

Peace Is A Gift - May 2018

This month we will explore the gift of peace that can burst into our lives unexpectedly, often in the midst of struggle, loss and rejection - bringing surprising blessing.

Pentecost is this month (20 May) and it is a day when we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit who brings transformation, new understanding, and peace.

We have chosen this theme to link with the Church of Scotland's Heart and Soul theme for 2018: 'Peace Be Unto You'.

Each week of the theme runs Sunday-Saturday and has its own subtheme, which contains daily Bible readings and thought triggers. Sometimes there is more than one reading for a given day, in this case the Daily Worship writer will choose the particular reading they want to focus on.

| Date | Subtheme | Readings | Notes |
|----------|-------------------------|---|---|
| 29 April | Peace follows obedience | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Acts 8: 26-40 2. Isaiah 5: 1-7 OR Galatians 5: 16-26 3. James 3: 17-18 OR Isaiah 32:9-20 4. John 14: 18-31 OR Isaiah 65:17-25 5. Acts 10: 1-34 OR Isaiah 49: 5-6 6. Acts 10: 34-43 OR Psalm 98 7. Mark 10: 42-45 | <p>Using the story of Philip being lead by the Spirit to go on what might appear to be a wild goose chase as the starting point for seven reflections and prayers of struggle and acceptance when seeking to obey the call of God to action. In doing so we encounter Peace through Obedience.</p> <p>Read through the daily readings and make connections with the weekly theme. The below are prompts to get you started. Our writers will choose one reading to focus on each day.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Struggle and acceptance 2. Fruitful? 3. Commitment vs complacency 4. "Peace I leave with you..." 5. No partiality 6. Good News 7. Servant leadership |

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|--------|-------------------------------|--|--|
| 6 May | Peace rests with the rejected | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Acts 10: 44-48 2. Deuteronomy 7:1-11 OR I Timothy 6: 11-12 3. Deuteronomy 11: 1-17 OR I Timothy 6:13-16 4. Deuteronomy 11: 18-21 OR Mark 16:19-20 5. Acts 1: 1-11 OR Psalm 47 6. Revelation 1: 9-18 OR Exodus 24: 15-18 7. Deuteronomy 34: 1-7 OR John 16: 4-11 | <p>Using the story of the Gentiles receiving the Spirit for seven reflections and prayers that reflect the gratitude of those who have been rejected and now find themselves encountering the peace of acceptance.</p> <p>Read through the daily readings and make connections with the weekly theme. The below are prompts to get you started. Our writers will choose one reading to focus on each day.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gratitude of the rejected 2. Chosen? 3. Milk and honey? 4. Carrying it on 5. Looking up? 6. Do not be afraid 7. Returning home |
| 13 May | Peace follows risk | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Acts 1: 15-17, 21-26 2. Philippians 1: 3-11 OR Psalm 115 3. Titus 1: 1-9 OR Numbers 8: 5-22 4. Ezra 9: 5-15 OR John 16: 16-24 5. Genesis 2: 4-7 OR I Corinthians 15: 42-49 6. Job 37: 1-13 OR I Corinthians 15: 50-57 7. John 7: 37-39 OR Psalm 33: 12-22 | <p>Using the story of how the successor of Judas was chosen to show that there is a sense of risk involved in all guidance. Seven reflections around the idea of peace that comes through making a step of faith.</p> <p>Read through the daily readings and make connections with the weekly theme. The below are prompts to get you started. Our writers will choose one reading to focus on each day.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Risk and guidance 2. Determining what is best 3. Ministry 4. Risking embarrassment 5. Risky strategy - Dust Plus? 6. Things that we cannot comprehend 7. Taking the risk |

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| 20 May *Pentecost Sunday | Peace lives with surprise | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Acts 2: 1-21 Joel 2: 18-29 OR 1 Corinthians 12: 4-11 Genesis 11: 1-9 OR 1 Corinthians 12: 12-27 Ezekiel 37: 1-14 OR John 20: 19-23 Psalm 29 OR Isaiah 1: 1-4 Romans 8: 9-11 OR Isaiah 2: 1-5 John 15: 26-27 OR Isaiah 5: 15-24 | <p>Using the story of the Spirit on Pentecost Sunday for seven prayers and reflections that highlight how the Holy Spirit often surprises us by her actions and her presence, in our lives and the world around us. (<i>The Holy Spirit is referred to by neutral, male, and female pronouns across Christian tradition, with the original Hebrew and Aramaic words used for the Spirit being feminine, and as such there is a long tradition of describing the Holy Spirit in feminine terms</i>).</p> <p>Read through the daily readings and make connections with the weekly theme. The below are prompts to get you started. Our writers will choose one reading to focus on each day.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Surprising acts Surprising dreams, visions, gifts Working together? Surprised by life The Lord's Voice Dwelling An Advocate |
| 27 May *Trinity Sunday | Peace comes through loss | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Isaiah 6: 1-8 Numbers 9: 15-23 Psalm 20 OR 1 Corinthians 2: 1-10 Numbers 6: 22-27 OR Mark 4: 21-25 1 Samuel 1: 1-18 OR Psalm 139 Romans 8: 31-39 OR Psalm 81 1 Samuel 2: 1-10 OR John 7: 19-24 | <p>Isaiah found peace of mind at a time when everyone was mourning the loss of a King. He discovers the Spirit of God in the midst of grief and out of grief he hears a call to service. Our writer will work on seven prayers and reflections that help us see how grief and loss can be constructive agents to discovering a new calling or commission from God.</p> <p>Read through the daily readings and make connections with the weekly theme. The below are prompts to get you started. Our writers will choose one reading to focus on each day.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Out of grief, a call to service Breaking camp at a moment's notice In the midst of trouble, may he grant you your heart's desire Blessing Grief and petition Nothing will separate us from the love of God The big picture |