

## **Week twelve: Monday 20 November**

### **Prayers for those working in and with the financial and IT sectors**

#### **Synod of Wales**

*A week of prayers for the financial and IT sectors Each day contains an introduction, scripture Focus, a written prayer, and an activity to aid reflection and response.*

*Material prepared by Paul and Joanna Robinson.*

#### **Day 1: Monday 20 November**

##### **Introduction**

At the start of this week prayers focussing on the financial and IT sectors, we pray for those who work in the banking industry.

##### **Scripture Focus**

Romans 13:8

Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellow-man has fulfilled the law.

##### **Prayer**

Lord God,

At the start of this new week we praise you for your goodness, love and generosity. We thank you for the possessions, belongings and financial resources you have and are giving to us. We thank you for those who help us to take good care of what you have given us and, today, we pray for those working in the banking industry – we pray for those who work in our local banks – that they would have wisdom and compassion to help folk with their personal and business banking needs.

We pray for those who manage and develop banking systems, that they may have wisdom in balancing fair banking practice and economic growth.

We pray for those who manage investments and who trade in stocks and shares – we pray for the courage to act with integrity and truth.

We pray for Christian brothers and sisters who work for banks, that they may have strength and courage to serve you and your purpose in their work.

Pour out you Holy Spirit in this your land, Almighty God, and hear our prayers, in Jesus' name.

Amen.

**Activity**

Today it would be good to set aside a £5 note – this £5 note will stay with you for reflection throughout this week of prayers. If you can, why not go to your local bank and take out £5 from your bank account – perhaps as you meet those who work in your local bank you could let them know that you have prayed for them today.

**Day 2: Tuesday 21 November****Introduction**

Having prayed for those working the banking industry yesterday, today we pray for the economic landscape of today's world.

**Scripture Focus**

Exodus 22:25

If you lend money to one of my people among you who is needy, do not be like a money-lender; charge him no interest.

**Prayer**

Lord God,

Today we want to thank you for our society here in the UK and the economic resources we have available to us in both central UK government and in the dissolved parliament assemblies of Scotland and Wales. We thank you for the opportunities and possibilities that our economic wealth present to us. We also seek your forgiveness for the times in our history when our economic growth has been built through the exploitation of others around this your world.

We praise you that in the Lord Jesus we see one who is truly just and offers compassionate forgiveness. We thank you that your Word and Spirit continue to bring truth and light, and we ask and petition you to lead us forward.

May the economics of today's world reflect your will and purpose for all to benefit from the generosity of your provision.

We pray for those involved in managing our national economics, praying that they may hear wisdom from you and not forget the impact of decisions made for individuals in our society. We pray for regulators – the financial conduct authority and the prudential regulation authority – that they and the Bank of England together may work with integrity to see your Kingdom come.

We pray in the name of the King of that Kingdom, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

**Activity**

Take the £5 note you set aside yesterday – look at the text on the note – find the words that begin: ‘I promise to pay the bearer ...’. Remember the prayers you have just offered and reflect on this promise and those who work to ensure it is honoured.

**Day 3: Wednesday 22 November****Introduction**

Today we pray for those who help us, our churches and businesses to manage and present our own financial affairs.

**Scripture Focus**

Hebrews 13:5

Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have.

**Prayer**

Dear Lord,

We thank you for the studying and continuing development our accountants and financial professionals undertake to ensure their advice is correct and true according to our country’s laws.

We pray that they apply this knowledge for the benefit of their clients according to the duty of care owed. We pray for your sustenance and encouragements Lord as many firms approach year-end and accounts are prepared in anticipation of tax filing deadlines, both corporate and personal.

We pray for respectful and caring relationships within practices – that favour is not unfairly distributed and struggling colleagues are helped rather than left to fail.

As the Church is one body, may there be unity within accounting firms and may they selflessly and humbly support and serve this your society, world and Kingdom.

In Jesus’ name, we pray.

Amen.

**Activity**

Take your £5 note in your hand – as you hold it think of how this money came to be in your possession – whether through salary, benefit of gift – try to think back through the links of the chain of individuals, companies, government and banks that have had this £5 in their possession before you – reflect on each and add to the prayers already offered.

## **Day 4: Thursday 23 November**

### **Introduction**

Having prayed yesterday for individual accountants and firms, today we pray for wider accounting practice, and particularly the tax system.

### **Scripture Focus**

Proverbs 19:17

He who is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward him for what he has done.

### **Prayer**

Lord,

We pray today for the governmental departments responsible for receiving and distributing money on our behalf. We pray for Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, the Department for Work and Pensions, the National Insurance team and all other departments connected.

We pray for good training and a sense of value for the people who work for these bodies, praying especially for those on the 'front line', answering the telephone to the public. We pray for ourselves when we contact these bodies – remembering it is a human being we are talking too – not simply a faceless system.

