

SAFFRON WALDEN AND VILLAGES TEAM MINISTRY
PRAYERS FOR SUNDAY 12 JULY 2020 (TRINITY 5)

Today in our readings and prayers we remember the well-loved parable of the sower sowing the seed. May God help us to become good ground, bearing crops in abundance, so that we too may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit.

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*

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,
naught be all else to me save that thou art;
thou my best thought in the day and the night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,
I ever with thee, and thou with me Lord;
thou my great Father, and I thy true heir;
thou in me dwelling, and I in thy care.

Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight,
be thou my armour, and be thou my might;
thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tow'r:
raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.

Riches I heed not, nor all the world's praise,
thou mine inheritance through all my days;
thou, and thou only, the first in my heart;
High King of heaven, my treasure thou art!

High King of heaven, when battle is done,
grant heaven's joy to me, O bright heav'n' sun;
Christ of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

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 the good seed of your saving word, so generously offered to us. 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.
For turning away from you, and ignoring your will for our lives;

Father, forgive us. *Save us and help us.*

For behaving just as we wish, without thinking of you;

Father, forgive us. *Save us and help us.*

For letting ourselves be drawn away from you, by the temptations in our world;

Father, forgive us. *Save us and help us.*

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 8, verses 1 – 11

Gospel: St Matthew's Gospel, Chapter 13, verses 1-9 and 18-23

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, as we hear the message of the sower, help us to be good ground.
Keep us from being choked by the cares of the world or our own troubles. May we persevere to hold fast to your word, to understand it, and bear good fruit.

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 appointing a new Team Rector. We thank you for David Tomlinson, now preparing for his new post, and pray for all our congregations as church buildings gradually reopen for worship.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We pray for all who have suffered or watched loved ones suffer from coronavirus; for the anxious; for all hospital staff and carers, all seeking vaccines and cures, and all key workers and volunteers. We pray that all may act responsibly as lockdown eases, and for all who are going on holidays.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We pray for your troubled world, remembering nations where infections are still rising, and ask for your wisdom to all world leaders and all making decisions which affect our lives. Bring peace where there is conflict and division.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We pray for our communities in town and villages. Keep us mindful of each other and help us to live out your love. Bless our families, friends and neighbours, both near and far, especially those in need of any kind whom we name before you 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

We are all one in Christ Jesus. We belong to him through faith, heirs of the promise of the Spirit of 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:

We plough the fields, and scatter
The good seed on the land,
But it is fed and watered
By God's almighty hand;
He sends the snow in winter,
The warmth to swell the grain,
The breezes and the sunshine,
And soft refreshing rain.

*All good gifts around us
Are sent from heaven above,
Then thank the Lord,
O thank the Lord,
For all his love.*

He only is the Maker
Of all things near and far;
He paints the wayside flower,
He lights the evening star;
He fills the world with beauty,
By him the birds are fed;
Much more to us, his children,
He gives our daily bread.

All good gifts....

We thank thee then, O Father,
For all things bright and good:
The seed-time and the harvest,
Our life, our health, our food;
Accept the gifts we offer
For all thy love imparts,
And, what thou most desirest,
Our humble, thankful hearts.

All good gifts...

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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