



ST NINIAN'S UNITING CHURCH

PRAYERS AND REFLECTION

JUNE 25TH, 2025



Based On Luke 9:37-43

Jesus Heals a Boy with a Demon

³⁷ On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. ³⁸ Just then a man from the crowd shouted, "Teacher, I beg you to look at my son; he is my only child. ³⁹ Suddenly a spirit seizes him, and all at once he shrieks. It convulses him until he foams at the mouth; it mauls him and will scarcely leave him. ⁴⁰ I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not." ⁴¹ Jesus answered, "You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you and put up with you? Bring your son here." ⁴² While he was being brought forward, the demon dashed him to the ground in convulsions. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. ⁴³ And all were astounded at the greatness of God.

Jesus Again Foretells His Death

While everyone was amazed at all that he was doing, he said to his disciples,

OPENING PRAYER

Healing God, I come to you at this time with an open heart prepared and willingly honour the power of Jesus to heal and restore. As I contemplate on the story of the boy possessed by demons, I ask for your healing touch in the lives of those who are living with mental, physical, or spiritual afflictions. Lord, strengthen my faith and help me to trust in your authority and compassion. Use me Lord in ways that will help to bring about peace and love, bringing hope to those who are in distress. Fill me with your Spirit, guide me to know how to best support, serve and comfort those in need, and remind me that with you, all things are indeed possible. In the name of Jesus, the risen Christ. Amen

PRAYER POINTS OF THANKS AND PRAISE

- Thank you, Lord, for loving family and friends
- Thank you, Lord, for still having the capacity to be productive and useful
- Thank you, Lord, for the sounds of children who enjoy playing, singing, and knowing when to be silent.
- Thank you, Lord, for always being present in my life, and for being not only my inspiration, but continuing to inspire across the generations in our community.
- Praise to you, Christ, for the lessons which regenerate our faith story.
- Praise to you, Christ, for the life I have been blessed with which I take for granted will always be there waiting for me.
- Praise to you, Christ, for helping me to deal with the 'demons' in my life.
- Praise to you, Christ, for always being there with me and never leaving me alone.

PRAYER POINTS FOR PRAYER OF CONFESSION

- When I have been concerned about issues and not handed them over to you – forgive me
- When I feel unworthy of your love and grace- forgive me
- When I don't consider the hurt, my words may cause to others - forgive me

WORDS OF GRACE

In the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom; for God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. Hear then Christ's word of grace to us: 'Your sins are forgiven.' Amen

REFLECTION

I don't know about those reading this reflection today, but I know I have been in situations where I have earnestly prayed for one of my children. I recall a particular situation when I felt that all I could do was to appeal to Jesus for compassion, mercy and grace. The mother's heartfelt plea, "Lord, I beg you to look at my child", encapsulates the anguish of a parent watching their child suffer helplessly. I rather feel, I'm not alone in this thought.

Luke illustrates for us a deep need for faith and the transformative power of Jesus' presence. The father's desperation is palpable, urging us into a deeper reflection on what the nature of faith looks like. He initially expresses doubt, acknowledging the disciples' inability to heal his son: "I begged your disciples to drive it out, but they could not." These words alone present to us a common struggle of our own struggle: when our expectations of faith and healing aren't met we can feel disillusioned and for some questioning God's existence at all for others sadly turning away from God altogether.

In Jesus' response, we see a call to deeper faith amid doubt. His words, 'faithlessness and perverse generation' point to a lack of understanding and belief. This challenges us to consider our own faith – are we truly believing in the power of God, especially when faced with challenges?

The miraculous healing of the boy serves as a great reminder of God's open compassion and authority over suffering. Jesus, through his actions, demonstrates that no issue is too large for him to deal with. The astonishment of the crowd at the miracle concerning the boy, reinforces the glory of God revealed in Christ, requiring us to praise Jesus for his mighty works through our prayers, music, fellowship, worship and contemplations.

Once again Luke serves as an invitation to:

- further explore our own faith especially in our times of struggles,
- continually seek to know Jesus as someone who unequivocally loves you, died for you, is victorious over death, has promised to return, and is waiting for you,
- trust in Jesus' power to heal and restore – both in physical afflictions and in our spiritual lives.

Amen

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Lord God, once more we sit together you in your glory and me in my state of humility and grace. It's with openness that I acknowledge your power and authority over all things in the same way that your loved

disciple Luke and others did thousands of years ago. Just as Jesus healed the boy who was tormented, I ask for your grace and mercy to intervene in the lives of those who are suffering today.

Lord, I lift up those who are struggling with physical, emotional, or spiritual afflictions. May they experience your healing touch and find solace in your love. Just as the father of the boy cried out for help, I along with the body of Christ also, cry out on behalf of those who feel helpless and in despair. Help us, Lord, to have faith, even when our circumstances seem overwhelming.

Lord, I pray for the spirit of doubt to be cast aside, and for an increase in faith in my heart and the hearts of those I pray for. Encourage me to bring others to you, for I know you are able to do abundantly more than I can ask or imagine. My prayer for a revived and renewed congregation at St Ninian's continues and I offer you my thanks for those who have come to visit your church, Lord, may they find you in their short time amongst your humble servants and decide to stay with us enjoying worship, fellowship and a growing sense of service to you.

Empower your church to emulate your love and compassion, to help those in need, and to share the hope that only you can provide. Thank you for your promise that you hear our prayers and respond with your perfect will.

I trust in your goodness and lean on your understanding. In the sweet name of Jesus I pray. Amen.

WHISPERS OF HEALING POEM BY V. R. © 2025

On the mountain's peak, the light unveiled,
Transfigured glory where the heart had sailed.
Yet down below, in shadows deep,
A father's cry broke through the night's sleep.

"Master, I come with my burdened plea,
My son is tormented, he can't be free.
He writhes and he screams, lost in despair,
O Lord of compassion, hear my prayer."

From the crowd, the boy was brought,
Possessed by darkness, a fierce battle fought.
The spirit convulsed, the anguish displayed,
Yet hope remained, though it waned and frayed.

Jesus approached with love in His eyes,
A presence of peace that silenced the cries.
"Unclean spirit, I command you to flee,
Come out of this child; set him free!"

The forces of chaos waged their last fight,
But Light pierced the shadows, igniting the night.
With a word full of power, no evil could stand,
The boy was restored by His merciful hand.

The crowd was amazed, they marveled in awe,
At the wonders of God, His mercy's law.
In faith we may falter, but hope can renew,
For in every struggle, He walks with us too.

So let us remember, in trials we face,
The Savior who heals, who offers His grace.
With hearts opened wide, may we humbly implore,
To trust in His goodness forevermore.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L7dhgu-50mY>

