

Starters for Sunday

Referendum Prayers

18 September 2014

The Mission and Discipleship Council are grateful to the Life and Work editor for allowing us to reproduce the following article first published in the August 2014 issue of Life and Work.

As Scotland stands on the brink of its biggest political decision in a generation, those who lead the Church of Scotland's key committees offer their own prayers ahead of next month's Referendum on Independence.

God be in our minds, and in our reflecting;
God be in our vision, and in our imagining;
God be in our gathering, and in our listening;
God be in our relationships, and in our discussing;
God be in our nation, and in our deciding.

Rev Alison McDonald

Convener, Ecumenical Relations Committee



When you made me Lord,
you gave me the capacity to choose.
I live in a country, at a time in history
when I am given a vote.
Thank you for these privileges.
But sometimes I find choosing difficult.
To say 'yes' to one option,
means saying 'no' to the other.
It's a huge responsibility,
and this one seems biggest of them all.
What if I change my mind?
What if I make a mistake?
The agony of indecision!
I feel like a flag in the wind.
I blow one way, then the other.
I ask for wisdom and direction.
Help me to choose well,
not just for me and my own
but for the whole nation.

Amen

Rev Neil Dougall

Convener, Ministries Council

God of all nations,
we thank you not only for democracy but for the institutions of
government;
that we have an opportunity to make known our views about our nation's
future
and that there are many whose task is to put policy decisions into
practice.



We pray for those:

who police our streets and administer justice;

who care for health of mind and body;

who collect taxes and administer benefits;

who teach, or discover, research and write;

who advise, supervise, accredit and administer

in many government departments and agencies in Scotland and the United Kingdom

whose lives may be affected by the referendum result.

We pray that you will give to them wisdom, patience, dedication,

resilience, integrity

and a deep desire to give their time and skills fully and generously

in the service of others; in the name of Jesus

who gave his life for all.

Amen.

Rev Grant Barclay

Convener, Council of Assembly

Lord of the nations

we pray for our land.

We give thanks

for all we love about Scotland

as a place,

and as a people

drawn from different nations and backgrounds

with different stories to tell,

gifts to offer,

and experiences to share.



As we approach the Referendum
we pray for what is best for every part
and for every person,
not just this generation
but for generations unborn.

We pray whatever way the vote goes,
and whatever consequences follow,
that we will find a way
to work together
for the Christian good of Scotland
in the years ahead.

Amen

Rev Colin Sinclair

Convener Mission and Discipleship Council

Lord, there are so many questions!

So many certainties

proclaimed in the face of uncertainty. Only You can lead us when the way ahead is shrouded in the mist of doubt.

We are impatient to have the answers -

Let us be content dealing with our ignorance.

We are swayed by claims and counter claims-

Let us trust in Your help to direct our choices.

We pray for reassurance about the best result-

Let us, instead, pray for courage to deal with the unknown. Let us not look to others to give us their truths

but have the patience to search for our own meanings Knowing that, whatever the future,
it is safe in Your hands

Kay Keith

National Convener Church of Scotland Guild



God, wha hae aye been
 and wha bides eftir the world is nae mair,
 for us, your bairns,
 in this land o mountain an o flood,
 noo is the day; noo the hour
 when we maun decide :
 maybe aye; maybe no –
 this Scotland ; independent or in the union.
 Rummlieguts; sweetie-wifies deave us
 wi endless blether; tedious haivers; argie-bargie.
 Wheest!
 Fae the deep howe o your hairt, O God,
 spak tae us your word o peace.
 Let us see wi your ain een
 a vision on your Scotland –
 not small but biggit anew
 on founs o justice; leal tae our Lord
 an ettlin aye aifter the common-weal.
 Guide us, o halie Speerit, tae tak tent
 that as we pit oor cross,
 it an the ruid o Christ may be as ain -
 and so may the guid o awbody and the glory o your name
 rise fae referendum result
 and, semper reformanda,
 we aa dwell for ever eftir in love thegither;
 a nation aye your ain
 till your kingdom come.

Amen

Rev Janet Mathieson

Convener, Assembly Arrangements Committee



I am aware that life is full of choices
And this is a big one!
I am conscious of the responsibility placed on me
to choose what is best
not just for myself
but for my neighbours
and for generations yet to come.
And I am so thankful that I have a choice-
unlike so many people around the world.
Whatever the outcome
may we together become a people
guided by Wisdom
and Integrity
and motivated by Compassion
and a sense of Justice for all.
Amen

Rev Iain Cunningham

Convener, World Mission Council

Well, what is it we're supposed to do God – when we're standing at a crossroads or a bend in the road that we can't quite see round?

What are we supposed to do – when the door to tomorrow stands in front of us waiting for us to open it? Fingers wrapped around the handle, we just need to push a bit – but exactly what's on the other side?

Well, you are God – you're there and so wherever we walk, your journeying spirit walks with us.

As we open the door on a new day, you'll be there to greet us.

May we greet each other on the other side of today with your same welcoming, loving, forgiving, fair and adventurous spirit. As we walk into tomorrow, hold us in your heart.

Rev Sally Foster-Fulton

Convener, Church and Society Council



Additional Resources

Resourcing Mission



[Resourcing Mission](#) is host to Starters for Sunday and other key mission resources for download and purchase. Online booking is available for [Mission & Discipleship events](#). Please check back regularly, as new items are being added all the time. If there is something you'd like to see on this new site, please [contact us](#) via the website.

Prayer Resources

These materials are designed to be a starting point for what you might look for in prayers. [Revealing Love](#) is available now from [St Andrew Press](#).



Music Resources

The hymns mentioned in this material are ideas of specific hymns you might choose for this week's themes. However, for some excellent articles on church music and ideas for new music resources, please check out our online music pages [Different Voices](#).

Preaching Resources



These materials are designed to be a starting point for what you might preach this Sunday. [Preachers Perspectives](#) is a resource where we have asked twelve preachers to share the insights they have gathered through their experiences of writing and delivering sermons regularly.

Scots Worship Resources

[The Kirk's Ear](#) - Scots in the Kirk series for Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost and other times of the year

[Wurship Ouk bi Ouk](#) - Metrical psalms, hymns, prayers and words for worship

[Scots Sacraments](#) may give you helpful material if you are celebrating Communion or have a Baptism.

The Mission and Discipleship Council would like to express its thanks to Life and Work for allowing us to reproduce this material.

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