

**Call to Prayer: Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2021**  
**Prayer @ 7pm**

The Gospel of Mark compares and contrasts the offering of a 'poor widow' with that of those who give out of their riches. To the outward appearance, the 'two small copper coins' barely register in the coffers of the treasury, especially when compared to the offerings of others. In so doing, the Gospel invites us to see beyond the outward appearance and to understand that the offering of the 'poor widow' is the giving of 'all she had'. Jesus sees beyond the outward appearance and sees the depth of the widow's self-giving. (Mark 12: 41-44)

In the week past and in the week to come, we have an unprecedented opportunity to compare and contrast as the richest and the poorest nations gather together. The representatives of each nation bring to the table their respective contributions and, in due course, there will be much discussion on the achievements of the gathering. All that is discussed and agreed takes place in the presence of God. The One who sees beyond the outward appearance and looks on the heart is the One who knows the needs of all peoples and of all Creation. We turn to the One who gives life to all:

Lord our God,  
You are the One who looks on the heart  
And sees the hidden depths of each person:  
As we come into your presence,  
See our hearts and the depths of who we are  
And accept us as those who are made in your image.  
Lord, in your mercy  
Hear our prayer.

Lord our God,  
You are the One who looks on the heart  
And sees the hidden depths of each person:  
As we offer all that we are in your service,  
Sift our hearts that we might know you  
As we are known by you.

Lord, in your mercy  
Hear our prayer.

Lord our God,  
You are the One who looks on the heart  
And sees the hidden depths of each person:  
As we hear the cry of those who journey in our midst,  
Still our hearts that we might listen to their voice  
And understand their concerns.  
Lord, in your mercy  
Hear our prayer.

Lord our God,  
You are the One who looks on the heart  
And sees the hidden depths of each person:  
As we welcome the gifts that others offer,  
Speak to our hearts of the potential embodied in each person  
And of our shared desire to care for Creation.  
Lord, in your mercy  
Hear our prayer.

Lord our God,  
You are the One who looks on the heart  
And sees the hidden depths of each person:  
As we consider how majestic is your name in all the earth,  
Strengthen our hearts and deepen our resolve  
To address the challenges of our time and so bring glory to your name.  
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)