



Prayer Booklet

**Coronavirus (Covid-19) booklet for those self isolating
Personal Copy - Please do not pass these around**

Useful information

Contact information

Church of England website

Coronavirus updates:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches>

This website has up-to-date information and live streaming links to services and prayers

Prayer for the day:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-daily-prayer/todays-prayer>

Worcester Diocese Website

Podcast of Sermon for Sunday

<https://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/news/category/sermon-podcasts/>

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Morning Prayer

Preparation

O Lord, open our lips

and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

The Benedicite – a Song of Creation (shorter version)

1 Bless the Lord all you works of the Lord:
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

2 Bless the Lord you heavens:
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

3 Bless the Lord you angels of the Lord:
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

4 Bless the Lord all people on earth:
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

5 O people of God bless the Lord:
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

6 Bless the Lord you priests of the Lord:
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

7 Bless the Lord you servants of the Lord:
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

8 Bless the Lord all you of upright spirit:
bless the Lord you that are holy and humble in heart.

The Song of the Three 35-37, 60-65

**Bless the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit:
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.**

Opening prayer

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us;
let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept.

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,
so may the light of your presence, O God,
set our hearts on fire with love for you;
now and for ever.

Amen.

Psalm

*The appointed psalmody is said.
Each psalm or group of psalms may end with*

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Canticle—The Venite—A song of Triumph

- 1 O come, let us sing to the Lord; ♦
let us heartily rejoice in the rock of our salvation.
- 2 Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving ♦
and be glad in him with psalms.
- 3 For the Lord is a great God ♦
and a great king above all gods.
- 4 In his hand are the depths of the earth ♦
and the heights of the mountains are his also.
- 5 The sea is his, for he made it, ♦
and his hands have moulded the dry land.
- 6 Come, let us worship and bow down ♦
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
- 7 For he is our God; ♦
we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.
- 8 O that today you would listen to his voice: ♦
‘Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
on that day at Massah in the wilderness,
- 9 ‘When your forebears tested me, and put me to the proof, ♦
though they had seen my works.
- 10 ‘Forty years long I detested that generation and said, ♦
“This people are wayward in their hearts;
they do not know my ways.”
- 11 ‘So I swore in my wrath, ♦
“They shall not enter into my rest.”

Psalm 95

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Scripture Reading

One or more readings appointed for the day are read.

The reading(s) may be followed by a time of silence.

Responsory

Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead.

And Christ shall give you light.

You have died and your life is hid with Christ in God.

Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead.

Set your minds on things that are above,
not on things that are on the earth.

And Christ shall give you light.

When Christ our life appears
you will appear with him in glory.

**Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead,
and Christ shall give you light**

from Colossians 3

Gospel Cantic

The Benedictus (The Song of Zechariah)

**You have raised up for us a mighty Saviour,
born of the house of your servant David.**

1 Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel,
who has come to his people and set them free.

2 He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour,
born of the house of his servant David.

3 Through his holy prophets God promised of old
to save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all that hate us,

4 To show mercy to our ancestors,
and to remember his holy covenant.

5 This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

6 Free to worship him without fear,
holy and righteous in his sight
all the days of our life.

7 And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

8 To give his people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of all their sins.

9 In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

10 To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of
death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Luke 1.68-79

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**You have raised up for us a mighty Saviour,
born of the house of your servant David.**

Prayers

Intercessions are offered
- for the day and its tasks
- for the world and its needs
- for the Church and her life

These responses may be used

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

(or)

Lord, hear us.
Lord, graciously hear us.

Silence may be kept.



The Collect of the day or the following is said

God of glory,
by the raising of your Son
you have broken the chains of death and hell:
fill your Church with faith and hope;
for a new day has dawned
and the way to life stands open
in our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

The Conclusion

The Lord bless us, and preserve us from all evil,
and keep us in eternal life.
Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.



Evening Prayer

Preparation

O God, make speed to save us.
O Lord, make haste to help us.

A Song of Worship

- 1 Come, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord,
you that by night stand in the house of the Lord.
- 2 Lift up your hands towards the sanctuary
and bless the Lord.
- 3 The Lord who made heaven and earth
give you blessing out of Zion.

Psalm 134

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

This opening prayer may be said

That this evening may be holy, good and peaceful,
let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept.

As our evening prayer rises before you, O God,
so may your mercy come down upon us
to cleanse our hearts
and set us free to sing your praise
now and for ever.
Amen.

Psalm

*The appointed psalmody is said.
Each psalm or group of psalms may end with*

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Canticle—A Song of Gods Grace

**The glorious grace of God
is freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.**

- 1 Blessed are you,
the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
for you have blest us in Christ Jesus
with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.
- 2 You chose us to be yours in Christ
before the foundation of the world,
that we should be holy and blameless before you.
- 3 In love you destined us for adoption as your children,
through Jesus Christ,
according to the purpose of your will,
- 4 To the praise of your glorious grace,
which you freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.
- 5 In you, we have redemption
through the blood of Christ,
the forgiveness of our sins,
- 6 According to the riches of your grace,
which you have lavished upon us.
- 7 You have made known to us, in all wisdom and insight,
the mystery of your will,
- 8 According to your purpose
which you set forth in Christ,
as a plan for the fullness of time,
- 9 To unite all things in Christ,
things in heaven and things on earth.

Ephesians 1.3-10

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**The glorious grace of God
is freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.**

Scripture Reading

*One or more readings appointed for the day are read.
The reading(s) may be followed by a time of silence.*

Responsory

The Lord is my light and my salvation;
the Lord is the strength of my life.

**The Lord is my light and my salvation;
the Lord is the strength of my life.**

The light shines in the darkness
and the darkness has not overcome it.

The Lord is the strength of my life.

Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit.

**The Lord is my light and my salvation;
the Lord is the strength of my life.**

from Psalm 27 and John 1

Gospel Cantic

The Magnificat (The Song of Mary)

**You have done great things, O God,
and holy is your name.**

- 1 My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour;
he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.
- 2 From this day all generations will call me blessed;
the Almighty has done great things for me
and holy is his name.
- 3 He has mercy on those who fear him,
from generation to generation.
- 4 He has shown strength with his arm
and has scattered the proud in their conceit,
- 5 Casting down the mighty from their thrones
and lifting up the lowly.

- 6 He has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.
- 7 He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, to remember his promise of mercy,
- 8 The promise made to our ancestors, to Abraham and his children for ever.

