



ST NINIAN'S UNITING CHURCH
PRAYERS AND REFLECTIONS
22 October 2025
Scripture Joel 2:23-34



Prayer

Let us come with a still heart, ready to reflect upon God's scripture and listen to the voice of God, calling to us in silence over the noise of the world.

Lord God, pour out your Spirit on all people.

So your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old followers may dream dreams, and your young followers see visions.

(Paraphrase Joel 2:28)

Thanks & praise prayer points

- For the creation, for spring rains, and for growing crops and harvests to come.
- For Christ's Church through the world, proclaiming your message of love and forgiveness.
- For sending your Holy Spirit to earth, to help us see visions, prophesy and dream dreams.
- For those working for peace and reconciliation throughout the world, both in conflicts between countries and conflicts within families.

Forgiveness prayer points

- For not pausing and listening to and responding to the Holy Spirit.
- For not recognising the gift of God's creation, and caring for the world as we should.
- For not thanking those who work to help us, care for us, or pray for us.

Words of Grace

Let us praise the Lord, our God, in Zion.

Jesus has answered our prayer,
When we were overwhelmed by sins,
Jesus forgave our transgressions.

Amen

(paraphrase from Psalm 65:1-3)

Reading: Joel 2:23-31

Be glad, people of Zion,
rejoice in the Lord your God,
for he has given you the autumn rains
because he is faithful.

He sends you abundant showers,
both autumn and spring rains, as before.

²⁴The threshing floors will be filled with grain;
the vats will overflow with new wine and oil.

²⁵“I will repay you for the years the locusts have eaten—
the great locust and the young locust,
the other locusts and the locust swarm—

my great army that I sent among you.

²⁶You will have plenty to eat, until you are full,
and you will praise the name of the Lord your God,
who has worked wonders for you;

never again will my people be shamed.

²⁷Then you will know that I am in Israel,
that I am the Lord your God,
and that there is no other;

never again will my people be shamed.

²⁸“And afterward,
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.

Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your old men will dream dreams,
your young men will see visions.

²⁹Even on my servants, both men and women,
I will pour out my Spirit in those days.

³⁰I will show wonders in the heavens
and on the earth,
blood and fire and billows of smoke.

³¹The sun will be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood
before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.

Reflection

The prophecy of Joel follows an infestation of locusts that devastated the countryside of Israel so thoroughly that starvation was a real possibility. Joel says that this disaster was God's judgment upon his sinful people. As part of that message of judgment, or rather, after God responded to Israel's repentance by delivering them from that plague, Joel is given a message of hope for God's people not only then, but far into the future.

In today's text, God speaks a marvellous promise (v 28-32). Scholars agree that it is a promise for the Messianic age (the age of Christ), especially given the way both Peter (Acts 2) and Paul (Romans 10) apply it to the age of the Church of Christ.

Throughout the Hebrew Scriptures, God gave his Spirit to the occasional king, selected priests, and various prophets. But that gift was occasional and sometimes temporary. In the Messianic age (says Joel), the Spirit of God will be poured out profusely on all people, regardless of gender, age, social class, ethnicity, or other defining feature.

In the olden days, only a few people could know and speak the Word of God. In the new age, God will show his revelation to all his people. Joel speaks specifically of prophesy and dreams and visions (v28), but the clear intent is that all people will know God and God's will. All will be prophets (and priests and kings), because all who call on the Lord will be anointed by the Spirit poured out by God.

This prophecy of Joel comes true through Jesus Christ. The Apostle Peter draws on this passage at Pentecost (Acts 2) to demonstrate how Christ has come as the Messiah to all people.

Joel shares a message of joy and transformation and hope. May we share this joy, and dream dreams and see visions, proclaiming the joy of the Lord.

Amen

Intercessory Prayers

Lord, we call on your name for deliverance, justice and salvation.

Be with all the people of the earth, and may they hear your Word proclaimed.

Be with all farmers and tillers of the earth, bless the crops and harvest, and may it be used for your service.

Care for all those caring for others, that they may serve with kindness and compassion.

Comfort those oppressed or suffering sickness, conflict or natural disaster.

Guild and bless your church, that it may do your work here on earth.

Bless all those known to us (whom we name in our heart), and keep them in your love.

Amen.

Song: Canticle of the Turning



My soul cries out with a joyful shout
That the God of my heart is great
And my spirit sings of the Wondrous things
That you bring to the ones who wait
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight
And my weakness you did not spurn
So from east to west shall my name be blest
Could the world be about to turn?
My heart shall sing of the day you bring
Let the fires of your justice burn
Wipe away all tears for the dawn draws near
And the world is about to turn!

Though I am small, my God, my all, you
Work great things in me
And your mercy will last from the Depths
Of the past to the end of the age to be
Your very name puts the proud to shame
And to those who would for you yearn
You will show your might

Put the strong to flight
For the world is about to turn
My heart shall sing of the day you bring
Let the fires of your justice burn
Wipe away all tears
For the dawn draws near
And the world is about to turn!

From the halls of power to the fortress tower
Not a stone will be left on stone
Let the king beware for your
Justice tears ev'ry tyrant from his throne
The hungry poor shall weep no more
For the food they can never ears
There are tables spread, ev'ry
Mouth be fed
For the world is about to turn
My heart shall sing of the day you bring
Let the fires of your justice burn
Wipe away all tears
For the dawn draws near
And the world is about to turn!

Though the nations rage from age to age
We remember
Who holds us fast
God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp
This saving word that out forebears
Heard is the promise which holds us bound
'Til the spear and rod can be
Crushed by God
Who is turning the world around
My heart shall sing of the day you bring
Let the fires of your justice burn
Wipe away all tears
For the dawn draws near
And the world is about to turn!

My heart shall sing of the day you bring
Let the fires of your justice burn

Wipe away all tears
For the dawn draws near
And the world is about to turn!