



**ST NINIAN'S UNITING
CHURCH
PRAYERS AND
REFLECTIONS
8 October 2025
Scripture Luke 17:10-11**



Prayer

Blessed are you, Sovereign God, creator of all,
to you be glory and praise for ever.
You founded the earth in the beginning
and the heavens are the work of your hands.
In the fullness of time you made us in your image,
and you have spoken to us in your Son Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.
As we rejoice in the gift of your presence among us
let the light of your love always shine in our hearts,
your Spirit ever renew our lives
and your praises ever be on our lips.
Amen

Thanks & praise prayer points

- For God creating the world, and all that is in it. Including any pets we have (or once had), who brought us joy.
- For sending Jesus Christ to earth, to love and save us.
- For those who fight for social justice and overcoming disadvantage in our world, including UnitingCare.
- For family, friends and neighbours who care for us.
- For our church community, and those who contribute to leadership, worship and quietly making things happen.

Forgiveness prayer points

- For not trusting in God's word to us or Christ's love for us.
- For hurting others, though word, deed or inaction.
- For not caring for the creation as God intended.

Words of Grace

Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed,
for God's compassions never fail.
They are new every morning; great is God's faithfulness.
Hear then God's word of assurance to us: our sins are forgiven.
Amen

(Drawn from Lamentations 3:22-23)

Reading: Luke 17:11-19

Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus travelled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. ¹² As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance ¹³ and called out in a loud voice, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!"

¹⁴ When he saw them, he said, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were cleansed.

¹⁵ One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. ¹⁶ He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan.

¹⁷ Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? ¹⁸ Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?" ¹⁹ Then he said to him, "Rise and go; your faith has made you well."

Reflection

This passage follows a trajectory of geography, healing, and faith, pointing to the theme of reversal or inversion that is central to the Gospel of Luke.

Geography matters: borders exist to define places that are safe and unsafe, to distinguish 'us' from 'them'. In this reading, Jesus is passing through the borderland between Samaria and Galilee. Luke places this story in the location to emphasise how God works in the margins, in the unexpected places. While Jesus may be heading toward the Holy City of Jerusalem, his ministry takes place in this borderland country and is directed towards people 'on the edge'. Jesus heals ten men with a skin disease (which had relegated them to a life of physical and mental suffering and isolation), some of whom

(though apparently not all) were Samaritans (that is, outsiders or 'them'). The men are restored to health and inclusion. But only one – a Samaritan – returns to Jesus to praise God for this healing.

Jesus models a prophetic ministry of being a border-crosser, shifting the focus and attention away from the places and people that are usually held as sacred and worthy, reframing the margins as the places where God shows healing and liberation.

Given the theme of reversal or inversion in Luke, the fact that a Samaritan participates in God's healing and offers praise to God and gratitude to Jesus should not surprise us.

Just as this narrative challenged people in Luke's time to expand their understanding of who is worthy, who has access to God, and who can claim healing in the name of God, it challenges us to think outside of the norms of who is God speaking to. Who is God calling us to minister to; to speak prophetic for; to proclaim justice for? God calls us to the margins, to mission and justice.

Let us not be timid in our faith, but rather know we are filled with Christ's power and love. Amen

Intercessory Prayers

Lord God, thank you for your teaching and your blessings to us.

Be with all those known to us who have not heard your voice; may they hear your liberating word and believe.

Be with all those in the borderlands due to physical or mental illness; may they know your healing.

Be with those in the borderlands due to war, conflict, natural disaster or climate change; may they know your peace.

Be with those in the borderlands due to unemployment, homelessness, or exclusion; may they know your love and embrace.

Bless all those known to us with health, wisdom and kindness.

Bless our church, our church leaders and all faithful members of our congregation

Bless all leaders of our country, that they may rule with wisdom and integrity.

And may God open the pathways before us;
May Christ Jesus cleanse us and make us whole;
And may the Holy Spirit keep our spirits alive
and our feet from stumbling.
Amen.

Song: Porter's Gate: Have mercy on me



The goodness of the Lord is the kindness of the Lord
with ev'ry breath we take, the gift of life and grace.
The power of the Lord is the meekness of the Lord
who bore humanity with brave humility.
Let Your mercy flow through us, Your mercy, Your mercy. (2x)

The beauty of the Lord is the suff'ring of the Lord,
is Christ upon a tree, stripped of dignity.
The glory of the Lord is the mercy of the Lord,
gives life for us to see a new humanity:

When they see us, may they see Your mercy, Your mercy.
When they know us, may they know Your mercy, Your mercy.

Bless the hands and feet of those who serve in need,
of the broken and ashamed
Bless the weary soul, the Lord will make us whole;
God, speak peace to those afraid!
May the words we speak build a bridge for peace—
Your lovingkindness shows the way!
Open up our doors, giving refuge for all the weary and afraid...