Luke 1.46-55

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**You have done great things, O God,
and holy is your name.**

Prayers

Thanksgiving may be made for the day.

Intercessions are offered

- for peace

- for individuals and their needs

These responses may be used

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

(or)

Lord, hear us.
Lord, graciously hear us.

Silence may be kept.

The Collect of the day or the following is said

Lighten our darkness,
Lord, we pray,
and in your great mercy
defend us from all perils and dangers of this night,
for the love of your only Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.



The Lord's Prayer is said

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

The Conclusion

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all evermore.
Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.



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Lectionary

Week beginning Sunday 3rd May—Easter 3

Sunday	MP	Ps 106: 6-24	Neh. 9: 6-15	1 Cor. 10: 1-13
	EP	Ps 29: 1-10	Ezra 3: 1-13	Eph. 2: 11-end
Monday	MP	Ps 103	Exod. 32: 1-14	Luke 2. 41-end
	EP	Ps 112	Deut. 9: 1-21	Eph. 4: 1-16
Tuesday	MP	Ps 139	Exod. 32: 15-34	Luke 3: 1-14
	EP	Ps 115	Deut. 9: 23-10:5	Eph. 4: 17-end
Wednesday	MP	Ps 135	Exod. 33	Luke 3: 15-22
	EP	Ps 47	Deut. 10: 12-end	Eph. 5: 1-14
Thursday	MP	Ps 118	Exod. 34: 1-10. 27-end	Luke 4: 1-13
	EP	Ps 81	Deut. 11: 8-end	Eph. 5: 15-end
Friday	MP	Ps 33	Exod. 35: 20—36:7	Luke 4: 14-30
	EP	Ps 36	Deut. 12: 1-14	Eph. 6: 1-9
Saturday	MP	Ps 34	Exod. 40: 17-end	Luke 4: 31-37
	EP	Ps 84	Deut. 15: 1-18	Eph. 6: 10– end

Week beginning Sunday 10th May—Easter 4

Sunday	MP	Ps 30	Ezek. 37: 1-12	John 5: 19-29
	EP	Ps 147: 1-12	Zech. 4: 1-10	Rev. 21: 1-14
Monday	MP	Ps 145	Num. 9: 15-end; 10: 33-end	Luke 4: 38-end
	EP	Ps 105	Deut. 16: 1-20	1 Pet. 1: 1-12
Tuesday	MP	Ps 19	Num. 11: 1-33	Luke 5: 1-11
	EP	Ps 96	Deut. 17: 8-end	1 Pet. 1: 13-end
Wednesday	MP	Ps 147: 13-end	Num. 12	Luke 5: 12-26
	EP	Ps 99	Deut. 18: 9-end	1 Pet. 2: 1-10
Thursday	MP	Ps 15	Num. 13; 1-3, 17-end	Luke 5: 27-end
	EP	Ps 80	Deut. 19	1 Pet. 2: 11-end
Friday	MP	Ps 138	Num. 14: 1-25	Luke 6: 1-11
	EP	Ps 66	Deut. 21: 22-22: 8	1 Pet. 3: 1-12
Saturday	MP	Ps 150	Num. 14: 26-end	Luke 6: 12-26
	EP	Ps 118	Deut. 24: 5-end	1 Pet. 3: 13-end

Week beginning Sunday 17th May—Easter 5 / Rogation Sunday

Sunday	MP EP	Ps 73: 21-28 Ps 87	Job 14:1-2, 7-15,19: 23-27a Zech 8: 1-13	1 Thess. 4: 13-18 Rev 21: 22-22:5
Monday	MP EP	Ps 65 Ps 121	Num. 16: 1-35 Deut. 26	Luke 6: 27-38 1 Pet. 4: 1-11
Tuesday	MP EP	Ps 124 Ps 128	Num. 16: 36-end Deut. 28: 1-14	Luke 6: 39-end 1 Pet. 4: 12-end
Wednesday	MP EP	Ps 132 Ps 15	Num. 17: 1-11 2 Sam 23: 1-5	Luke 7: 1-10 Col. 2: 20-3.4
Thursday—Ascension Day				
	MP EP	Ps 47 Ps 93	Acts 1: 1-11 Dan 7: 9-14	Luke 24: 44-end Eph. 1: 15-end
Friday	MP EP	Ps 20 Ps 145	Num. 20: 1-13 Deut. 29: 2-15	Luke 7: 11-17 1 John 1: -2:6
Saturday	MP EP	Ps 21 Ps 84	Num. 21: 4-9 Deut. 30	Luke 7: 18-35 1 John 2: 7-17

Week beginning Sunday 24th May—Sunday after Ascension Day

Sunday	MP EP	Ps 104: 26-35 Ps 47	Isa. 65: 17-25 2 Sam 23: 1-5	Rev 21: 1-8 Eph 1: 15-23
Monday	MP EP	Ps 93 Ps 18	Num. 22: 1-35 Deut. 31: 1-13	Luke 7: 36-end 1 John 2: 18-end
Tuesday	MP EP	Ps 100 Ps 68	Num. 22: 36– 23: 12 Deut. 31: 14-29	Luke 8: 1-15 1 John 3: 1-10
Wednesday	MP EP	Ps 29 Ps 46	Num. 23: 13-end Deut. 31: 30-32: 14	Luke 8: 16-25 1 John 3: 11-end
Thursday	MP EP	Ps 24 Ps 139	Num. 24 Deut. 32: 15-47	Luke 8: 26-39 1 John 4: 1-6
Friday	MP EP	Ps 28 Ps 147	Num. 27: 12– end Deut. 33	Luke 8: 40-end 1 John 4: 7-end
Saturday	MP EP	Ps 43 Ps 48	Num. 32: 1-27 Deut. 16: 9-15	Luke 9: 1-7 John 15: 26-16:15

A Thanksgiving to mark the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day 8th May 2020

Introduction:

On this day, at this hour,
we commemorate the
75th anniversary of VE Day.

We give thanks for all who played their
part in achieving victory in the Second
World War.



We remember with sorrow all those who were killed and whose lives
were changed forever.

Historic Reading

Extracts from Winston Churchill's speech of 8 May 1945

Yesterday morning at 2:41 a.m. at Headquarters, General Jodl, the
representative of the German High Command, and Grand Admiral
Doenitz, the designated head of the German State, signed the act of
unconditional surrender of all German Land, Sea, and Air Forces in
Europe to the Allied Expeditionary Force, and simultaneously to the
Soviet High Command.

