



**ST NINIAN'S UNITING CHURCH**  
**SEPTEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup> 2025**  
**PRAYERS AND REFLECTION**  
**BASED ON PROVERBS 21:10-16**



*<sup>10</sup> The wicked crave evil;  
their neighbors get no mercy from them.*

*<sup>11</sup> When a mocker is punished, the simple gain wisdom;  
by paying attention to the wise they get knowledge.*

*<sup>12</sup> The Righteous One takes note of the house of the wicked  
and brings the wicked to ruin.*

*<sup>13</sup> Whoever shuts their ears to the cry of the poor  
will also cry out and not be answered.*

*<sup>14</sup> A gift given in secret soothes anger,  
and a bribe concealed in the cloak pacifies great wrath.*

*<sup>15</sup> When justice is done, it brings joy to the righteous  
but terror to evildoers.*

*<sup>16</sup> Whoever strays from the path of prudence  
comes to rest in the company of the dead.*

### **QUIET TIME IN PRAYER**

I come to you today looking for your wisdom and understanding, as I reflect on the truth in Proverbs. I pray that you will guide and lead my heart away from the desire of those who go against you so that I can find refuge in you as you put me on the right path. Help me to discern between good and bad, recognising the value of wisdom and the importance of a faithful spirit.

Lord, please don't let me be angry or make wrong decisions. Instead, fill my heart with compassion and kindness, that I may pursue goodness and truth. May I turn my back on silliness and foolishness, choosing instead to walk in the light of your word.

Help me to remain firm in my choices, knowing that I will reap what I sow. I ask for your protection over the innocent and for wisdom to prevail in my heart and each decision I make. May I always seek your guidance, understanding that those who wander away from you will find themselves walking and living in darkness.

Grant me the grace to seek to be more like you, that I may find life, prosperity, and honour in your presence. In the name of the Holy Spirit I pray amen.

### **PRAYER POINTS OF THANKS**

- Thank you, for divine goodness that God sees our actions and intentions the good and the bad.

- Thank you, Lord, for wisdom and discernment
- Thank you, Lord, for always allowing me to have access to hope, joy and love

### **POINTS FOR A PRAYER OF PRAISE**

- Knowing and accepting God's gift of mercy
- Uplifting ways of being together
- Ways to relieve ourselves of anger
- Justice being achieved through God's grace, mercy and love.

### **POINTS OF CONFESSION**

- For making other people fair game for my own benefit
- Not paying any attention to the needs of others both near and far
- For allowing myself to be easily distracted away from you.

### **WORDS OF GRACE**

In asking your forgiveness I may know cleansing, renewal and a dislike of doing things against you. Jesus says when we confess our wrongdoing with an attitude to be sorry, we are forgiven. In Christ you are forgiven, thanks be to God, amen

### **REFLECTION**

We don't often venture into the book of Proverbs, but today we are looking at 21:10-16 which touches on themes concerning the nature of the good and the not so good and the consequences of our actions. Our readings provide us with contrasts, motivations, and outcomes of those whose interests lay in the secular world and those who lean heavily on their faith and God's wisdom as they live through each day. The first verse tells us straight away about the restlessness and meanness that's found in someone who doesn't know the love, gentleness and goodness of Christ. It's a clear reminder that unchecked thoughts and actions can lead us into a life of despair and destruction.

In this context the wisdom shared through the verses is invaluable. We should strive to cultivate a heart that longs to be in alignment with God rather than giving in to our own temptation. We are intentionally being asked to think more carefully about what our motivations are and align them closer to what the scriptures say to us. The desire for justice and fairness is also a central part of these verses, putting an emphasis on God's call for us to maintain our integrity and truth as we interact with others.

What's pointed out is that wisdom has the capacity to deliver us from our own foolishness. When we pursue God's wisdom, we are giving ourselves the opportunity to grow understanding and discernment to make informed decisions. Conversely, the fate of those who choose not to pursue God's wisdom, wander from the way of understanding- their outlook is bleak, often leading to despair. This stark warning calls us not only to acknowledge the consequences of a foolish life but also to actively seek wisdom and understanding in our daily decisions.

As these few verses come to an end we have been encouraged to consider or reconsider our circles of influence. How we live impacts those around us, and we are reminded of the importance of choosing

who our friends are and what we allow to influence our thoughts and actions and where they are leading us; to the right path, or along the path of despair and destruction.

In this Proverbs reading we not only hear warnings against the dangers of taking the wrong path of foolishness and silliness, it also empowers us to embrace wisdom, urging us to stay steadfast in the pursuit of living a spiritual life close to Christ which is one enriched with purpose and hope.

Ultimately, when we read it, we come together with the promise that those who seek the Lord will find true life and blessings.

### **PRAYER OF INTERCESSION**

Holy One, I have reflected on this reading and what it means for us when we get caught up in the grip of making silly, wrong and hurtful decisions that cause harm to others. I ask for your mercy and grace on those whose hearts are filled with revenge and retribution, that they may encounter your transformative love and turn from their ways.

Lord, grant us wisdom to discern right from wrong, and give us the courage to walk along the path you have already trodden. Protect our hearts from being tempted and guide us in our decisions so that we may more reflect your love, grace and truth.

May our communities be filled with individuals who seek understanding and embrace the kind of peace you want for us. Help us to influence others positively, leading them away from the wrong path.

I pray Lord, for those who wander away from the truth, that they may find their way back to you and experience the fullness of life found in your guidance.

In Jesus' name I pray amen.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hSnzYnOe6kl&list=RDhSnzYnOe6kl&start\\_radio=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hSnzYnOe6kl&list=RDhSnzYnOe6kl&start_radio=1)

