

Circuit Prayer for 2019-2020

We thank you that each church in our Circuit has its own distinctive life.

May we draw on each other's strengths as we seek to overcome areas where we feel most vulnerable.

Help us to see opportunities in front of us and to grasp hold of them.

Through our worship, learning and caring, service and evangelism, inspire us in reaching out to make more disciples of Jesus.

Through your Spirit

Guide us, encourage us, feed and nourish us, extend our imagination, so that, in our working together with each other and with you, we fulfil your loving, creative, life-changing purposes for your world.

Through Jesus Christ, our Living Lord, Amen.



Following Our Calling, from September to November 2020 we consider;

Service "The church exists to be a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice".

"Nourished & Fed, Ready to Share"

A prayer for SERVICE

Jesus, our Brother, you said, "Follow me; go where I go; do what I do."

We want to follow you, but where are you going?

You go to where people are in need – of healing, of acceptance, of forgiveness, and of hope.

You walk amongst those on the margins, not necessarily the respectable, the important and the powerful.

You spoke out for the voiceless, the forgotten, the abused, for minorities.

Help us to walk in your footsteps; take our feet out of the safety of our sacred buildings into the workplace, the shopping centre, the schools and care homes.

Summon us to challenge injustice wherever we find it.

Jesus, our Brother, you said, "Follow me; go where I go; do what I do."

We want to follow you, but what are you doing?

You knelt in front of your friends and washed their dirty, calloused feet.

Help us to love as you love us,

to offer hospitality to strangers, however different from us they are; and to share what we have with others.

Summon us to be neighbour to those in need.

Jesus, our Brother, you said, "Follow me; go where I go; do what I do."

But your feet were nailed to a cross.

The path to glory lay in suffering and sacrifice.

In these days, we have learned a new understanding of the value of sacrificial service.

Bless those who live lives of service to our community.

Help us to be patient in suffering.

Jesus, our Brother, you said, "Follow me; go where I go; do what I do."

We want to follow you, but we are in a strange new reality.

The old certainties have gone and the future is more unclear.

But you are the same yesterday, today, forever.

May we be joyful in hope and faithful in prayer as we seek to place our feet in your footmarks.

Dwelling in the Word

The purpose of Dwelling in the Word, is to allow God's Spirit to speak to the church through scripture and each other. It is an exercise in listening to the Holy Spirit, to scripture, and to one another.

We do the same passage many times, so that as we dwell in the Word, the Word begins to dwell in us. The practice should be used any time groups come together – for example, meetings of church council, committees, planning groups, house groups etc.

We can also Dwell in the Word regularly when not meeting together, as individuals or households.

Pray the Dwelling in the Word prayer aloud (see below).

Read the passage opposite aloud.

Meanwhile notice where your attention is drawn – a word, a phrase, a sentence.

It may be something new, something puzzling, something affirming.

Have a few minutes silent reflection.

You or another member of your household reads the passage aloud again.

Write down the significant word or phrase or share it with another.

When this activity is repeated at another time you may be surprised that God's spirit gives you a very different message.

Reflect on any new thoughts or that of another person.

A prayer as we Dwell in the Word

Loving God,

Although our destination is not yet clear,

May we trust in your graceful promises;

Though we are uncertain of ourselves,

May we be rooted in your loving regard;

Though our attention is inclined to wander,

May we hear the things you are saying;

Though we often neglect your influence,

May we be convicted of your power to change,

In Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen

From September to November 2020 the text we have chosen for Dwelling in the Word is Romans 12: 9-21

Romans 12: 9-21 (NRSV)

⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good;

¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour.

¹¹ Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord.

¹² Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.

¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.

¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.

¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are.

¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all.

¹⁸ If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord."

²⁰ No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads."

²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.