Hostilities will end officially at one minute after midnight to-night
(Tuesday, May 8), but in the interests of saving lives the "Cease fire"
began yesterday to be sounded all along the front, and our dear
Channel Islands are also to be freed to-day.

The German war is therefore at an end. After years of intense
preparation, Germany hurled herself on Poland at the beginning of
September, 1939; and, in pursuance of our guarantee to Poland and
in agreement with the French Republic, Great Britain, the British
Empire and Commonwealth of Nations, declared war upon this foul
aggression. After gallant France had been struck down we, from this
Island and from our united Empire, maintained the struggle single-
handed for a whole year until we were joined by the military might of
Soviet Russia, and later by the overwhelming power and resources of

the United States of America.

We may allow ourselves a brief period of rejoicing; but let us not forget for a moment the toil and efforts that lie ahead. We must now devote all our strength and resources to the completion of our task, both at home and abroad.

Advance, Britannia!

Long live the cause of freedom!

God save The King!



Prayer:

O Almighty God,
grant, we beseech thee,
that we who here do honour
to the memory of those who have died
in the service of their country and of the Crown,
may be so inspired by the spirit of their love and fortitude that,
forgetting all selfish and unworthy motives,
we may live only to thy glory
and to the service of mankind
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Isaiah 58: 6–9a, 11–12

'Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen:
to loose the chains of injustice
and untie the cords of the yoke,
to set the oppressed free
and break every yoke?

Is it not to share your food with the hungry
and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter –
when you see the naked, to clothe them,
and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?

Then your light will break forth like the dawn,
and your healing will quickly appear;
then your righteousness^[a] will go before you,
and the glory of the LORD will be your rear guard.

Then you will call, and the LORD will answer;
you will cry for help, and he will say: here am I.

The LORD will guide you always;
he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land
and will strengthen your frame.

You will be like a well-watered garden,
like a spring whose waters never fail.

Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins
and will raise up the age-old foundations;
you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls,
Restorer of Streets with Dwellings.

Romans 8: 31–39

What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all – how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died – more than that, who was raised to life – is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written:

‘For your sake we face death all day long;
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.’

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

VE Day—8th May

On the 8 May 1945 the Allied Powers formally accepted the unconditional surrender of the Armed Forces of Nazi Germany and the end of the Third Reich. Adolf Hitler had committed suicide on 30 April during the Battle of Berlin. The surrender of Germany was therefore authorised by his

successor, Grand Admiral Doenitz, and the Instrument of Surrender was signed at Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force at Reims on 7 May. This surrender was formally ratified the next day.



More than one million people converged on the streets of the United Kingdom. In London, people thronged the city's streets and monuments. Winston Churchill made a radio broadcast at 3pm announcing that war in Europe was finally at an end.

In the suburbs, parties were thrown, with furniture and tables brought into the street. Fancy dress parades were held for children, and many people went to church to give thanks to God for victory.

Huge crowds, many dressed in red, white and blue, gathered outside Buckingham Palace in London and cheered as The King, The Queen and the Princesses appeared a total of eight times on the balcony over the day and into the evening, at one point joined by Winston Churchill.

In the evening London landmarks, such as the Houses of Parliament, St. Paul's Cathedral and Nelson's Column, were floodlit specially for the occasion. There were fireworks and effigies of Hitler burned on bonfires around the capital. On the day crowds sang a popular song which expressed this joyous return to light: "I'm Going to Get Lit Up When The Lights Go Up In London". Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret - escorted by Guards Officers - left the palace and mingled anonymously with the great crowds outside, joining in the celebrations. During the course of the day, Churchill delivered two short speeches from the balcony of the Ministry of Health building to the crowds in Whitehall. In the first he told them: "This is your victory!" To which they roared back: "No! It's yours!". And during his second appearance at 10.30pm, he conducted the crowds in the singing of "Land of Hope and Glory".

The exuberance of the day was tempered by the fact that, for many, this

would be a time of sadness and reflection, and that because of the ongoing war in Japan, many other parts of the world would not be able join in the celebrations. It would not be until the Japanese surrendered to the Allies on 15 August, now known as Victory over Japan Day, that World War II would finally come to an end.

Today, on the 75th Anniversary of Victory in Europe, we look back with pride and respect at the remarkable generation of men and women who helped secure peace and freedom.

Prayers

Trusting the promises of God,
and with faith in his mercy,
let us pray to the Lord.

Let us give thanks for the selfless and
courageous service and sacrifice of
those who brought peace to Europe,
and for the good example they have
given us;

let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

We pray for nations still devastated by war,
for their people and their leaders,
and for those who suffer the effects or memories of past wars;
for veterans, for those who mourn, and for all innocent victims
whose lives have been shattered by the cruelty of others;

Lord, hear us.
Lord, graciously hear us.

Let us give thanks for those who work for peace and liberty throughout the
world,
for the Armed Forces of the Crown,
and for all who strive to bring an end to injustice and oppression;

let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

We pray for those in our own day who have grown weary or lost hope
as a result of violence or terror;
for all refugees and displaced people, and for those who seek to address
the causes of discord and distrust;

Lord, hear us.
Lord, graciously hear us.



Let us give thanks for the reconciliation of former enemies,
for the flourishing of goodwill between them,
and for the many blessings we enjoy
as a result of the sacrifices which have made for peace;

let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

We pray for the young people of our own day
and for all who will shape the future of this nation,
that they may be inspired by those who have gone before them
to serve as they have been served;

Lord, hear us.
Lord, graciously hear us.

For the reconciliation of former enemies
and for the flourishing of goodwill between them,
and for the many freedoms and benefits we enjoy
as a result of the sacrifices which have made for peace;

let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Act of Rededication

We fought for peace, that the world might never again know such violence
and destruction.

Will you work for peace and reconciliation in your homes and communities,
and promote peace throughout the world?
With the help of God, we will.

We fought for justice, that the scourge of prejudice and oppression might
never again take root in our societies.

Will you work for a world in which hatred and injustice never have the final
word, and where all people can flourish with dignity and hope?
With the help of God, we will.

We struggled so that the whole human family might know good will, security,
and freedom.
Will you always acknowledge how precious are the gifts which God has
entrusted to us, and exercise the freedoms and responsibilities you have with
gratitude and humility?
With the help of God, we will.

May almighty God,
who has given us the will to undertake these things,
bless us with the strength to perform them. Amen.

