*) The Rt Revd John Howard

False Bay (*Southern Africa*) The Rt Revd Margaret Brenda Vertue



In the SEC

- Bishop Kevin Pearson, Bishop of the United Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway; Bishop Mark Strange, Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church; the people of Scotland.
- Porvoo Link: Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church Abroad.
- Mothers' Union (Jill Cameron).
- St Cuthbert's, Cambuslang; St Mark's, East Kilbride (Paul Fletcher).
- Episcopalians of Tighnabruaich, Kames and West Cowal (Diocese of Argyll and The Isles).

In our local Charges

We pray for all those who are joining our Christmas services online that they feel a full part of our community of worship.

We pray that we will always see the face of Christ in those who are vulnerable and in trouble and my respond to them as our neighbours.

We pray that in the year ahead we may remember the precious gift of the Christ child and commit ourselves to sharing his love with others.

In our communities

We pray for any struggling with relationships at this time and any at risk of abuse, that their homes may become places of safety.

We pray for world leaders in their work of helping the poorest areas and regions of the world during this pandemic time.

We pray for our First Minister Nicola as she leads Scotland.

We pray for people who are lonely, isolated, or desolate.

We pray for all those who work for the wellbeing of children and seek to prevent the lifelong impact of trauma and disadvantage.

We pray that new people will join the lives of St John's & St Margaret's.

From Alton Abbey Hampshire – Benedictine Foundation

Prayers of Union

For those in pain or sorrow:	Mother of Jesus, pray.
For those in doubt or fear:	Mother of Jesus, pray.
For all bishops, priests and deacons:	Mother of Jesus, pray.
For all monks and nuns:	Mother of Jesus, pray.
For all members of our Confraternity:	Mother of Jesus, pray.
For the unity of all Christians:	Mother of Jesus, pray.
May all who honour you, Saint Benedict, Father of monks,	Know the power of your prayer. Pray for us and all children.

Lord, arouse in your Church
the spirit which guided our holy father Benedict.
Fill us with that spirit and grant that we may love what he loved
and put into practice what he taught.
Help us to be steadfast in the service of your will,
that we may grow in number and holiness.
We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

or

The Prayer Anima Christi (Soul of Christ) – Contemporary
Version, David Flemming, SJ

Jesus, may all that is you flow into me.
May your body and blood be my food and drink.
May your passion and death be my strength and life.
With you by my side, enough has been given me.
May the shelter I seek be the shadow of your cross.
Let me not run from the love which you offer,
but hold me safe from the forces of evil.
On each of my dyings shed your light and your love.
Keep calling to me until that day comes
when, with your saints,
I may praise you for ever. **Amen.**



Leading your Church
into Growth

God of Mission
Who alone brings growth to your
Church,
Send your Holy Spirit to give
Vision to our planning,
Wisdom to our actions,
And power to our witness.
Help our church to grow in numbers,
In spiritual commitment to you,
And in service to our local community,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Everybody is invited and welcome
but household by household and online
at this time of COVID-19 sadly!



The SEC is dedicated to becoming a welcoming, open and inclusive spiritual environment for all people- irrespective of gender, sexual and sexuality identities. We seek to offer a place for you to connect with the true self that we believe God has made you. If you feel different – welcome! We are different because we believe that as we walk with Jesus Christ together our lives are transformed and find fresh meaning and purpose, sharing in the gift of life as we know it now. You have found a new home and family to grow and flourish- welcome!



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