



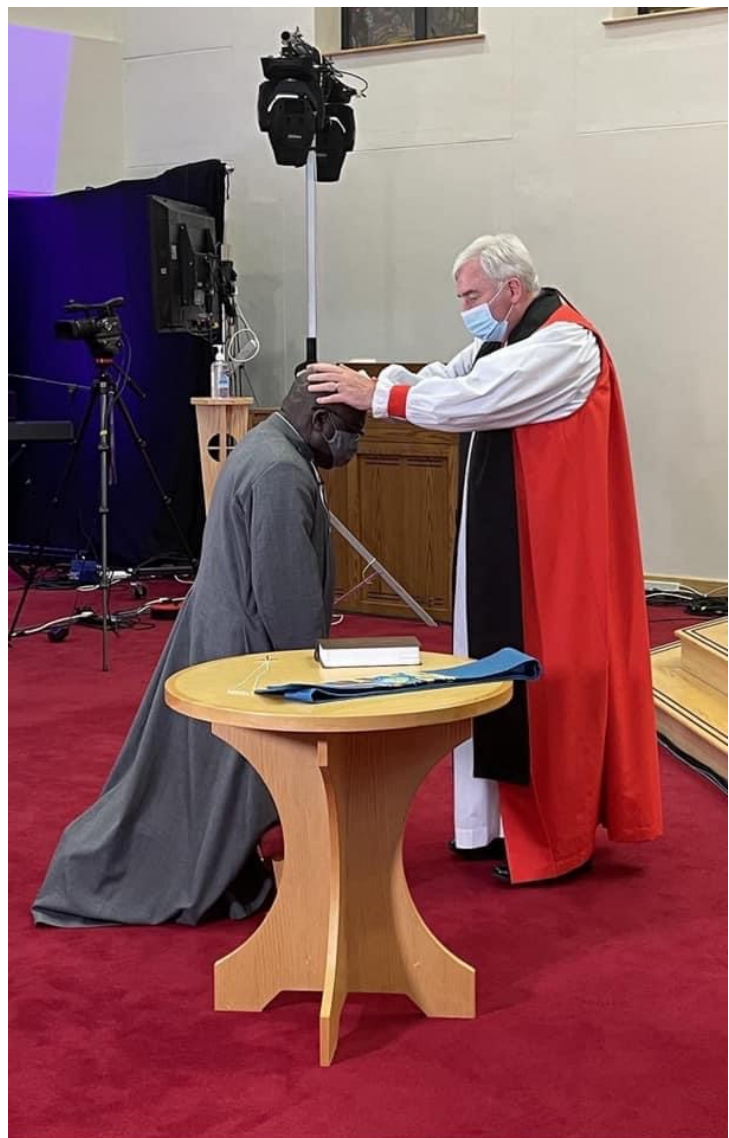
**Image of the day - C of I bishops
take part in installation of Methodist President**

C of I bishops take part in installation of Methodist President

Bishop Andrew Forster and Bishop David McClay were among clergy who took part in the historic installation of a new President of the Methodist Church in Ireland this week. Rev Dr Sahr Yambasu became the first national leader of colour in one of the four main Churches in Ireland.

The installation took place during the Methodist Church's annual conference at the Agape Centre in Belfast. For the second year in a row, the conference was held virtually.

Dr Yambasu was born in Sierra Leone and trained for ministry in Ireland. His wife Clodagh Yambasu (nee McCormack) – who is a daughter of a prominent Methodist family in Longford – is also a Methodist minister. The couple returned to Sierra Leone after their marriage, but came back to Ireland in 1995 owing



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to civil war.

Dr Yambasu has chosen as his theme for his year of office 'People First, Under God' – a message of social equality underpinned by Christian love.

Bishop Forster said he was honoured to have been part of such an historic occasion in Irish Church life. "I wish Dr Yambasu every success as he seeks to build God's kingdom during his Presidential year. His election marks an important moment for the Methodist Church in Ireland, but it represents a significant and historic occasion, too, for the whole Christian family in Ireland. I was humbled and honoured to have been part of such an historic occasion,



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and I look forward to seeing what God has planned for Sahr during this exciting phase in his ministry.”

The C of I bishops' participation in the ceremony was made possible by the covenant relationship which exists between the Methodist Church and the Church of Ireland. This provides for Church of Ireland bishops to take part in the installation of new Methodist Presidents, and for serving and former Methodist leaders to reciprocate at the consecrations of Church of Ireland bishops.

