

CRAMOND KIRK



APRIL PRAYER DIARY

Crown him the Lord of love;
Behold his hands and side,
Rich wounds yet visible above, in beauty glorified.
All hail, Redeemer, hail! For thou hast died for me:
Thy praise shall never, never fail throughout eternity.

(CH4 Hymn 459)

The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: ‘He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.’ Now I have told you.”

(Matthew 28 : 5 - 7)

SUNDAY

Give thanks that as Sunday by Sunday we gather to worship God, we do so in company and communion with God's people both in heaven and on earth. Pray for Russell and Iain that as they lead us in worship, they will bring us into the presence and promise of God. Pray also for non-ministerial staff and volunteers of the Kirk that God will bless, strengthen and protect them and their families.

MONDAY

Our assistant minister, Stanley Okeke has preached as sole nominee in St Andrew's Church Ayr and has been called to be their minister. Please pray for Stanley Okeke and his family as they prepare to take on this new role as a parish minister in the Church of Scotland. Pray that Stanley will have a successful and fruitful ministry in Ayr.

TUESDAY

In the ten months leading to the 26th session of the Conference of the Parties (CoP26), faith-based organisations, including Christian Aid, ACT Alliance and the Lutheran World Federation are inviting people to a period of intense prayer for the climate. The CoP26 summit is scheduled to be held in Glasgow in November. Pray for the success of the conference and ask God to guide politicians to formulate policies that could help save the climate.

WEDNESDAY

COVID-19 is a new illness that can affect your lungs and airways. It's caused by a virus called coronavirus. The impact of coronavirus has been felt globally including here in the United Kingdom. Health professionals are working to contact anyone who has been in close contact with people who have coronavirus. There are some countries and areas where there's a higher chance of coming into contact with someone with coronavirus. Pray for a quick recovery for people who have been infected by the virus. Pray for God's wisdom upon medical practitioners to develop the best strategy in order to stamp out the spread of the virus. Pray for children and elderly people who are most vulnerable to contract the virus. Pray for God's intervention in the global economy because of the impact of coronavirus.

THURSDAY

Cramond is a community that is loved and cherished by so many people. Being a tourist centre, thousands of people visit Cramond each year. Cramond Kirk is at the heart of the community. Pray for Cramond Kirk, that it may grow deeper in love and stronger in communicating its faith in Jesus Christ to neighbours and visitors. Pray for youths in the community that they may develop love and a desire to worship God and possibly join the Kirk. Pray for Cramond Kirk Elders for wisdom and strength in their continued support for their minister, Very Rev Dr Russell Barr.

FRIDAY

In Kenya, the Turi Children's Project (TCP) works with underprivileged young people in the local community and exists to provide them with hope and a future. Sadly, because of the impact of coronavirus on the country, the project is now closed as a measure to keep the children safe. Please pray for the children of the project as they are not in

school. Pray for God's protection and providence to every one of them in this difficult time. Pray for Mrs Chlore as she steps down from her involvement with the project during her maternity leave. Pray for the new coordinators who will oversee the project during this time.

SATURDAY

During the Easter season the Resurrection of Jesus Christ is our guarantee that justice will triumph over betrayal, light will overcome darkness, and love will conquer death. In this Easter season pray that our lives be touched by God, that we become messengers of **Easter** joy and hope. Pray for those who are yet to understand the mystery of Christ's resurrection. Pray that through the resurrection of Christ every dead situation in our lives and family receives the touch of God and springs back to life again.

Hallelujah! The grave could not hold him.
The Son of God has risen. He is alive.

PRAYER FOR EASTER

God of mercy,
We no longer look for Jesus among the dead,
for he is alive and has become the Lord of life.
From the waters of death, you raise us with him
and renew your gift of life within us.
Increase in our minds and hearts the risen life we share with Christ,
and help us to grow as your people toward the fullness of eternal life with you,
through Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.

THE PRACTICE OF PRAYER

The acrostic "A-C-T-S" is useful as a pattern for prayer. Each letter in the acrostic represents a vital element of effective prayer:

A — ADORATION
C — CONFESSION
T — THANKSGIVING
S — SUPPLICATION

The complete acrostic suggests the dynamic dimension of prayer. Prayer is action. While it may be expressed in a spirit of serene quietness, it is action, nevertheless. When we pray, we are not passive observers or neutral, detached spectators. Energy is expended in the exercise of prayer.

The Bible tells us that it is the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man that availeth much (James 5:16, KJV). Fervency characterized Jesus' agony in Gethsemane, where His sweat fell to the ground as droplets of blood. Fervency describes Jacob's all-night wrestling match with the angel at Peniel. Prayer is an exercise of passion, not of indifference.

If you have a prayer request or a favourite prayer which you would care to share in a future Prayer Diary, please e-mail cramond.kirk@blueyonder.co.uk.