Prayer of St. Ignatius

Teach us, good Lord,
to serve thee as thou deservest;
to give and not to count the cost;
to fight and not to heed the wounds;
to toil and not to seek for rest;
to labour and not to ask for any reward,
save that of knowing that we do thy will;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The Blessing:

Unto God's gracious mercy and protection we commit you
The Lord bless you and keep you
The Lord make his face to shine upon you
And be gracious unto you
The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you
And give you his peace this day and always. Amen

The National Anthem

God Save our Gracious Queen!
Long live our noble Queen.
God save the Queen
Send her victorious
Happy and glorious
Long to reign over us:
God save the Queen.

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https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/426299/FINAL_VE_Day_Order_of_Service_booklet_1_copy_2.pdf

https://cofeworcester.contentfiles.net/media/documents/document/2015/04/VE_Day_2015_-_Resources.pdf

Join The British Legion at 9pm on Friday 8 May for a UK-wide rendition of Dame Vera Lynn's 'We'll Meet Again' to mark the 75th anniversary of VE Day.

As we face some of the most challenging times since the end of the Second World War, now more than ever it is important to come together and unite.

We need you and as many people as possible to take part in this national moment of thanksgiving and celebration, in honour of our Second World War generation.

You can watch and join in on BBC One who will be featuring the singalong as part of their VE Day broadcast.

Join us by singing:

We'll meet again
Don't know where
Don't know when
But I know we'll meet again
Some sunny day

Keep smiling through
Just like you always do
'Till the blue skies chase
Those dark clouds far away

And I will just say hello
To the folks that you know
Tell them you won't be long
They'll be happy to know
That, as I saw you go
You were singing this song

We'll meet again
Don't know where
Don't know when

But I know we'll meet again
Some sunny day

And I will just say hello
To the folks that you know
Tell them you won't be long
They'll be happy to know
That, as I saw you go
You were singing this song

We'll meet again
Don't know where
Don't know when
But I know we'll meet again
Some sunny day

Order of Service: Christian Aid Week

This Order of Service is written in the light of the coronavirus pandemic, to use for a virtual service during Christian Aid Week (10-16 May).

Preparation

- Read our guidance on how to run a virtual Christian Aid Week service at caweek.org/virtualresources
- Email your congregation the link to the Order of Service (available at caweek.org/virtualresources) so it can be printed or downloaded ahead of the service.
- Do see this as a flexible Order of Service. Pick and mix what will work best for your community. The songs are suggestions only.
- The service has been shaped around three of the lectionary readings for Sunday 10 May, the Fifth Sunday of Easter: Psalm 31, 1 Peter 2:2-10 and John 14:1-14.

Introduction

Welcome to our worship.

Today is the beginning of Christian Aid Week. Like many church activities at the moment, Christian Aid Week is being done differently and digitally this year. During this time together we'll have space to read and listen, sing and pray, and remember and acknowledge that we are part of a global community. We are neighbours near and far who are going through this coronavirus pandemic together. May our shared experience unite us in praise and prayer as one human family, separate but together in the home that is God's world.

(Say the words in bold together.)

Gathering prayer

**God of all the Earth,
be present with us now,
in each of our homes,
as we connect together.
Build us into a spiritual house,
a holy priesthood,
offering spiritual sacrifices
acceptable to you
through Jesus Christ,
our risen redeemer and healer.
Amen.**

Opening song

Let us build a house where all can dwell

Introduction to the song

It may seem strange to sing the lyric: 'All are welcome in this place' at a time when no one is welcome into our homes (except those who live there) or to collective worship in our church building. However, at this time more than ever, we are learning that the church is not the building but it is us, the people. Peter calls us living stones in his epistle. Though separate, we can build up together into a spiritual house where love can dwell, and be lived out in our everyday actions.

Prayer of confession and absolution

Introduction: How many times have you washed your hands today? (Answers could be shared in comments/chat/discussion.) We approach our prayer of confession and absolution, mindful of the ritual significance of hand washing in the Bible.

Hand washing in Scripture is closely associated with innocence and cleansing from sin. (See Exodus 30:17-21, Psalm 26:6, Job 9:30, Matthew 27:24, James 4:8 to mention a few.)



A community learns about hand washing in Sierra Leone.

You may wish to take your device to your sink as we pray this together, or bring a bowl of water, some soap and a towel to a safe distance before your computer. Or simply join in this prayer as you watch the ritual of hand washing. (You can say it in 20 seconds but it may take 30.)

**As we turn on the tap
we turn our hearts
towards you, O God.**

**As we wet our hands
renew our thoughts,
so we might be transformed.**

**As we lather soap
between fingers
and over all our hands,**

**purge from us
all that brings us harm
and might harm others.**

**Remove the invisible
guilt and shame
that so often keeps us from you.**

**As we rinse our hands,
we trust in your
overflowing grace,
making all things new.**

Amen.

Introduction to the reading Psalm 31.

The Revised Common Lectionary for today selects seven verses from this psalm, but since the words of the psalmist express many of the emotions that we might be experiencing during this difficult time, we will take the time to read and listen to all 24 verses. (Depending on what platform is being used, nine different voices could read a stanza each, ie, verses 1-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-10, 11-13, 14-18, 19-20, 21- 22, 23-24.)

Pause to reflect and pray (optional)

Were there any verses or phrases that jumped out from the passage? Any phrases that you find helpful in these difficult days? (You could add these words or phrases to the comments or chat on the online platform you are using or discuss if using Zoom/ Skype/WhatsApp or a similar online space. End the reflection with an extemporary prayer, weaving together the themes mentioned in the comments/ discussion.)

Gospel reading John 14:1-14

Introduction to the reading:

This is an extract from the long farewell that Jesus gave over the last supper, shortly after he washed the feet of the disciples with his own hands. Even though we are now in the Fifth Sunday of Easter, these words have a poignancy and power for us to absorb and process this Christian Aid Week Sunday. Listen now to the Word of God.

(Have someone read John 14:1-14 aloud)

Song

Be still for the presence of the Lord

(Silence)

Sermon

(Preparation tip - pointers for sermons on both of the readings are provided at caweek.org/virtualresources)

Response

Look at your hands. Have a good look.

However your hands look to you, they are most certainly clean in these days of regular hand washing to prevent spreading the coronavirus.

Our hands really are the most remarkable and useful tools, involved in so much of what we do and how we do things, even in these days of social distancing.

The psalmist writes of committing his spirit into God's hands, and at times of being in God's hands. He also describes his desire to be delivered from the hands of his oppressors and from a hidden invisible net that threatens to entangle him.