Refugee week at Church of Sanctuary in Carrickmacross

Special services are being held in churches in the Carrickmacross Group this Sunday, 13 June to mark the beginning of Refugee Week.

Earlier this year St Finbarr's was signed up as a Church of Sanctuary making the following pledge: 'We the Select Vestry of St Finbarr's Church of Ireland, Carrickmacross wish to affirm our support for the Places of Sanctuary movement and our desire to work towards achieving 'Church of Sanctuary' designation. We will seek to develop and embed in our Parish a culture of welcome and hospitality towards asylum seekers and refugees in our own community and across our island. While we recognise that this will be a process of growth and learning within our particular situation, we state our commitment to the following general principles:

- Offering a positive vision of a culture of welcome and hospitality to all;

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- Creating opportunities for relationships of friendship and solidarity between local people and those seeking sanctuary;
- Recognising and encouraging partnership and network development across localities;
- Identifying opportunities for working on common cause issues within and across communities;
- Celebrating and promoting the welcome and contribution of people seeking sanctuary;
- Engaging people seeking sanctuary in decision making processes at all levels and in all activities;
- Promoting understanding of asylum and refugee issues, especially by enabling refugee voices to be heard directly.

Revd McConaghie explained that prior to the closure of churches due to the pandemic the local Church of Ireland churches in the area had begun to make connections with local asylum seekers and refugees with a number of those who had recently arrived in Ireland attending the churches in both Carrickmacross and Magheracloone.

'The churches hope to make those connections once more as restrictions ease as part of their mission to create a church where all are truly welcomed regardless of class, race, colour of skin, sexual orientation or gender.'

Rev Colin McConaghie explained how the church members have a real passion for serving our local community and all who live here.

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“A key message of the Gospel is that of welcome and hospitality. Jesus often went against popular thinking to reach out beyond ethnic background or standing in society. As a group of churches we feel called to serve our community and to be a church where all are openly welcomed in God’s love. It is important to know that those people who have moved to this area wherever they are from are welcomed and they can become a part of our community,” he said.

The special services for sanctuary Sunday take place on Sunday in St Finbarr’s at 10.30am (also live on their Facebook Page), St Molua’s, Magheracloone at 12noon and St Patrick’s Ardragh at 1.15pm. Covid-19 guidelines and restrictions continue to be in place.

Anglican bishops to meet in small groups online in preparation for Lambeth Conference

Bishops from across the Anglican Communion are preparing to participate in a series of online conversations with each other in preparation for gathering in 2022 for the Lambeth Conference.

The conversations, in groups of 20, will be held on Zoom for all active bishops in the Anglican Communion’s 41 provinces. They will be held each month from July to December and will focus on the theme “God’s Church for God’s World.”

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As a preview of the conversations, the Anglican Communion has released a series of videos about what the bishops hope to accomplish, both online this year and in person next year.

“Nothing will replace eyeball-to-eyeball meeting,” South Africa Archbishop Thabo Makgoba says in one of the videos. “In spite of all of our many challenges and differences, here is an opportunity to walk together under the guidance of scripture. ... I encourage you to really take an opportunity of these walks of witness and these conversations as we share each other’s burdens and as we learn from one another.”

The Lambeth Conference is a gathering of all Anglican bishops that is called by the archbishop of Canterbury about every 10 years. It had been scheduled for 2020 but was delayed two years because of the COVID-19 pandemic. It has been rescheduled for July 27-Aug. 8, 2022, in Canterbury, England.

People and places

Installation of Rev Dr Sahr Yambasu as President of The Methodist Church in Ireland

His theme for the year is ‘People First, Under God’

“...all people matter to God: male and female, old and young, heterosexual and homosexual, girls and boys, rich and poor, single and married, widows and divorced, Christians and non-Christians, people of faith and those of

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none, black, brown and white people, citizens and foreigners, Jews and gentiles, every nation and tribe - great and small – are all equally important to God.”

Please pray for the President and his family as they embark on the year ahead.

Lay Representatives to the British Conference are - The Lay Leader Designated from 2022 and Mrs Margaret Copeland.

North Belfast monthly Prayer Walks re-start

The easing of restrictions means the monthly North Belfast Prayer Walk – suspended for many months due to Covid-19 – was able to resume on Monday June 7.

