

Missionary Children Prayer Service (2)



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 how Jesus helps us to grow in love by following His example.

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. One of the things we all have in common is that we are all loved by God. The Bible is full of stories about God's love for everyone and how God wants us to love one another in the same way as He loves us. Today we are gathered to celebrate in a special way how we are all linked together 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, you love us as a father loves his children. Help us to live and love like your Son, Jesus. 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 (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)

St Paul was a follower of Jesus and a great writer of letters to other people who also wished to follow Jesus. He wrote to the people of Corinth to help them understand more about love. This is what he said: "Love is patient and kind; it is not jealous or conceited or proud; love is not ill-mannered or selfish or irritable; love does not keep a record of wrongs; love is not happy with evil, but is happy with the truth. Love never gives up; and its faith, hope, and patience never fail."

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia,

"If you have love for one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples," says the Lord.
Alleluia.

Gospel Reading (Luke 4:18-19)

Jesus came on earth to tell people the Good News of God's love and to show them how to live in love. Before Jesus began this mission, He went to the synagogue in His home town of Nazareth and read aloud

some words from the book of the prophet Isaiah in the Old Testament. St Luke later recorded these words in his Gospel. This is what Jesus said: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He has chosen me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free the oppressed and announce that the time has come when the Lord will save His people.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Prayers of the Faithful

1) Lord, we pray for all the children of the world. Fill them with your love and happiness. We pray to the Lord.

(Response) Lord, hear our prayer

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

Lord, hear our prayer

3) We pray for Pope Francis and the leaders of the Church, that they will always be guided by God's love through the Holy Spirit. We pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer

4) We pray for all children who are suffering especially because of poverty. We pray that we may help them by supporting organisations such as Missio Scotland. We pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer

5) We pray for those who have died. May they be at peace in God's loving arms 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.

May 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.