Our hands have become even more significant in these days of physical distance. We might long to hold the hand of a person we can no longer touch. We pray for the hands of medics to bring healing and comfort. We are grateful for hands stacking shelves and delivering groceries and post. And we are extra wary of everything our hands touch that comes from outside our own home.

This Christian Aid Week we also think of how our hands can be far from idle. Though not handing out envelopes or hosting Big Brekkies or the many things we usually busy ourselves with this week, our hands can still reach out virtually to our neighbours around the world. Neighbours in refugee camps

and cramped living conditions, neighbours without adequate hand-washing facilities, neighbours who face the devastating impact of coronavirus with even less of the medical resources we have struggled to access here.

We reach out by clasping our hands together in prayer for our neighbours, and holding our hands open before God as we declare our needs and concerns for their wellbeing and our own.

We also reach out by participating in this digital Christian Aid Week, through making our online donations and sharing the stories from Christian Aid partners, working on the ground to be the hands and feet of love in action. If you wish, you can make a donation online to help vulnerable communities at caweek.org/payin

Let us pray together using our open hands.

Prayer of lament and intercession

God our refuge,
we come to you with open hands,
some of us with hearts full of questions,
some of us bruised by bereavement,
some of us fearful of what the future holds,
all of us stunned by the events of this year.
Draw close to us now in each of our homes
as we place our honest questions and hopes
into your open, resurrected, yet scarred hands.
God in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

With the honesty of the psalmist,
the wrestling questions of Job,
and the lament of the prophets,
we bring to you our questions or our silence.

(Hold your index finger and, in silence, ask the question that most burdens your heart or simply sit in silence before God. Hold the silence together.)

God in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Hear the cry of our hearts, Lord,
silent and aloud,
for bereaved neighbours, near and far.
Comfort those pained by being absent,

and hold close those who are hurting alone.
(Hold your ring finger and pray for comfort for those you know who are bereaved or simply sit in silence before God. Hold the silence together.)

God in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In this season of Easter,
renew us with resurrection hope
that while weeping lingers in this night,
joy will come with the morning.

(Hold your middle finger and in the silence tell God what you are most looking forward to in the future or simply sit in silence before God. Hold the silence together.)

God in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

On this Christian Aid Week Sunday,
we pray for and with communities
across the world who are
most vulnerable to coronavirus.

We pray for people living in refugee camps
and city slums,
with limited sanitation facilities,
who are unable to wash their hands regularly,
and have little opportunity to isolate from others.

We pray for Christian Aid partners
working to provide soap and buckets,
communicating clear, accurate information,
raising the voices of the most vulnerable
and ensuring they are kept as safe as possible.

(Hold your thumb as you pray for the most vulnerable, those closest to God's heart, or simply sit in silence before God. Hold the silence together.)



Children gather in a crowded refugee camp in Bangladesh.

God in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For those of us who are self-isolating,
which can sometimes feel like we aren't doing
anything,
remind us that we are all doing our part,
and saving lives by staying at home.

*(Hold your little finger and ask God for what you need,
or simply sit in silence before God. Hold the silence
together.)*

God in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for much wisdom and resources
for those in local and national authority
for all frontline and key workers
here in Britain, Ireland and across the world.

*(Put your hands together and pray for the many
frontline workers and volunteers and for Christian
Aid partners working to help others across the world,
or simply sit in silence before God. Hold the silence
together.)*

God in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

As we have clapped to honour them,
we clap our hands now in praise
of your glorious creation,
and with the hope that the first shoots
of another possible world are coming into view.

*(Clap your hands in praise of God's glorious creation
and with the hope of new possibilities for the world.)*

God in your mercy,
hear all our prayers.
Amen.

Song

My times are in your hands or Be thou my vision

The Lord's Prayer

(in your preferred form)

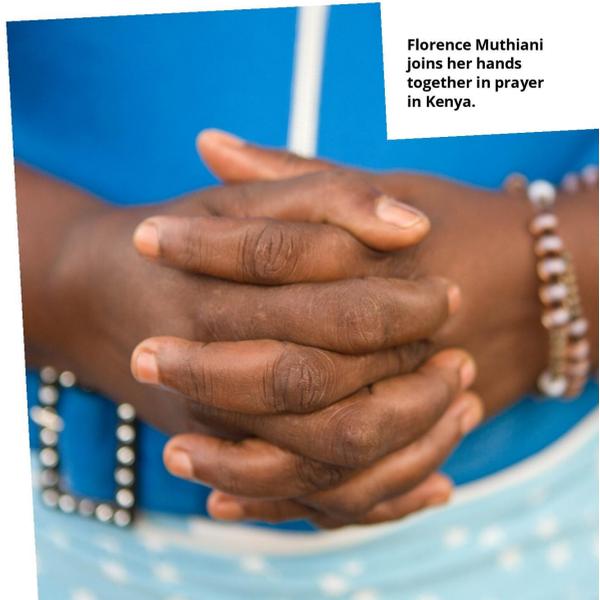
Closing blessing

As we go offline and wash our hands again, we say
our blessing together:

**May the presence of the Creator refresh you,
may the comfort of the Son renew you,
may the inspiration of the Spirit restore you
to be love in action, even from a distance,
in our neighbourhoods, near and far,
this day and for evermore.**
Amen.

Closing offering

If you wish to make a donation to Christian
Aid, you can do so online at caweek.org/payin



**Florence Muthiani
joins her hands
together in prayer
in Kenya.**

**christian
aid**

Christian Aid Week

sermon notes

Sunday 10 May, 2020

These sermon notes are written in the light of the coronavirus pandemic. You may like to use these notes as part of a virtual service during Christian Aid Week, or for personal devotion. You can find more resources at [caweek.org/virtualresources](https://www.caweek.org/virtualresources)

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

- The psalms have taken on even greater meaning in these exceptional days of the coronavirus global pandemic. The Revised Common Lectionary selects seven verses from Psalm 31, but it is well worth reading all 24 verses. While the context in which the psalm is written may not be the same as our circumstances, it expresses many of the honest emotions of grief and lament that many of us are currently experiencing. Verse 24 alone is one that many may find helpful to meditate on in these days when we wait on the Lord for the strength and courage that we otherwise find difficult to summon.
- The psalmist prays, as we do now, for the refuge and fortress of God to protect us and for deliverance from that which is hidden and invisible to us but would threaten our very lives (verses 3 and 4). While written as an individual's prayer, the psalmist inspires our collective prayer for the global community:

God, incline your ear to us;
rescue us speedily.

