

# SAFFRON WALDEN AND VILLAGES TEAM MINISTRY

## PRAYERS FOR SUNDAY 28 JUNE 2020 (TRINITY 3)

*Today our readings and prayers speak to us of the grace of God, whose love in Christ redeems us freely from all our sin and failures, and who welcomes every act of kindness done for his sake.*

*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:*

Brother, sister, let me serve you,  
let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace  
to let you be my servant, too.

I will weep when you are weeping,  
when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.  
I will share your joy and sorrow  
till we've seen this journey through.

We are pilgrims on a journey,  
fellow travellers on the road;  
we are here to help each other  
walk the mile and bear the load.

When we sing to God in heaven,  
we shall find such harmony,  
born of all we've known together  
of Christ's love and agony.

I will hold the Christlight for you  
in the night-time of your fear;  
I will hold my hand out to you,  
speak the peace you long to hear.

Brother, sister, let me serve you,  
let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace  
to let you be my servant, too.

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, because you give us the free gift of eternal life in Christ Jesus. 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

God our Father, we come to you in sorrow for our sins: in your mercy, save us. Remember, Lord, your compassion and love: for they are everlasting.

Lord, have mercy.

***Lord, have mercy.***

Remember not my transgressions, but think on me in your goodness, O Lord,  
according to your steadfast love.

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

Lord, keep my soul and deliver me: let me not be put to shame, for I have put my  
trust in you.

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.**

*As God's forgiven people, we say the great hymn of praise*

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.**

**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 12 - end**

**Gospel: St Matthew's Gospel, Chapter 10, verses 40 - end**

**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. We thank you  
for your love in offering us the free gift of life through your Son Jesus. May your  
grace overflow into our lives to welcome and care for all people in your name.

*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 your energy as we prepare for churches to re-open for worship, and help us always to live out and share your good news.

*Lord, in your mercy*

***Hear our prayer***

As we thank you for the gradual easing of lockdown, help us to respect the continuing restrictions on our lives, and to protect our neighbours. Comfort all suffering from coronavirus; all who have lost loved ones; all awaiting the end of shielding. Inspire all hospital staff and carers, all those working hard to find a vaccine and a cure, and all key workers and volunteers. Strengthen organisations now planning to reopen; and all whose lives have been affected in these months.

*Lord, in your mercy*

***Hear our prayer***

Give wisdom and integrity to all leaders of nations, and teach them to love the people whom they serve. Where there is hatred and violence, bring peace: where there is injury, bring pardon; where there is sadness, bring joy; where there is suffering, bring healing; where there is exhaustion, bring hope and energy.

*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 each other. 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**

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy, that you may be kept safe and blameless in spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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:*

There is a Redeemer,  
Jesus, God's own Son,  
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah,  
Holy One.

*Thank you, O my Father  
For giving us your Son,  
And leaving your Spirit  
Till the work on earth is done.*

Jesus, my Redeemer,  
Name above all names,  
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah,  
O for sinners slain.

*Thank you, O my Father...*

When I stand in glory,  
I shall see his face,  
And there I'll serve my King for ever,  
In that holy place.

*Thank you, O my Father...*

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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