

Bearsden Baptist Church Garden Prayer walk

Right at the start, take time to be still, empty your mind of all busy thoughts, slow down and breathe slowly. Centre yourself on God.

Take time to notice the garden hear the birds, the wind in the trees and the beauty of the flowers and trees around you.

Ask Father God to give you a sense of his presence. Invite him to lead you and expect him to speak to you as you walk round.

You might want to say this prayer

Heavenly Father, as I enter your presence now, fill my heart and my imagination with your thoughts and desires. Lead me and speak to me, in Jesus' name, Amen.

There are Six "Stations" where you can pause and pray.

You can do them in any order, or if you prefer just sit still anywhere and pray. Don't be afraid of sitting in silence. Listening is an act of prayer too.

1. Roman Soldier

Look towards the carving of the Roman Soldier, or go and stand next to it. What's God saying to you?

Think about Ephesians 6 v10-18

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armour of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but

against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

Imagine you are putting on this armour. Feel free to act this out, or stand quietly and do it in your mind. Don't be frightened to speak out aloud if that helps you.

What's God saying to you? Are any pieces missing? Is God highlighting any areas of special importance? Take a moment to listen. What else might God be saying to you? Listen and respond to him.

2. Fire pit

Go back up to the fire pit. Take a moment to look at it and consider what God is saying to you here.

A fire brings **light**.

2 Cor 4: 6 says

For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ.

Matthew 5:14 says

You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.

Pray into these verses as God leads you, for yourself, for this church and for Christians across the world in this dark time.

Fire brings **heat** and **purity**

Malachi 3:2 says

But who will be able to endure it when he comes? Who will be able to stand and face him when he appears? For he will be like a blazing fire that refines metal, or like a strong soap that bleaches clothes.

Hebrews 12: 28 - 29 says

Since we are receiving a Kingdom that is unshakable, let us be thankful and please God by worshiping him with holy fear and awe. For our God is a devouring fire.

Fire brings **protection**

Psalms 18:2 says

The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my savior; my God is my rock, in whom I find protection. He is my shield, the power that saves me, and my place of safety.

What is God saying to you?

Some of these verses may speak to you more than others—just listen to God and be led by the Holy Spirit

3. Mosaic

Walk around the planter a few times and take the time to notice the different elements in the mosaic on all four walls. What is it made of? What images can you see?

God often uses the broken things in our life, the hard things, to make something beautiful, strong and lasting.

Often it's unexpected, but when we look back in our lives even at the times when we felt most challenged, we can see how God's hand has been at work.

Spend some time thanking God for these moments in your life and for the good things he has produced out of hardship.

2 Cor 4:7 says

But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.

Hear this important truth: you are a beautiful treasure. Let God speak to you about how much he loves you.

This might be a moment to invite God into your future, to trust Him that wherever he leads you that he will continue to create this masterpiece out of your life.

4. Tree

Choose a tree, any tree!

You might want to go and stand near it, or under the shelter of its branches. Again, centre your mind on God's presence and his word.

What is God saying to you? Perhaps he's drawing attention to how the tree shelters you? How deep its roots are? What kind of tree it is? What it looks like?

As you look at the tree, invite the Holy Spirit to speak to you, using what you notice or what else comes into your mind.

Expect God to prompt your imagination with a picture, or remind you of a scripture, or to make a word or phrase stand out in your mind.

Consider what he might be saying to you right now. If it helps, write it down.

Psalm 1: 1-3 says

Blessed is the one

**who does not walk in step with the wicked
or stand in the way that sinners take
or sit in the company of mockers,
but whose delight is in the law of the Lord,
and who meditates on his law day and night.**

**That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,
which yields its fruit in season
and whose leaf does not wither—
whatever they do prospers.**

Dwell on this promise for a moment. What would it feel like to be planted by streams of water, to never wither, to yield fruit in and out of season? Allow this to draw you deeper into God's word and His presence.

5. The Church building

Find a spot where you can see the church building.

Sense God's heart for His church and ask him what he might be putting on your heart for our Church and the wider Church in Glasgow, Scotland, the UK and worldwide.

Listen to what God is putting on your heart. Are there particular people in church who need lifting to God in prayer? Take this opportunity to do this.

Starting closer to home, pray for Bearsden and for Glasgow, perhaps borrowing from the Glasgow motto: **Lord let Glasgow flourish through the preaching of thy word and praising thy name.**

Let's join together and pray this over Glasgow!

Now take time to pray for the wider church throughout the world.

Consider the persecuted church: brothers and sisters just like us who may be suffering hardship, discrimination and violence.

Some of you may have particular places that God puts on your heart.

Our prayers and thoughts are lifted to Cape Town as we think of Cate and Nick and Don and Lorna.

6. **Gazebo—our Tent of prayer**

You may already be sheltering here if it's raining! Either way, spend time under the gazebo—sit or stand. Be in God's presence and allow this outrageous thought to pierce your heart

The Lord would speak to Moses as one speaks to a friend.

Exodus 33:7-11

Now Moses used to take a tent and pitch it outside the camp some distance away, calling it the "tent of meeting." Anyone inquiring of the Lord would go to the tent of meeting outside the camp. And whenever Moses went out to the tent, all the people rose and stood at the entrances to their tents, watching Moses until he entered the tent. As Moses went into the tent, the pillar of cloud would come down and stay at the entrance, while the Lord spoke with Moses. Whenever the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the entrance to the tent, they all stood and worshiped, each at the entrance to their tent. The Lord would speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend.

Believe that you can speak to God as a friend. Take this bold step now.

Spend time speaking to God, pour out what's on your heart, all your frustrations, as well as all the things you are thankful for.

Listen to what he's says to you—perhaps write this down, draw a picture to remind yourself?

Take time to worship God in this place.

Before you leave, ask yourself are there burdens in your life that you would like to leave with God?

Let God have these, imagine laying them down in the tent and leaving them behind.

In place of these burdens, what is God wanting to give you instead? Ask him, expecting him to tell you.

As you leave the prayer tent, leave your burdens behind and take with you this new promise of what God has given you in their place.

Thank you!

There are lots of other lovely parts to the garden so please feel free to spend time just sitting and enjoying this special place.

You might bring a flask of tea/coffee and a warm coat!

Please remember to respect social distancing in the garden!

Bring a notebook/pen if you need to write something down. Perhaps you will want to draw/paint a picture?

If you need a chair for the Gazebo please let the church know when you would like this put out for you.

Lastly if you have a verse, a word or picture to share please just email the office or write a note in the space below and pop it through the letterbox at the front door of the church - we would love to put these together anonymously into a format we can all share to encourage the wider church.

With love and blessings, Bearsden Baptist Church Prayer Team
September 2020

Please share a word, a scripture or an encouragement here.