

**Call to Prayer: Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2021**  
**Prayer @ 7pm**

‘O Lord, you have searched me and known me.’ The words of the Psalm speak. The words speak into the uttermost depths of who we are and the word of the Lord searches to the furthestmost limits of our being. (Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-18) The word of the Lord speaks to us in every season and searches us at all times. Nevertheless, there are times in which we are especially conscious of the immediacy and relevance of the word spoken and we might judge that this is such a time.

We may say at this particular time that we are truly being stretched to the uttermost as human beings and to the furthestmost limits of our endurance as a society. These are hard times. At the very moment in which hope has been offered to our society in the form of a vaccine, the risk faced by our society has increased considerably. In the light of this, the challenges we face are difficult beyond measure. Notwithstanding all of this, the word of the Lord endures and still speaks into the uttermost depth and to the furthestmost limit. We are not hidden from God and all we face is known by the Lord whose word endures. Humbly recognising this to be so, we pray:

Lord, you search us and you know us  
And we bow in your holy presence.  
You know us this day in all we face  
And you are with us through the hours of the night.  
Guard us and keep us till the day is done  
And the darkness is no more.  
Lord, in your mercy,  
Hear our prayer.

Lord, you search us and you know us  
And we bow in your holy presence.  
You have made us in your image  
And woven us together in the womb.  
Guide us to the place where life is renewed  
And our shared life restored.  
Lord, in your mercy,  
Hear our prayer.

Lord, you search us and you know us  
And we bow in your holy presence.  
You know the challenges of this time  
And of all the days that lie before us.  
Give hope to all who despair  
And comfort to those who grieve.  
Lord, in your mercy,  
Hear our prayer.

Lord, you search us and you know us  
And we bow in your holy presence.  
You know all who by their work serve the common good  
And who by their gifts renew hope in dark times.  
Keep safe the most vulnerable  
And walk with those who are fearful this day.  
Lord, in your mercy,  
Hear our prayer.

Lord, you search us and you know us  
And we bow in your holy presence.  
You are the beginning of all things,  
And you are the end of all things, in Jesus Christ.  
Guard us and keep us till the day is done  
And the darkness is no more.  
Lord, in your mercy,  
Hear our prayer.

Signed by:

Rt. Rev. Dr Martin Fair, Moderator of the General Assembly, Church of Scotland

Most Rev. Leo Cushley, Archbishop of St. Andrews and Edinburgh, Roman Catholic Church

Most Rev. Mark Strange, Primus, on behalf of the College of Bishops, Scottish Episcopal Church

Rev. John Fulton, Moderator, United Free Church of Scotland

Rev. Paul Whittle, Moderator, United Reformed Church (Scotland)

Rev. Martin Hodson, General Director, Baptist Union of Scotland

Rev. Mark Slaney, District Chair, Methodist Church (Scotland)

Rev. May-Kane Logan, Chair, Congregational Federation in Scotland

Lt. Col. Carol Bailey, Secretary for Scotland, Salvation Army

Adwoa Bittle, Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Rev. Claire Fender, District Superintendent, British Isles North District, Church of the Nazarene

Pastor Chris Gbenle, Provincial Pastor, Province of Scotland, Redeemed Christian Church of God

Bishop Francis Alao, Church of God (Scotland)/Minority Ethnic Churches Together in Scotland (MECTIS)

Rev Fred Drummond, Director, Evangelical Alliance (Scotland)