

SAFFRON WALDEN AND VILLAGES TEAM MINISTRY

PRAYERS FOR SUNDAY 21 JUNE 2020 (TRINITY 2)

Today our readings and prayers invite us to consider the cost of our Christian journey. We are called to stand up for truth even when things are difficult. Yet we do so knowing that Christ gives us life, and that we are each precious to God. You might like to light a candle at home while you use this leaflet, symbolising Jesus as the Light of the World: and to say the prayers and readings out loud.

Introduction

We gather together, united in purpose though separate in place, in the name of God, our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer.

*We say together (or why not **sing!**) an opening hymn:*

Just as I am, without one plea
but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bidst me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, thou wilt receive;
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse,
relieve:
because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt;
fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, thy love unknown
has broken ev'ry barrier down,
now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
sight, riches, healing of the mind,
yea, all I need, in thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, of that free love
the breadth, length, depth, and height
to prove,
here for a season, then above,
O Lamb of God, I come

The Lord is here.

His Spirit is with us.

We have come together as the family of God in this community. And especially today we thank you, Father, for your care for each of us, even when we may be afraid or unpopular because we try to follow you. Help us to pray to you in faith, to sing your praise with gratitude, and to listen to your word with eagerness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayers of Penitence

Lord God, our maker and our redeemer, this is your world and we are your people: come among us and save us.

We have seen the ill-treatment of others, and have not gone to their aid:

Lord, have mercy. *Lord, have mercy.*

We have condoned evil and dishonesty, and failed to strive for justice:

Christ, have mercy. *Christ, have mercy.*

We have not loved you with all our heart, nor our neighbours as ourselves:

Lord, have mercy. *Lord, have mercy.*

Hearing God's forgiveness

May the God of love and power forgive us and free us from our sins, heal and strengthen us by his Spirit, and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Readings *We now follow the readings on the Grapevine:*

Collect (the special prayer for today)

First Reading: St Paul's Letter to the Romans, Chapter 6, verses 1b-11

Gospel: St Matthew's Gospel, Chapter 10, verses 24-39

Reflection *If you are using this prayer sheet privately, you may wish to read the Reflection on the Grapevine. In a moment of quiet, think what message this may have for you, and ask God to help you live it out in your life this week.*

We declare our faith together

**We believe and trust in God the Father,
from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us with power from on high.**

**This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

Father of all, we pray for your world, and for your human family. Give us grace to value every human being of every race and creed and country, each one made in your image. Help us bring justice where there is hatred: help us heal the hurts of the past and the inequalities of the present. Give wisdom and integrity to all leaders of nations, and teach them to love the people whom they serve.

Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

We pray for your Church throughout the world, and in this Team Ministry of Saffron Walden and Villages. Give wisdom to those choosing the next Bishop of Chelmsford, and to the process for appointing a new Team Rector. Give us vision to live as your people, and give us your energy as we prepare for churches to re-open for worship. Give us courage to stand for your truth in our daily lives.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We thank you for the gradual decline in cases of coronavirus, and for the gradual opening up of our society. We hold before you all who continue to suffer from it; the anxious and the fearful or dying; all whose lives have been changed and have lost loved ones. Give energy and inspiration to all hospital staff and carers, all those working hard to find a vaccine and a cure, and all key workers and volunteers. Support teachers and students at schools and universities; the shops, as they reopen; and all whose livelihood has been affected by lockdown.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We pray for our communities in town and villages. We thank you for the many acts of kindness we have each experienced from others; make us also a blessing to others. We pray for our families, friends and neighbours, especially those in need of any kind and those we cannot visit, naming them in the silence of our hearts Hold them in your loving arms, and be with them always.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

In a moment of silence, offer to God any other needs on your heart.

Merciful Father, accept these prayers, for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Sharing God's Peace

Christ is our peace. He has reconciled us to God in one body on the cross. We meet in his name and we share his peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

As you say this, hold in your mind all who are joining in these prayers today.

If you are joining the Eucharist celebrated live via Zoom, do follow the priest saying the Eucharistic prayer, with the standard responses. While only the priest can physically receive the consecrated bread and wine, all will be invited to say this prayer of Spiritual Communion, inviting Jesus to enter your deepest being.

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually

into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer *Let us pray together as Jesus 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.

We ask God's grace for the week ahead

Heavenly Father, sustain us in our joys and in our anxieties. Enfold us in your peace in our waking and in our sleeping, and may we know your presence with us now and always: in the name of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

We say (or sing!) a final hymn:

Through the night of doubt and sorrow
onward goes the pilgrim band,
singing songs of expectation,
marching to the promised land.
Clear before us, through the darkness,
gleams and burns the guiding light;
so we march in hope united,
stepping fearless through the night.

One the light of God's own presence
o'er his ransomed people shed,
chasing far the gloom and terror,
bright'ning all the path we tread.
One the object of our journey,
one the faith that never tires,
one the earnest looking forward,
one the hope our God inspires.

One the strain that lips of thousands
lift as from the heart of one:
one the conflict, one the peril,
one the march in God begun.
One the gladness of rejoicing
on the far eternal shore,
where the one almighty Father
reigns in love for evermore.

Onward, therefore, fellow pilgrims,
onward with the Cross our aid;
bear its shame and fight its battle
till we rest beneath its shade.
Soon shall come the great awaking,
soon the rending of the tomb;
then the scatt'ring of all shadows
and the end of toil and gloom.

May the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit, be with us all now and evermore: and may we go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

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