Be a rock of refuge for us,
a strong fortress to save us.

In your mercy, hear our prayer.

- In these days of isolation, when we have had to retreat to the fortress of our own homes, may we gain a new understanding of God as our fortress, the place of security and safety we turn to in this time of trial. God is not a fortress that barricades but strengthens

and reinforces, enabling us to look out for our most vulnerable neighbours, near and far – albeit virtually or from a safe distance.

- There is something refreshingly honest about these prayers of lament which tell God how things really are, and this shows that God is interested in our physical suffering and our bodily wellbeing. That's important to remember these days. The description of the psalmist's symptoms is very resonant with our contemporary experience.
- Jesus also turned to the psalms for strength and courage when enduring suffering. It is verse 5 of this psalm that Jesus quotes on the cross: 'into your hand I commit my spirit'. This verse takes on particular poignancy as we face the reality that coronavirus has and will lead to the end of life for many of our neighbours, near and far. It is into the hands of God that we entrust them to his eternal keeping.
- And how we view our neighbours in these threatening times is brought into sharp focus in verse 11. Some have found it easy to 'other' distant neighbours who were thought to be carriers of the virus, holding them in contempt rather than compassion. Or we can find ourselves judging our closer neighbours who are panic buying important goods, while failing to understand the fear that motivated them. When the virus reached the UK, some of us became an 'object of dread' for even our closest friends – maybe even an object of dread for ourselves as we feared meeting others and infecting them.



- Yet, Christian Aid Week has always been about how we can be good global neighbours. Asking ourselves how we can extend the love that never fails to our neighbours near and far has never been more important than it is this year.
- When our own hands and the hands of others have become something of a threat, and when many are no longer experiencing the reassuring touch of a hand on a shoulder, or no longer being comforted by the embrace of a hug, the references to hands in verses 5, 8 and 15 are also particularly poignant. It feels particularly apt to pray, with the trust of the psalmist, that our times are in God's hands and also for deliverance from hands that might harm us, including our own.
- This absence of touch was also a great challenge for communities in Sierra Leone during the Ebola outbreak of 2014. The cultural practice of washing the bodies of the deceased was banned and made the process of saying goodbye to loved ones even more heart-wrenching and painful. And like how we see many of our clergy providing vital support and connection through online streaming of services, ministers and pastors in Sierra Leone had to take to the streets to get these essential public health messages out that in the end saved thousands of lives. The Rev Christiana Sutton-Koroma, who was instrumental in encouraging safe and dignified burials, describes the response of faith leaders here: [youtube.com/watch?v=D6ibrD1B130](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D6ibrD1B130)
- As we wash our hands more carefully and more often, we can pray to God to hold in his care all those we have held hands with, carried and hugged. We can also pray for those who we have never had the opportunity to physically embrace, but who we have reached out to with generous hands, giving what we could through our envelopes during many previous Christian Aid Weeks. Please join us in prayer this Christian Aid Week (10-16 May) at caid.org.uk/loveneverfails
- We at Christian Aid are incredibly grateful to all who have delivered and collected Christian Aid Week envelopes by hand over these past 60+ years. And for all the hands that have made soup for church lunches, poured cups of tea and coffee, made toast for Big Brekkies, put up posters and bunting advertising events, sorted books and art for sale, and of course counted and returned the money collected. Thank God for the hands that have put love into action.
- The world's poorest people are the most vulnerable to this crisis. They are less resilient, have less access to healthcare and will be less able to weather the economic impact. Thanks to your support, we have been standing alongside them for the past 75 years. We'll continue to stand with them through this crisis and will be with them afterwards. Now more than ever, please share your love for your vulnerable neighbours by giving at caweek.org/payin
- Thank God and pray for the hands of all those working on the medical frontline now to help save lives, in Britain and Ireland and around the world. May their times be in God's hands, may God's face shine upon them. May the unfailing, steadfast love of God be their constant strength (verse 16).

John 14:1-14

- The promises in this gospel reading are often offered as hope and reassurance at times of bereavement and will have a resonance for those who have lost loved ones in recent weeks and months, whether or not as a direct consequence of coronavirus. We have always believed in life before death, and find in these words of Jesus challenge and inspiration for this exceptional Christian Aid Week.
- The comforting words of Jesus: 'do not let your hearts be troubled' are spoken to the disciples who have good reason to have troubled hearts. Jesus says these words at the last supper, just after he has washed their feet with his own hands, talked of his betrayal, and of Peter's denial and his imminent departure (John 13). These are words of comfort offered for unsettling times and are worth meditating on in these challenging times today.
- With coronavirus resulting in many of us spending much more time in our houses, the spaciousness of the Father's house, with many dwelling places, may sound appealing, particularly to those struggling to find their own space. 'Dwelling place' isn't a term that we often use these days to describe the places where we live, but in this time of forced isolation our homes have become places to dwell more than we may have ever known before.
- Jesus uses the word 'dwell' again when he talks of 'the Father who dwells in me' (verse 10). And in these days when our church buildings have had to remain

largely empty and closed for Sunday worship, we are presented with the possibility of gaining a deeper understanding of what it is to dwell in the Father's presence and to know what it is to have God's Spirit dwell in us.

