

# New Year Prayer

△ 2 Cor 1:20-22, 1 Tim 6:11-16

## Introducing the Theme

### Report from Listening Prayer

#### #1

We should have a monthly prayer meeting like yesterday

The size of the congregation will increase

Keep going

#### #2

Distracted - a warning not to be?

#### #3

Be expectant

Be patient

Be bold, be strong, for the Lord your God is with you

#### #4

Yet not I but through Christ in me

Not what I can do for you, Lord, but what can you do for me?

#### #5

Not all the lights are in

**City - Churches - Individuals**

Do not switch off

JC: I am the light of the world

Specsavers: Don't look at the world but listen to me

Vision Express: God's vision, not our own

#6

Lamentations 3:21-23

<sup>21</sup> Yet this I call to mind  
and therefore I have hope:

<sup>22</sup> Because of the Lord's great love we are not  
consumed,  
for his compassions never fail.

<sup>23</sup> They are new every morning;  
**great is your faithfulness.**

#7

Picture of a bunch of Grapes

<sup>8</sup> **This is to my Father's glory, that you bear  
much fruit, showing yourselves to be my  
disciples.**

△ John 15:8

<sup>4</sup> **Remain in me, as I also remain in you.**

#8

Jesus leading

#9

A sincere heart

The widows mite

#10

Jesus is Lord

#11

Thinking of all those who suffer, frosty  
weather, small children, winter ills, war  
situations

#12

Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God

with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'

<sup>^</sup> Math 22:37

Warning to be aware that we do not stop doing this

## #13

Song: At your feet we fall (Mighty is the Lord)

## #14

Isa 3:18-25

<sup>18</sup> In that day the Lord will snatch away their finery: the bangles and headbands and crescent necklaces, <sup>19</sup> the earrings and bracelets and veils, <sup>20</sup> the headdresses and anklets and sashes, the perfume bottles and charms, <sup>21</sup> the signet rings and nose rings, <sup>22</sup> the fine robes and the capes and cloaks, the purses <sup>23</sup> and mirrors, and the linen garments and tiaras and shawls.

<sup>24</sup> Instead of fragrance there will be a stench; instead of a sash, a rope; instead of well-dressed hair, baldness; instead of fine clothing, sackcloth; instead of beauty, branding.

<sup>25</sup> Your men will fall by the sword, your warriors in battle.

**Are we too tied to the things we love or identify us, that we do not love Jesus?**

Things

Responsibilities

**This is for men too!**

Muppet Christmas Carol

**Spirit of the future: Speak peace to me**

## #15

Reminded of Esther's bravery

Once she discerned what God was asking of her

She prayed, fasted and approached the King very carefully

Not jumping in but deliberated prayer and planning

#16

Jesus is Lord

Ps 36:1-2

<sup>5</sup> Your unfailing love, O Lord, is as vast as the heavens;  
your faithfulness reaches beyond the clouds.

<sup>6</sup> Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains,  
your justice like the ocean depths.

<sup>△</sup> (NLT)

## General Discernment

God has a plan for St Andrews, as long as we focus on him

However, how serious are with that

We need to take a step up in our commitment and not be complacent

Giving over our agenda, but listening to God for his agenda

Including giving up things, surrendering to God what we held dear

Spent time repenting of our complacency

As well as surrendering our responsibilities

The theme of this year's New Year Prayer is Amen

## Amen

### As per Alice's prayer guide

Or very shortly: a firm "yes"

From the Hebrew root 'emuna'

Meaning faith or trust

Let it be, yes, may it come to pass

## 2 Cor 1:20-22

Affirms that whatever God has promised us, he affirms with a Yes and Amen

^ v20

Whatever those promises are

The promise of eternal life

**even if this life already feels too long and hard**

He will never leave us or forsake us

**even if we do not feel it that way or notice**

He has a purpose for this world and for us

**even if it is not always clear to us**

To be able to live our lives to the full

And perhaps that are personal promises that God has made to you, that you have not seen to be fulfilled

And to help us live our lives in these promises

^ v21-22

God makes his stand firm in Christ

He anointed us - set his seal of ownership on us

And put the Spirit in our hearts

**As a deposit form all these promises!**

# But God does expect something from us

^ 1 Tim 6:11-16

## 1. Flee from these things!

What things? - We read earlier in v9-10

<sup>9</sup> But people who long to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many foolish and harmful desires that plunge them into ruin and destruction.

<sup>10</sup> For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows.

Riches

Temptations

Foolish and harmful desires

The love of money

**root of all kinds of evil**

So live soberly

## 2. Pursue: righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentles

Rings a bell with the fruit of the Spirit?

<sup>22</sup> But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, and self-control.

^ Gal 5:22-23

## 3. Fight the good fight of faith, by

Take hold of eternal life

**Today is the first day of the rest of your eternal life**

## 4. Cultivate the presence of God

God is always with us

But we forget

We need to remind ourselves, constantly!

Set an alarm clock on your phone: Think of Jesus!

## 5. Keeping God's commandments

Yes, we are saved by that faith in Jesus Christ has made us righteousness

But Paul was very strict with misbehaving Christians!

We are ambassadors and representatives of Christ

Love God with all our hearts and all our minds and all our souls

Love our neighbour as ourselves

We are still called to demonstrate our faith by our works

**James 2:14-26**

Until Jesus returns - another promise! -  
He will return

Jesus: King of Kings, Lord of Lords

Immortal

Dwells in unapproachable light: God the Father

**No one can approach or see him**

To him be honour and eternal dominion

## Stepping up

The New Year Message that I believe is from Jesus to us

He wants to step up

Not by necessary doing more

But by being serious in our faith

Remember the summary from  
yesterday's prayer time? :

God has a plan for St Andrews, as long as  
we focus on him

However, how serious are with that

We need to take a step up in our  
commitment and not be complacent

Giving over our agenda, but listening to  
God for his agenda

Including giving up things, surrendering to  
God what we held dear

Spent time repenting of our complacency

As well as surrendering our responsibilities

Do we really put God first?

In thought, word and deed?

Are we in it (our Christian Faith) for  
ourselves?

Because of all these promises that Jesus  
has given us?

If so, we love ourselves more than we love  
God

Do we have set ideas how to be a  
Christian or live a Christian live, or  
being a Christian Church?

Or do we need to let go of that too

Do we love the jobs and responsibilities  
we have

in Church, work or family life

Would we be able to give those up, for



Jesus?

Methodist Covenant Prayer

**let me be employed for you  
or laid aside for you,**

Are we willing to give up those responsibilities, without anything in return?

## Stepping up, by surrendering

Often we need to let go, before God can give us new things, new challenges, new people

So it becomes truly God's and not our own anymore

This includes any visions that God may have given us

Because maybe our ideas to fulfill that vision is in the way of God's plan

## God has a plan for St Andrews

So rest assured

He will never leave not forsake us

He has a purpose for us

But it is his plan and his purpose

Are we willing to surrender our own plans and purposes?

Amen