

Call to Prayer: Sunday 12th September 2021
Prayer @ 7pm

Questions about identity are very much to the fore in our day and age. The asking of a question is, of course, very much easier than providing an answer and the result is that we have many more questions than we have agreed answers.

At a pivotal moment in the Gospel of Mark, Jesus asks a question which might be said to be about identity: "Who do people say I am?" In response, the disciples harvest the many opinions that are in circulation: "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." There are many opinions, but no agreed answer. Jesus then asks the question directly to the disciples: "But what about you?...Who do you say I am?" In response, Peter replies: "You are the Christ." Amidst all the opinions of the day, Peter provides an answer to the question of the identity of Jesus and he affirms that he is the Christ. In the midst of the many questions of our day, we affirm this answer for ourselves and resolve to follow in the way of the Cross. (Mark 8: 27-38) We pray:

God our Father,
You anoint your Son
And send him forth into the world.
We receive the gift of your Son
As your gift to Creation and to all peoples
And respond with gratitude and thanksgiving.
Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

God our Father,
You anoint your Son
And send him forth into the world.
As we receive your Son,
May we hear the questions he asks of us
And be willing to respond in faith and trust.
Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

God our Father,
You anoint your Son
And send him forth into the world.
As we share the gift of your Son,
May we listen to the voices of those beside us
That we might understand more fully the breadth of your Creation.
Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

God our Father,
You anoint your Son
And send him forth into the world.
As we listen to the many questions that are asked in our world
May we respond with grace and in truth,
And with shared silence to the questions that are hard to bear.
Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

God our Father,
You anoint your Son
And send him forth into the world.
As we hear your Son speak to us
May we humbly confess
That he is the Christ, the anointed One of God.
Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Signed by:

Lord Wallace, 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. Dr David Miller, Moderator, United Free Church of Scotland

Rev. Neil MacMillan, Moderator, 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. Thomas R. Wilson, Chair, Congregational Federation in Scotland

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

Adwoa Bittle, Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Rev. Ruth Turner, 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)