Representatives of local Church of Ireland, Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, Methodist and non-denominational churches met at Shankill Methodist carpark in Berlin Street before walking and praying around the area.

The prayer walks are co-ordinated by Stephen Whitten, Church Army Evangelist at Connor’s North Belfast Centre of Mission, Connect Base.

Gift Day 2021 at St Patrick’s Cathedral, Dublin

This year’s Gift Day Appeal, supporting the following projects, will be held on Saturday 26 June:

#The re-adaptation of the choir stall candle lights from oil burning to LED lighting.

#The refurbishment of the pew runners.

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#The repair, or re-upholstery, of the kneelers in the cathedral.

#The repair of the locks in the box pews.

If you would like to contribute in person on that day you will be most welcome to avail of some refreshments in the Deanery garden between 11.00 a.m. and 1.00 p.m. when strawberries and cream, and a glass of prosecco/soft drinks will be served. Numbers will be limited to comply with government restrictions, so please register through the link below.

You can also make a donation to the Dean's Gift Day here. [[https://www.stpatrickscathedral.ie/support-us/.](https://www.stpatrickscathedral.ie/support-us/)]

For well over 30 years the Dean's Annual Gift Day has proved of enormous benefit to Saint Patrick's through its focus in raising much needed funds for initiatives that have greatly improved the fabric of the cathedral. While, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, it was not possible last year to host Gift Day in the traditional manner in the cathedral, the appeal realised the amazing sum of 43,006.43 Euros which will be utilised to enhance greatly the sound quality of the live stream system. As soon as restrictions ease sufficiently, tenders will be sought for this work which will be carried out as soon as possible.

The Dean, Very Reverend Dr William Morton, wishes to acknowledge the huge generosity of all who contributed to the Gift Day last year; many individuals contributed very generously to the appeal, and sincere thanks are expressed to them each one. The sum raised

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includes two major donations of 5000 Euros each – one in June, the other in December – from The Friends of Saint Patrick’s Cathedral, as well as £6900 which was awarded as a result of a grant application to All Churches Trust, the charitable section of Ecclesiastical Insurance, to whom we are also hugely indebted.

Fellowship of Contemplative Prayer silent retreat

The annual Silent Retreat of the Fellowship of Contemplative Prayer is due to take place at Dromantine Retreat and Conference Centre outside Newry, Co Down, from Friday September 24 to Sunday September 26.

The retreat will begin at 5.45pm on the 24th and end around 2pm on the 26th. The Witness will be The Rev Jenny Hill, Chaplain of the Fellowship of Contemplative Prayer (UK).

Cost is £175. For enquiries and bookings please contact Nuala Dudley at nualadudley@gmail.com. All are welcome.

Equipping for Life expanding

Brother David SF reports on the growth of this literacy development programme.

The following places are opening up a branch of EfL in September -

Castledawson - Rev. Colin Welsh

Downpatrick - Rev. Adrian Dorrian

Portadown - Canon Terence Cadden

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East Belfast - Canon Norman Jardine

Carrickfergus - Rev. Nigel Kirkpatrick

Brother David commented, "I really want to thank my clergy colleagues for their hard work and willingness to set up a branch of EfL in their area".

For further information please contact:

pat@equippingforlife.org.uk

Pat Hutchinson MBE, Development Officer

Equipping for Life - Days & Hours of work:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday (Working from Home) 8.00 am to 3.30 pm Phone 07889572800

www.equippingforlife.org.uk

The stories of Columba retold in church on walls



Celebrations marking the Feast Day of St Columba ended in style at St Augustine's Church in Londonderry on

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Wednesday evening as three of the city's leading cultural lights entertained an audience in 'the Wee Church' with a narrated production of 'Columba: a Triptych', scripted by Mary Murphy.



The three-part drama recounted the stories of Columba's mother's dream, the battle the saint's kinsmen started on his behalf, and his eventual remorse. Ms Murphy was joined by fellow performers Anita Robinson and Mairead Mullan. They were accompanied by a soundtrack from the original production, 'Columba – Then and Now', which 10 years earlier depicted significant events in the Saint's life, particularly his repentance and desire for reconciliation.

The cross-community audience, who included Derry City and Strabane's new Mayor, Alderman Graham Warke, were welcomed by the Rector, Rev Nigel Cairns and his wife Alison. Guests wore face coverings, followed hand

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sanitisation procedures and remained socially distanced while in church. Ardmore Folk provided live music at Wednesday evening's performance and all proceeds will go to St Augustine's Building Fund.

