

Welcome to Stonehaven Fetteresso



Prayer focus for Summer 2025

Summer Prayer Focus - Rest, Renewal, Restoration.

Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.

Mark 6:31

As we enter the summer holiday period after what may have seemed like a long, and at times, arduous journey; we give thanks that we now have the prospect of our new minister, the Rev George Sneddon coming to lead us after the summer.

Throughout this journey we have witnessed God's faithful provision and sustaining strength.

God has blessed us in so many ways, and we give him thanks for all who have faithfully worked to keep things going.

We give thanks too for all who will give up their time to run our children's holiday club in August and pray it will be a great success.

The story of Elijah the prophet is told in the book of 1 Kings. In chapters 17-19 we read that three times God made provision for Elijah to rest and be fed.

Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah: "Leave here, turn eastward and hide in the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan. You will drink from the brook, and I have directed the ravens to supply you with food there."

1 Kings 17v2-4.

Further on we read:

Then the word of the Lord came to him: “Go at once to Zarephath in the region of Sidon and stay there. I have directed a widow there to supply you with food.” So he went to Zarephath.
1 Kings 17v 8-10

Sometime later in chapter 19 after serving God faithfully and witnessing God’s great power we discover a fearful, exhausted, and depleted Elijah. His cry and complaint is open and honest before God. Yet God has made preparation for Elijah to rest, be renewed and restored.

All at once an angel touched him and said, “Get up and eat.” He looked around, and there by his head was some bread baked over hot coals, and a jar of water. He ate and drank and then lay down again.

The angel of the Lord came back a second time and touched him and said, “Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you.” So he got up and ate and drank. Strengthened by that food, he travelled forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God. There he went into a cave and spent the night.
1 Kings 19v 6-9.

Finally, it is in the quiet on the mountain that Elijah experiences God’s presence and hears him in the still small voice.

For some of us, the summer period provides a welcome opportunity to take a break and find rest from the usual tasks of daily life in a vacation away from home. Some of us may manage a break at home, or as they are now known, a “staycation”. And for some, there may be no opportunity to have a break or holiday at this time.

But just like Elijah, we discover that after extreme busyness, our spirits rebel and the soul longs for rest.

How good to discover that God cares that we find opportunities for rest, and that he makes provision for us. Be that on a Sunday or another day, or simply in some quiet moments with him. God loves to welcome us into his presence and know his rest.

Jesus himself knew the importance of spending time alone with God and away from others. He would rise early in the mornings to spend time with his Father in prayer, in order to be able to undertake all that he had to do.

After ministering to the needs of many he also instructed his disciples to come with him by themselves to get some rest. During this summer period we pray you too may know God's provision and care.

That whatever your circumstances, you may find moments and times for rest, renewal, and restoration.....and in the quiet, hear His still small voice.

Father God, thank you that you designed us to require rest,
Draw us with your love ever closer into your presence,
for our souls are restless until they find their rest in you.

When we are world weary, when faith fades
and it's difficult to hear your voice amidst the clamour of the
many voices,
draw us back to your side, quiet us with your love
and renew a right spirit within us.

When we have become caught up in the busyness
and the business of life losing sight of you,
call us to the still quiet place,
that we may be fed by you and restored

Thank you for your provision and care.
Help us rest, be renewed, restored
that we may hear your still small voice
Saying this is the way walk in it.

Thank you that you never leave us nor forsake us
And even though at times we cannot find you or feel you near,
your word assures us that we need not fear and that you walk
with us all our earthly days.

Amen.

***The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.
He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul.
He guides me along the right paths
for his name's sake.
Psalm 23:1-2***