- Where many are turning to mindfulness and meditation in these anxious times, this gospel also offers us the invitation to spend time dwelling in the presence of God, and to not let our hearts be troubled. For those who can find the space, our homes can become our hermitage or *poustinia* – a dwelling place for spiritual retreat - and when we are finally able to leave our homes we can still carry this dwelling place in our hearts wherever we go.
- The gospels remind us how Jesus frequently rises early in the morning to take the time to abide with and in God. Maybe it is this dwelling with the Father that Jesus is referencing when he talks of doing the 'works that I do', along with the healing, ministering, speaking truth to power. This time to dwell with the Father is the source of all his speaking and doing in the world. May we also take strength from our time with God as we consider what we can do in response to these exceptional times.
- The honesty of Thomas in verse 5, a prelude to his honesty after missing the resurrection appearance, is an honesty to be welcomed in these difficult times. We share his uncertainty as we don't know what lies ahead. Coronavirus has disrupted all routine and has many of us also saying: 'we don't know the way'. Thomas' confusion invites us all to be honest in prayer before God and to be honest with each other as we seek to follow Jesus in these exceptional times.
- At some point, perhaps not quite yet, we too need to face up to the honest questions that the response to coronavirus prompts us to ask - questions such as how we can reimagine and recreate a world where no one dies of preventable diseases, that we already have vaccinations for and medicines to treat – why are there still more than 7,500 children under 5 dying every day from such diseases? These questions take on a greater resonance this Christian Aid Week.
- In response to their confusion, Jesus' response: 'I am the way, the truth and the life,' takes on new meaning through the lens of coronavirus. How precious life has become when we have come so close to our human frailty and vulnerability. What are the new truths that we need to face up to, now that coronavirus has shone a light on the weakness and cracks in our economic systems? What is the new way we can all walk together to ensure fullness of life for everyone?
- This gospel passage concludes with the call to action we are encouraging in this digital Christian Aid Week - a call to prayer. Right in the middle of the last supper, Jesus encourages the disciples to ask him for anything and he'll do it. He repeats his offer 'that he will do whatever you ask in his name'. These are hard words to reconcile with the prayers that have seemingly gone unanswered in these difficult days. And they may have been difficult for the disciples to accept in the events that were to follow in the days to come.
- These are the words Jesus wants his disciples, his followers, to remember when he's no longer with them. He wants them to come to him, as he does the Father, with every cause, concern and request, even if they can no longer see him or be with him in person. These are words of hope and promise of connection for us all and always, but particularly in these days when we are so separate, but never alone. Physical absence and separation do not mean abandonment, and by entering into the dwelling place of God in prayer, he brings us back to the way, the truth and the life, again and again.



Pentecost Sunday Service

31st May 2020

Opening Prayer

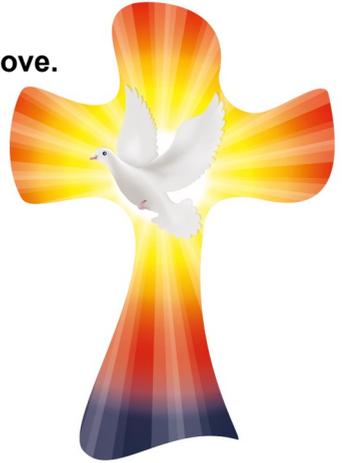
Be with us, Spirit of God;
nothing can separate us from your love.

Breathe on us, breath of God;
fill us with your saving power.

Speak in us, wisdom of God;
bring strength, healing and peace.

Silence is kept

The Lord is here.
His Spirit is with us.



Confession

God your world is broken and in pain
Broken by hunger that kills our brothers & sisters
Broken by injustice that enslaves and oppresses our friends
Broken by disease that deprives us of our loved ones

Forgive us God for our complicity and the times we have been
indifferent to its cries
Forgive us for the times we could have shared our food
Forgive us for places we should have spoken out
Forgive us for acts that have polluted and destroyed
immunity

Cleanse our hearts and wash away our sins
Fill us with your Spirit and restore our joy in your salvation
Make us willing to count the cost of our responsibility to our
neighbours near and far
May we enter your kingdom of peace and justice for all

taken from Godspacelight.com

Canticle

The Spirit of God fills the whole world. Alleluia.

I will take you from the nations, “
and gather you from all the countries.

I will sprinkle clean water upon you, “
and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses.

A new heart I will give you, “
and put a new spirit within you,

And I will remove from your body the heart of stone “
and give you a heart of flesh.

You shall be my people, “
and I will be your God.

Ezekiel 36.24-26,28b

The Spirit of God fills the whole world. Alleluia.

First Reading—Acts 2: 1-21

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. Utterly amazed, they asked: ‘Aren’t all these who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs – we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!’ Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, ‘What does this mean?’

Some, however, made fun of them and said, ‘They have had too much wine.’

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: ‘Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this

to you; listen carefully to what I say. These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

*“In the last days, God says,
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your young men will see visions,
your old men will dream dreams.
Even on my servants, both men and women,
I will pour out my Spirit in those days,
and they will prophesy.
I will show wonders in the heavens above
and signs on the earth below,
blood and fire and billows of smoke.
The sun will be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood
before the coming of the great and glorious
day of the Lord.
And everyone who calls
on the name of the Lord will be saved.”*

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Second Reading—John 7: 37-39

On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, ‘Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.’ By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God



Creed

**We believe in one God
the Creator of all things,
who loves the whole creation
with a father's tenderness
and a mother's strength.**

**We believe in one God,
our liberator Jesus Christ,
the Word of God made flesh,
true God and truly human;
born among the poor, he lived
as bringer of God's Kingdom;
a teacher and a healer,
a lover of life and a prophet of justice,
forgiver of sins and a friend of sinners,
who welcomed the outcasts
and challenged the powerful,
whose death on the cross
defeated sin and death,
who rose from the dead
and is alive forever
in power and glory.**

**We believe in one God
the Holy Spirit, the giver of life,
the Breath of life in all life,
the gift of God to the people of God
our Disturber and our Comforter.
The fire and the dove,
who makes us one community
in peace and love.**

**We believe in one God,
a community of love,
a trinity of holiness,
the beginning and the end
of all life.
Amen.**



taken from Alternative worship by Jonny Baker

Prayers

We pray for God to fill us with his Spirit.

Generous God,
we thank you for the power of your Holy Spirit.
We ask that we may be strengthened to serve you better.
Lord, come to bless us
and fill us with your Spirit.

We thank you for the wisdom of your Holy Spirit.
We ask you to make us wise to understand your will.
Lord, come to bless us
and fill us with your Spirit.

We thank you for the peace of your Holy Spirit.
We ask you to keep us confident of your love wherever you call us.
Lord, come to bless us
and fill us with your Spirit.

We thank you for the healing of your Holy Spirit.
We ask you to bring reconciliation and wholeness
where there is division, sickness and sorrow.
Lord, come to bless us
and fill us with your Spirit.

We thank you for the gifts of your Holy Spirit.
We ask you to equip us for the work which you have given us.
Lord, come to bless us
and fill us with your Spirit.

We thank you for the fruit of your Holy Spirit.
We ask you to reveal in our lives the love of Jesus.
Lord, come to bless us
and fill us with your Spirit.

We thank you for the breath of your Holy Spirit,
given us by the risen Lord.
We ask you to keep the whole Church, living and departed,
in the joy of eternal life.
Lord, come to bless us
and fill us with your Spirit.

Generous God,
you sent your Holy Spirit upon your Messiah at the river Jordan,
and upon the disciples in the upper room:
in your mercy fill us with your Spirit,
hear our prayer,
and make us one in heart and mind
to serve you with joy for ever.

Amen.