Institution of Vicar of Lisburn Cathedral

The Rev Danielle McCullagh was instituted vicar of Lisburn Cathedral by the Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev George Davison, at a service in the Cathedral on June 2.

Danielle has been curate-assistant in Lisburn Cathedral since her ordination as a priest in August 2017.

She grew up in Glengormley and has a BA (Hons) Degree in Childhood Studies and Professional Practice Studies from Northumbria University, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Before training for ordination, Danielle worked in Carnmoney Primary School as a one-to-one Classroom Assistant with children with special needs.

Books, Broadcasts, Resources and Webinars

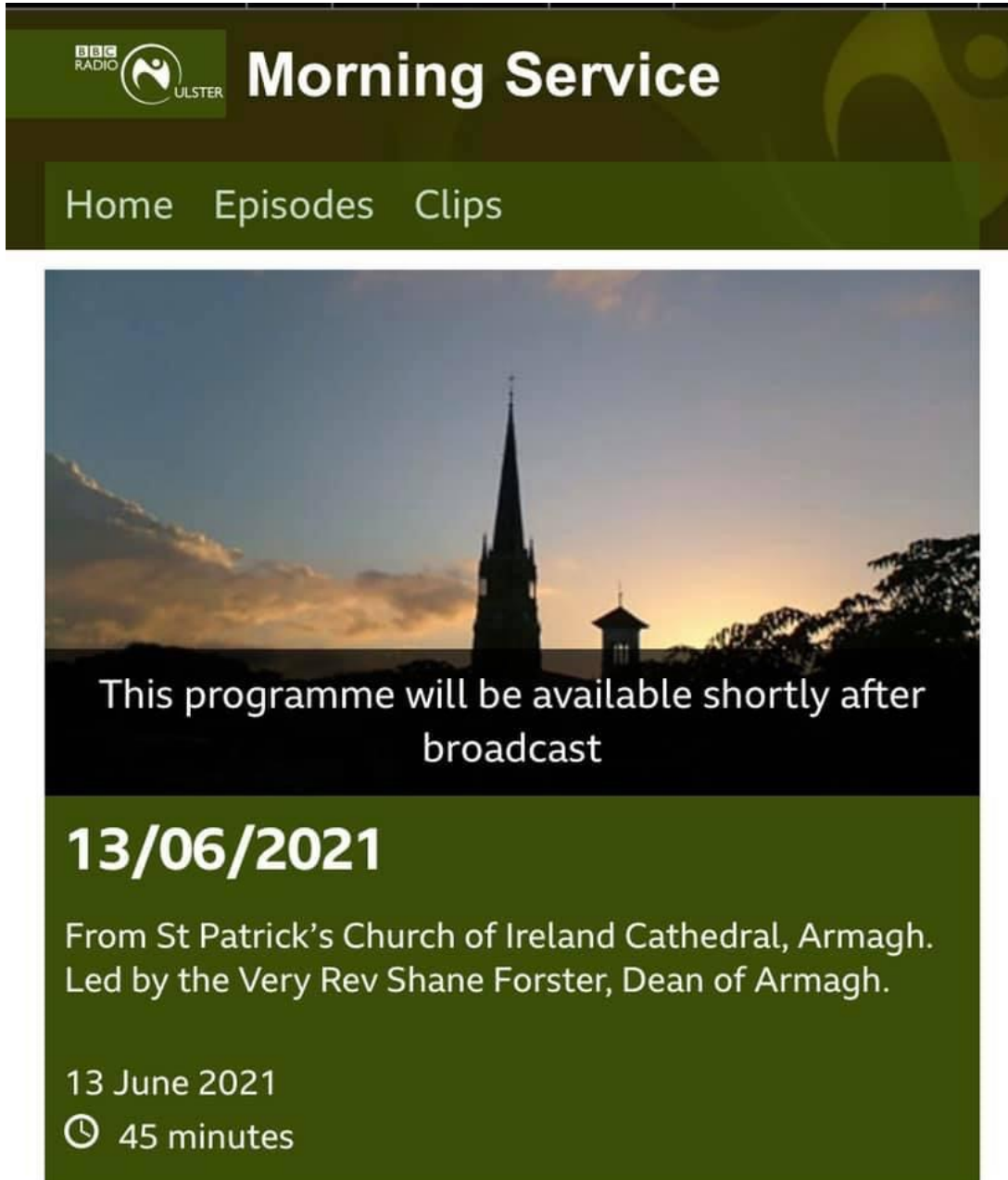
C of I on Marks of Mission on RTE Sunday service

Look out for RTE Sunday service this Sunday at 11.10 on RTE when the Church of Ireland Association of Mission Societies and Council for Mission jointly participated in a recording entitled 'Church without walls'. The service

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focused on the anglican five marks of mission with contributors from Ireland and beyond.