We ask Lord for your love of justice and mercy to be prudent when cases and appeals are reviewed – that there would be an equal opportunity for all applications and that recipients act in good grace when decisions are made.

We pray too for the budgeting of our government and ask you would inspire the best use of the monies we have as good stewards of your provision. We pray for guidance in areas of particular need and that that may override any party-political agenda.

We ask this for the glory of your Kingdom and the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

### **Activity**

Take your £5 note. How much of this £5 note would you be content to give to the government for use within our society? How do you decide? What over-arching theological themes or teaching has influenced your answer?

## **Day 5: Friday 24 November**

### **Introduction**

Today we focus our prayers on the IT industry and technological advances.

### **Scripture Focus**

1 Peter 2:4-5

As you come to him, the living Stone – rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him – you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

### **Prayer**

Lord Jesus, the Living Stone, we rejoice that through the salvation you won for us on the cross we too are made like you – like living stones – with the gifts and power to honour and serve our heavenly Father and reflecting His character in our own. We praise Him for His creating work and rejoice that we can create, innovation and technological development.

Heavenly Father, we thank-you for the way in which technology can be used for your good purposes in the world – making systems that can cope with the growth of our society and the distribution of the resources you have given to all.

We pray for those who bring development and are at the face of technological advancement – as they discover innovation we rejoice with them in the possibilities of your creation that they are bringing to light.

In praise and wonder of your glorious creation we pray.

Amen.

### **Activity**

Take your £5 note, presumably a 'new-style' one. Consider all the technology held in your hands – the polymer material that is longer lasting and more environmentally friendly than the paper version previously; the see-through window displaying the Queen's face; the borders that change colour as the note is rotated; the foil Elizabeth Tower which is gold on one side and silver on the other; the five pound hologram; the 3-D crown; and (you can't see this under ordinary light) the UV number five.

## **Day 6: Saturday 25 November**

### **Introduction**

Today we focus our prayers on living within our technological world.

### **Scripture Focus**

Revelation 3:5

He who overcomes will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out his name from the book of life, but will acknowledge his name before my Father and his angels.

## **Prayer**

Dear Lord of all,

We want to praise you for the way in which we are made and how you created us as individuals – uniquely and wonderfully made.

We thank-you for the way databases and information about us can be stored and used to enhance life, bring services and support and can acknowledge our place and part within society and community.

We thank-you for the internet and the enhancement of communication across the world. We pray for the protection of information and data – we pray that the church locally, at synod level and assembly level would take good care of information and we pray for those who we know who have this responsibility.

We pray Lord that you would work against a fraudulent use of data in our world – protect our systems and services. We pray for those whose role it is to protect us from cyber attack, online criminal activity and the exploitation of people online.

Lord we pray that as a society we would recognise the value and worth of people as individuals rather than as data, statistics of disconnected online personas.

Lord God we praise you that everyone is fearfully and wonderfully made – your knowledge of us is beyond our understanding and that in your book of life our names are held securely and safely for all eternity through Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen.

## **Activity**

Hold the £5 in your hand. Who might have a record of you having this money? Pray for safe and responsible information storage.

## **Day 7: Sunday 27 November**

### **Introduction**

Today we reflect further that everything we have comes from God and the call He gives us to be good stewards of all that he has given.

### **Scripture Focus**

Matthew 6:24

No-one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

## **Prayer**

Lord God,

As we conclude this week of prayers, so we thank you for your gracious provision and your wonderful creation. You have given us so much and we rejoice in the blessings we know in our lives. We recognise that all we have has come from you – not just our own personal possessions and finance, but also our society and community, and the entirety of your creation.

Lord God move by your Holy Spirit that you would share with us the wisdom, guidance and courage to act as good stewards of what you have given to us, taking seriously the call to the tithe, to act with grace and generosity and to use all we have to worship and honour you.

Above all we thank-you for the gracious blessing of your Son Jesus Christ who won for us salvation upon the cross, who offers forgiveness for our sin and an invitation to live a renewed life as part of his wonderful Kingdom. Helps us, by your Spirit, to take our part in using what you have given us for the building of your Kingdom.

To God be the glory.

Amen.

## **Activity**

Take your £5 in your hands – give thanks to God for what he has given you. Ask the Holy Spirit for guidance in showing how this £5 note can now be used for the Kingdom's work – you may take it church with you today and offer it as part of or in addition to your weekly tithe – you might use it to support a charity who you believe is working to bring God's Kingdom – you might keep it on you and when you see someone in need use it to buy what may be needed (e.g. a coffee for someone who is homeless), you could leave it on display in your house to remind you of the themes in this week's prayers and to remind yourself that all you have is from God.

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