Collect

Holy Spirit, sent by the Father,
ignite in us your holy fire;
strengthen your children with the gift of faith,
revive your Church with the breath of love,
and renew the face of the earth,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory
for ever and ever.
Amen.**



Light a candle.

Blessed are you, sovereign God, overflowing in love.
With Pentecost dawns the age of the Spirit.
Now the flame of heaven rests on every believer.
Strong and weak, women and men tell out your word;
the young receive visions, the old receive dreams.
With the new wine of the Spirit
they proclaim your reign of love.
Amid the birth pangs of the new creation
the way of light is made known.
Source of freedom, giver of life,
blessed are you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be God for ever.

Commission

For fifty days we have celebrated the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ over the powers of sin and death. We have proclaimed God's mighty acts and we have prayed that the power that was at work when God raised Jesus from the dead might be at work in us.

**As part of God's Church here in N,
I call upon you to live out what you
proclaim.**

**Empowered by the Holy Spirit,
we will dare to walk into God's
future,
trusting him to be your guide.**

**We will dare to embrace each other
and grow together in love.**

**We will dare to share your riches
and minister to each other in need.**

**We will dare to pray for each other
until our hearts beat with the
longings of God.**

**We will dare to carry
the light of Christ into
the world's dark places.**

Closing Prayer

**God of power,
may the boldness of your Spirit transform us,
may the gentleness of your Spirit lead us,
may the gifts of your Spirit equip us
to serve and worship you
now and always. Amen.**



Relevant Prayers / Scripture

suggested by the Church of England website

A prayer about the Coronavirus outbreak

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen.

For those in isolation

God of compassion,
be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation.
In their loneliness, be their consolation;
in their anxiety, be their hope;
in their darkness, be their light;
through him who suffered alone on the cross,
but reigns with you in glory,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

For those who are worried/social cohesion

Loving Jesus, you are compassionate to those in need
and heal the sick in body and mind.
Look kindly on those who are fearful at this time.
Help us all to put away all thoughts and actions
that separate us from you and from one another.
Give us grace to live our lives
confident in your promise that you are with us always.
Amen.

Lord Jesus Christ,
you taught us to love our neighbour,
and to care for those in need
as if we were caring for you.
In this time of anxiety, give us strength
to comfort the fearful, to care for the sick,
and to assure the isolated
of our love, and your love,
for your name's sake.
Amen.

For those who are ill

Merciful God,
we entrust to your unfailing and tender care,
those who are ill or in pain,
knowing that whenever danger threatens
your everlasting arms are there to hold us safe.
Comfort and heal them,
and restore them to health and strength;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

For hospital staff and medical researchers

Gracious God,
give skill, sympathy and resilience
to all who are caring for the sick,
and your wisdom to those searching for a cure.
Strengthen them with your Spirit,
that through their work many will be restored to health;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

From one who is ill or isolated

O God,
help me to trust you,
help me to know that you are with me,
help me to believe that nothing can separate me
from your love
revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Prayers for when you can't get to church

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your disciples, 'I am with you always'.
Be with me today, as I offer myself to you.
Hear my prayers for others and for myself,
and keep me in your care.
Amen.

Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me.
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

From St Patrick's Breastplate

I am giving you worship with all my life,
I am giving you obedience with all my power,
I am giving you praise with all my strength,
I am giving you honour with all my speech.
I am giving you love with all my heart,
I am giving you affection with all my sense,
I am giving you my being with all my mind,
I am giving you my soul, O most high and holy God.
Praise to the Father,
Praise to the Son,
Praise to the Spirit,
The Three in One.

*adapted from Alexander Carmichael,
Carmina Gadelica (1900)*

Lord Jesus Christ,
son of the living God,
have mercy on me, a sinner.

The 'Jesus Prayer'

After a time of prayer:

Be with us, Lord, in all our prayers,
and direct our way toward the attainment of salvation,
that among the changes and chances of this mortal life,
we may always be defended by your gracious help,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Endings for Intercession

O gracious and holy Father,
give us wisdom to perceive you,
diligence to seek you,
patience to wait for you,
eyes to behold you,
a heart to meditate upon you,
and a life to proclaim you,
through the power of the spirit
of Jesus Christ our Lord.

St Benedict

Soul of Christ, sanctify me,
body of Christ, save me,
blood of Christ, inebriate me,
water from the side of Christ, wash me.
Passion of Christ, strengthen me.
O good Jesus, hear me:
hide me within your wounds
and never let me be separated from you.
From the wicked enemy defend me,
in the hour of my death, call me
and bid me come to you,
so that with your saints I may praise you
for ever and ever.

Anima Christi

Short passages of Scripture for reading and contemplation

Psalm 27 *The Lord is my light and my salvation*

Psalm 46 *Be still, and know that I am God.*

Psalm 91 *He shall cover you with his wings*

Psalm 139 *O Lord, you have searched me out and known me*

Isaiah 43 (esp vv.1-7) *Do not fear, for I am with you*

John 14 *Do not let your hearts be troubled*

A prayer for when a friend is ill

Dear God, (*name of friend*) is ill.
They are not allowed to go to school or come over to play.
I'm sad because I miss them.
They must be feeling miserable and lonely as well.
Please be close to them.
Please be with the people who are looking after them.
Please help them to get better and to know that you love them.
Amen.

A prayer for the world

God of love and hope,
You made the world and care for all creation.
But the world feels strange right now.
The news is full of stories about Coronavirus.
Many people are anxious because of it.
Many people are anxious that they might get ill.
Many people are anxious about their family and friends.
Be with them in their worries and help them to find some peace.
We pray for the doctors and nurses and scientists who are working to
discover the right medicines to give hope to those who are ill.
Thank you that even in these strange and worrying times, you are
with us.
Help us to look for the signs of your goodness and love towards us.
Amen.

A prayer at bedtime

Before the ending of the day,
Creator of the World, we pray
That you, with steadfast love, would keep
Your watch around us while we sleep.
Tonight we pray especially for *(names family or friends who are affected by Coronavirus)* and the people of *(country or place which is affected by Coronavirus)*.
Give skill and wisdom to all who are caring for them.
Amen.

A prayer remembering God is with us

Lord God, you are always with me.
You are with me in the day and in the night.
You are with me when I'm happy and when I'm sad.
You are with me when I'm healthy and when I am ill.
You are with me when I am peaceful and when I am anxious.
Today I am feeling *(name how you are feeling)* because *(reasons you are feeling this way)*.
Help me to remember that you love me and are with me in everything today.
Amen.