Eucharist from St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh, Morning Service on BBC Radio Ulster

A screenshot of the BBC Radio Ulster website for the Morning Service. The top navigation bar is dark green with the BBC Radio Ulster logo on the left and the text 'Morning Service' in white. Below the navigation bar, there are three links: 'Home', 'Episodes', and 'Clips'. The main content area features a photograph of a church spire against a sunset sky. Below the photo, the text reads: 'This programme will be available shortly after broadcast'. The date '13/06/2021' is displayed in large white font. Below the date, it says: 'From St Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral, Armagh. Led by the Very Rev Shane Forster, Dean of Armagh.' At the bottom, it shows '13 June 2021' and a clock icon followed by '45 minutes'.

This Sunday, 13th June, the Morning Service on BBC Radio Ulster at 10.15am will be a Eucharist from St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh.

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The Northern Saints Trails on Songs of Praise

Rev Kate Bottley asks the Bishop of Durham what he feels is the purpose of going on pilgrimage as they walk one of the six new routes called The Northern Saints Trails.

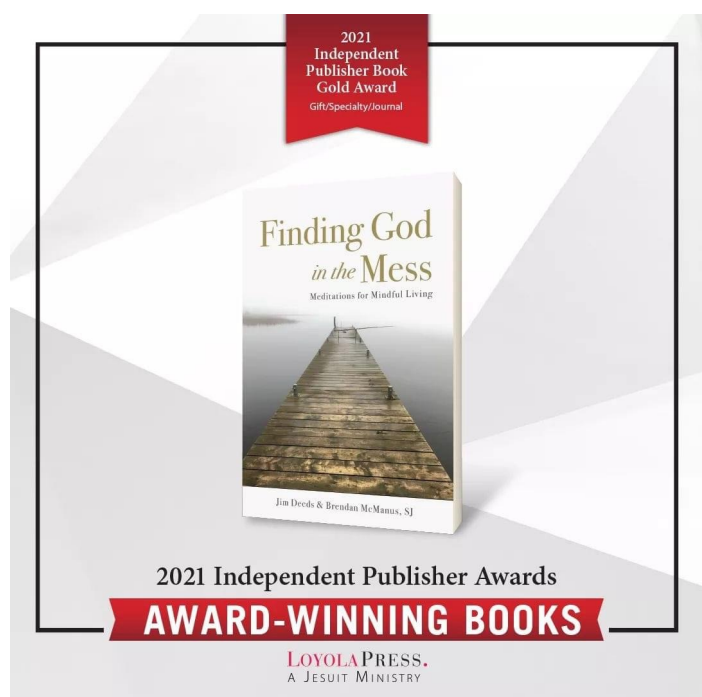
SongsofPraise Sun 1.15 @BBCTwo and bbc.in/3g0kCGt

Wild Goose Publications celebrates re-opening of Iona Abbey

Celebrating the re-opening of the Abbey this week with a selection of some of the resources inspired by Iona available on our website. ionabooks.com. Whether you are one of the lucky ones able to travel to the island or just enjoying some armchair travel, there are photos, poems, prayers, readings, pilgrimage, a video, a map and music all here to inspire you. The music is Iona Dawn by Neil Paynter, one of a series of pieces composed as 'intros' and 'outros' for services in the Abbey, inspired by special moments in community and by a feeling of communion with the landscape of Iona.

USA Gold award for Irish Jesuit authors

"Brendan and I are so pleased to be able to announce that our first book, *Finding God in the Mess*, has won a gold award in the Independent Publisher Awards in the churchnewsireland@gmail.org



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USA. We thank our American publishers Loyola Press for supporting us and for entering the book into the awards. We also thank our Irish publishers Messenger Publications for their ongoing support. We also thank our readers here at home and in North America. This is very humbling and inspiring indeed”.

