

# Missionary Children Prayer Service (3)



and commissioning of  
Missio Champions



**missio**   
Scotland

## Opening Procession of Priest Celebrant and Children.

*Invite a child to read what is being brought to the sanctuary and why.*

We bring a globe (or map of the world) to remember all the children of the world. We bring our candles in the mission colours: Green for the children of Africa, yellow for the children of Asia, white for the children of Europe, blue for the children of Oceania, and red for the children of the Americas. We also bring a Missio Scotland collection box (or some coins in a jar). We do without things we like, so that we can give to others. We bring the book of the Gospels (Lectionary) and today we will be hearing about Simon Peter's family and how Jesus helped one of them in particular.

## Priest Celebrant

We are all called by God to make a difference, no matter how small. This is what being a missionary is about. October is Mission Month. Today is a special day when children offer prayers for the needs of each other and for children living throughout the world. God loves every child and wants to make sure that they are all safe and happy. For this, God has given each child a family. Families come in all shapes and sizes. One of the things that families have in common is that all of them are loved by God. God knows each family and cares for them. The Bible is full of stories about families and it tells us how Jesus was born into one. When God chose to come into the world, this happened within a family. Jesus said that every child is part of God's family, that we are, in fact, His brothers and sisters. Today we are gathered to celebrate in a special way that we are part of one big family of God and are called to love one another and to care for each other. We are called to care especially for those who live in poverty or fear.

In our prayers today we remember:

The children of Africa (light green candle)

The children of Asia (light yellow candle)

The children of Europe (light white candle)

The children of Oceania (light blue candle)

The children of the Americas (light red candle)



## Collect Prayer

God our Father, we thank you for our families. Thank you for our fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, grandparents, aunts and uncles all over the world. Make us glad to be together and help us to love you more. We make this prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

## Reading (Romans 12:8-13)

Whoever shares with others should do it generously; whoever has authority should work hard; whoever shows kindness to others should do it cheerfully. Love must be completely sincere. Hate what is evil, hold onto what is good. Love one another warmly as Christians and be eager to show respect for one another. Work hard and do not be lazy. Serve the Lord with a heart full of devotion. Let your hope keep you joyful, be patient in your troubles and pray at all times. Share your belongings with your needy fellow Christians and open your homes to strangers.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

## Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia,

"Go help everyone, everywhere to follow me," says the Lord. "And you will be my brothers and sisters too."

Alleluia

## **Gospel Reading (Mark 1:29-31)**

Jesus and His apostles spent a lot of time in the area around the Sea of Galilee. They went from town to town. In each place, Jesus taught people about God and God's great love for the world. Sometimes, He healed people who were sick. He showed people how to love one another, as God wanted them to. One day, Jesus and His friends came to a town called Capernaum and Jesus began to teach the people there. Now Simon Peter and Andrew lived in the town of Capernaum, so Jesus and some of His other Apostles, including James and John, went to their house. But as soon as He arrived, Jesus heard that Simon Peter's mother-in-law was sick in bed. She was sick with a very high temperature and her family were worried that she was going to die. Right away, Jesus went to her, took her by the hand and helped her up. Immediately, the woman's temperature returned to normal and she was well again. She got up and began to serve those who were in the house.

The Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

## **Prayers of the Faithful**

1) Lord, we pray that our parents and those who care for us and love us are newly blessed. We pray to the Lord.

**(Response) Lord, hear our prayer**

2) Lord, we pray that we will share the love of God, which comes to us through families with our brothers and sisters around the world. We pray to the Lord.

**Lord, hear our prayer**

3) We pray that all families in the world receive love and happiness. We pray to the Lord.

**Lord, hear our prayer**

4) We pray that when there is war, dangerous weather, famine or poverty, that children and their families will find safety and peace. We pray to the Lord.

**Lord, hear our prayer**

5) We pray that those who leave their families behind here in Scotland to help children in the world are supported and kept safe. We pray for those missionaries who bring medicine, healing, education, love and care to others. We pray to the Lord.

**Lord, hear our prayer**

6) We pray that children and their families who come to Scotland for new beginnings have a warm and loving welcome here. May we reach out in friendship and love and invite them to be part of our larger human family as they must be lonely and miss their own homes. We pray to the Lord.

**Lord, hear our prayer**

7) We pray that members of our families who have died and all the dead be at peace with God in Heaven. We pray to the Lord.

**Lord, hear our prayer**

## **Commissioning of Missio Champions**

### **Priest Celebrant**

Dear friends in Christ, Jesus sent out His disciples to spread the Good News and to serve others. Those first followers heard Jesus' call and answered it. We believe that these young people are responding to a similar call.

Our primary school pupils watching today are to be entrusted with serving God and others through faith witness in their school. The young people present before us are representing our Church and, most importantly, Jesus as they become Missio Champions for their school.

## **The celebrant pauses and then addresses the candidates**

In this service, you must be examples of Christian living in faith and conduct; you must strive to grow in holiness, unity and love. You must strive to help others in your school to come to know of the work of Missio Scotland and to help support this work. As witnesses to the love of God be especially observant of the Lord's command to love your neighbour. For, when He gave His body as food to His disciples, He said to them: "This is my commandment, that you should love one another as I have loved you."

### **Priest Celebrant**

Young people of Primary (?), I ask you do you undertake the service of being witnesses to God's love, to love your brothers and sisters and so serve to build up the Church?

**(Childrens' response) With God as our help, we will**

### **Priest Celebrant**

The scriptures remind us that when we help the poor we are joining God in His work. Will you join God in His work?

**With God as our help, we will**

### **Priest Celebrant**

Jesus called His followers to be his witnesses in their homes, their towns, countries, and to the ends of the earth. Will you answer Jesus' call to holiness by being a faith witness to others in your school?

**With God as our help, we will**

### **Priest Celebrant**

St Paul tells us: "If your gift is serving others, serve them well." Will you serve God by serving others to the best of your ability?

**With God as our help, we will**

## **The rest of the congregation are asked to stand**

### **Priest Celebrant**

Members of God's family watching today, will you support these young people with your prayers? Will you pray that God works through them, that they will encounter Jesus in this role as MISSIO champion, and that God will bless those they help?

**(Community Response) With God as our help, we will**

### **Priest Celebrant**

Before we conclude our service, let us pray the Missionary Children's prayer together.

**M**ay all children, **I**n the world, **S**hare love, **S**hare friendship and live **I**n the peace **O**f God's love **N**ow and forever, Amen.

At the end of the service, the Priest Celebrant will then bless the badges to be distributed to the Missio champions of each school.