

SUNDAY PRAYERS

5th July 2020



(Please use these prayers in whatever way is helpful for you, whether you follow them through as a service or pick out the sections which best help you to engage with our living God.)

We stand before the throne of God
with countless crowds
from every nation and race, tribe and language.
Blessing and glory and wisdom,
thanksgiving and honour, power and might
be to our God for ever and ever.

PRAYER FOR THE DAY

The Lord is our salvation,
the rock upon which we stand,
the light by which we walk,
the strength by which we overcome.
Therefore we shall live by faith
and fear no one,
for the Lord our God is with us,
walking beside and before us,
sheltering us from harm.
It is the Lord's song that we sing,
his praise within our hearts,
his word upon our lips
and the reason that we live.

PSALM 29

Ascribe to the LORD, you heavenly beings,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness.

The voice of the LORD is over the waters;
the God of glory thunders,
the LORD thunders over the mighty waters.
The voice of the LORD is powerful;
the voice of the LORD is majestic.
The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars;
the LORD breaks in pieces the cedars of Lebanon.
He makes Lebanon leap like a calf,
Sirion like a young wild ox.
The voice of the LORD strikes
with flashes of lightning.
The voice of the LORD shakes the desert;
the LORD shakes the Desert of Kadesh.
The voice of the LORD twists the oaks
and strips the forests bare.
And in his temple all cry, "Glory!"

The LORD sits enthroned over the flood;
the LORD is enthroned as King forever.
The LORD gives strength to his people;
the LORD blesses his people with peace.

CONFESSION (from *Prayers for Today's Church*)

Our merciful Father and God,
we have wandered from your way,
following our own ways.
We have ignored the things we should have done
and done things we should not have done.
We are just not good enough.
We are truly sorry for our failure
and humbly claim your promise to forgive us,
as declared and demonstrated by our Lord Jesus Christ.
We pray, Father, that for his sake we may from now on
live a godly life to the glory of his name.

TITUS 3:3-7

At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. But when the kindness and love of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

To listen to Rev Jonathan Edwards' sermon on this passage [click here](#).

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION written by Chris Hall.

(There is an alternative prayer activity on page 5 of this booklet)

Father God

We thank you for the way you have looked after us during the pandemic so far, for helping us through the days we have found tough and blessing us with special moments when we have felt closer to you and to our loved ones.

You have been so good to us. We thank you that things are now changing and the number of Covid-19 cases and deaths are reducing. This weekend is a special moment as we make another step forward to a kind of normal, as places of worship begin to open up.

We thank you Lord that some of us are able to meet in church to pray together for the first time since March. Please be with Will, Joy and the St Nic's staff as they make decisions on how best to carry out the new guidelines issued by the government, give them wisdom Lord on how to create a safe but welcoming environment for worship. Guide them on how the services can work in the church, online and in print so that your voice will be able to get through to us whatever medium we use, whether in church or at home. And that we will be united, even though we are experiencing church in different ways.

We pray too for other church leaders in Newbury and across the country as they respond to these changing circumstances. Give them wisdom on how to act in their buildings and context for the safety and blessing of their congregations.

Lord, we pray for our prime minister and for all those in our government. Guide them as they continue to make difficult decisions about opening up the country again in a safe and responsible way.

We pray for local and national businesses, shops, cafes, restaurants, pubs and hairdressers that are now starting back after over 3 months. Please help them as they look to serve their customers safely as well as keeping their business viable. We pray for unity and self-control across the country so there will not be an increase of Covid-19 cases and deaths and where there are increases, like in Leicester, that local lockdowns will be effective.

Lord, you know the pressures we are under, you know the impact this time is having on us, our families and friends. We pray whatever we are going through we will have time to spend with you and to be close to you. And whatever you want to speak to us, may our ears and hearts be open to your calling.

Lord in a world where there is so much pain anger and division, help us and our brothers and sisters in Christ to be effective ambassadors for you sharing your love and peace.

May we be a light that shines brightly in our homes and communities

We ask this in your name. Amen

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.

THE GRACE

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

ALTERNATIVE PRAYER ACTIVITY

Here are some images which came up in an online search on the theme of 'kindness'. What do these images say about the way the world sees 'kindness'? How do they link in with what the Bible says?