The King's Speech - Decade of Centenaries

On Tuesday 22 June at 7pm -The King's Speech is a free event organised by Belfast City Council marking 100 years since Northern Ireland's first parliament opened at City Hall.

The virtual broadcast will feature a reading of King George V's speech, followed by the premiere of a new play by Terra Nova Productions about the historic occasion.

Two chairs from the royal visit will be unveiled, following conservation works, while historian Dr Eamon Phoenix will share insights into this key milestone in Belfast's history.

Watch live at www.youtube.com/belfastcitycouncil

The event is part of the Council's Decade of Centenaries programme and supported by the Shared History Fund, delivered by National Lottery Heritage Fund Northern Ireland and National Lottery Heritage Fund, on behalf of the Northern Ireland Office.

Pointers for prayer

Lord, you have taught us
that all our doings without love are nothing worth:



Send your Holy Spirit
and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love,
the true bond of peace and of all virtues,
without which whoever lives is counted dead before you.
Grant this for your only Son Jesus Christ's sake.

Your hand is upon your people, O God,
to guide and protect them through the ages.
Keep in your service
those you have called and anointed,
that the powers of this world may not overwhelm us,
but that, secure in your love,
we may carry out your will
in the face of all adversity. Amen.

O God our ruler and shepherd,
you anointed Jesus
as the king and servant of your people.
Make us attentive to your word,
that we may accept your reign over us
and serve you alone. Amen.

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Friends in Christ,
God invites us to hold the needs of our sisters and brothers
as dear to us as our own needs.
Loving our neighbours as ourselves,
we offer our thanksgivings and our petitions
on behalf of the church and the world.

...

Intercessions

....

Hear our prayers, God of power,
and through the ministry of your Son
free us from the grip of the tomb,
that we may desire you as the fullness of life
and proclaim your saving deeds to all the world. Amen.
As you heard the prayer of Isaac and Rebekah, O God,
and guided them in the way of your love,
so listen now to those who call upon you.

...

Intercessions

....

Move us to praise your gracious will,
for in Christ Jesus you have saved us from the deeds of
death
and opened for us the hidden ways of your love.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
Lord God, friend of those in need,
your Son Jesus has untied our burdens
and healed our spirits.
We lift up the prayers of our hearts for those still burdened,
those seeking healing,
those in need within the church and the world.

...Intercessions....

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Hear our prayers
that we may love you with our whole being
and willingly share the concerns of our neighbours. Amen.

Creator God,
you call us to love and serve you
with body, mind, and spirit
through loving your creation
and our sisters and brothers.
Open our hearts in compassion
and receive these petitions
on behalf of the needs of the church and the world.

Speaking to the Soul

The council of the Jews called the apostles back in and commanded them never again to speak or teach in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John replied, “Do you think God wants us to obey you rather than him? We cannot stop telling about everything we have seen and heard.”

Acts 4:18-20 NLT

The miraculous healing of the lame man attracted great attention and so Peter found himself with a further opportunity to speak to the crowd. He explained that the healing had been done in the name of Jesus pointing out that they had “killed the author of life but God raised him from the dead”. This was too much for the Jewish authorities who were desperate to find a way to shut him up.

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Peter responded by making it clear that if it was a choice between obeying the Jewish council or God, he would choose God. Nothing would be able to stop him from witnessing about his faith in Jesus. It is worth stopping for a moment and reminding ourselves that this bold, confident speaker is the Peter who only a few weeks before had denied ever knowing Jesus. He is clearly a changed man and his pathetic denials are a thing of the past.

In Romans 13 Paul teaches that we should all submit to the governing authorities which derive their authority from God. However, when rulers abuse their power and stand in the way of God, our duty is to obey God. In many countries today, to obey God is to stand in opposition to the government. Open Doors is an organisation that seeks to ensure that persecuted Christians are remembered and supported. At the moment they identify the top five countries where persecution is most prevalent as North Korea, Afghanistan, Somalia, Libya and Pakistan. Let us keep praying for them, asking God to give them the courage to stand up for him however intense the opposition. We may not face such flagrant opposition ourselves, but we still need to ensure that every day we are taking our orders from God and not from anyone else.

QUESTION

What would you do if you were told to disobey God?

PRAYER

Lord God our Father, we pray for our Christian brothers and sisters who are experiencing persecution. We thank you for

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them and pray that you will give them peace and courage as they stand up for you. Amen

