



ST NINIAN'S UNITING CHURCH
FEBRUARY 18TH 2026
PRAYERS AND REFLECTION
ASH WEDNESDAY



'BASED ON 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Now is the day of salvation

5:20b We entreat you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God.

5:21 For our sake God made the one who knew no sin to be sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

6:1 As we work together with him, we entreat you also not to accept the grace of God in vain.

6:2 For he says, "At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you." Look, now is the acceptable time; look, now is the day of salvation!

6:3 We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry,

6:4 but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: in great endurance, afflictions, hardships, calamities,

6:5 beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger;

6:6 in purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love,

6:7 truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left;

6:8 in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors and yet are true,

6:9 as unknown and yet are well known, as dying and look--we are alive, as punished and yet not killed,

6:10 as sorrowful yet always rejoicing, as poor yet making many rich, as having nothing and yet possessing everything.'

QUIET TIME IN PRAYER

Heavenly Father, I come before You with a heart full of gratitude for the gift of restoration, just as Ruth and Boaz experienced in their union. May I find strength in my own journey and rejoice in the blessings You bestow upon me. Help me to honour my commitments and nurture love and loyalty in my relationships. May Your divine presence guide me as I walk in faith and embrace the hope of new beginnings. Amen.

PRAYER POINTS OF THANKS

- Thank you, for coming to be my Salvation
- Thank you, for those who love your world so much they become volunteers
- Thank you, Lord, for accepting me as I am, for making the impossible possible through the resurrection of Christ

POINTS FOR A PRAYER OF PRAISE

- Every new day and the chance to start over again
- Continuing to lead and be my guide on my path of transformation
- Teaching me what true honesty and acceptance is, and being a role model in thought, word, and deed.

POINTS OF CONFESSION

- My lack of discipline to pray, read the scriptures and share the gospel with others
- Thinking some are unworthy of your love
- A lack of humility.

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 know from the scriptures that Paul spent some time in Corinth where he goes into detail about the identity and calling of Christ's faithful people as ambassadors for Christ. He emphasises the dual role of new Christians as representatives of God's message of reconciliation and as individuals who are prepared to endure hardships for the sake of the Gospel.

Paul begins with a declaration that believers are ‘ambassadors for Christ’, suggesting that we share a responsibility of commitment to spreading Christ’s message of reconciliation. This identity carries tremendous responsibility; as ambassadors, our words and actions speak volumes in our reflection of Christ’s character, purpose and love. We are given the task of both sharing the Good News and inviting others into a relationship with God, embodying the hope and grace that we have received.

Paul further explores the nature of this ministry, which often involves difficulties and challenges, not shying away from detailing the struggles which will be experienced along the way. We don’t have to work out what they may look like as Paul dutifully lists some that he faced: problems, hardships, and rejection. Through revealing his own experiences, he tells us that the life of faith isn’t without suffering. In fact, enduring hardship with perseverance and integrity is a powerful testament to genuine faith.

Paul also emphasises the virtues that we need to consider are important in our life amid our challenges: patience, kindness, purity, and genuine love. These attributes aren’t only aspirational they’re essential parts of our witness. The integrity with which we approach our struggles not only honours God but is also attractive to others in our sharing of the Good News showing that faith isn’t superficial but deeply involves a life-changing relationship with Christ.

Our last few verses from Paul brings to our attention the contradiction of our experiences with Christ, where we can be seen as having ‘nothing’ yet possessing ‘everything’. Being poor, but rich at the same time. This reflects the reality of our lives living the life of a person following in the footsteps of Christ. True wealth isn’t measured by material possessions or external circumstances but by the richness of spiritual life and connection with God.

Paul’s words today remind us to embrace our identity as Christ’s ambassadors whilst at the same time acknowledging that it doesn’t mean life will be easy- struggles will be very much a part of our task. We are called to live authentically, modeling as best we can the character of Jesus through our difficulties and showing the light of Christ travels with us shining light on what can often be a very difficult path. Through the love and grace of Christ we will know what hope looks like. Ultimately, our witness serves to inspire others to seek the reconciliation and transformative power found in Jesus.

Prayer of intercession

Lord Jesus Christ, I come to you as one of your ambassadors, filled with a spirit of reconciliation and love for you, your people, and your creation. I pray for your

empowerment to share your Gospel of the Good News of Christ with a boldness and integrity that will bring others to you even in times of hardships, difficulties and challenges.

Lord, grant me the patience, kindness, purity, and genuine love to reflect your character, love and grace in all that I do. Help me to endure each challenge with faith, knowing that my true worth is found in my relationship with you.

As I navigate through my struggles, may my life experiences and how I choose to draw on your strength and love draw others to your hope and grace. Strengthen me to reflect your peace and light in my community, family, and the body of Christ.

This I pray with the Holy Spirit as my advocate and companion on the road. Amen

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vIX8_bgygg0&list=PLZrXiYyPjteR6GT-lRkvB1QnffsbMiiEB&index=9

