

**SAFFRON WALDEN AND VILLAGES TEAM MINISTRY
PRAYERS FOR SUNDAY 26 JULY 2020 (TRINITY 7)**

Today in our readings and prayers we hear the assurance that nothing can separate us from God's love: and the parable of the mustard seed, that the kingdom of heaven grows from tiny beginnings to fill the world.

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*

1. New ev'ry morning is the love
Our wak'ning and uprising prove;
Through sleep and darkness safely
brought,
Restored to life and power and thought.
2. New mercies, each returning day,
Hover around us while we pray;
New perils past, new sins forgiv'n,
New thoughts of God, new hopes of
heav'n.
3. If on our daily course our mind
Be set to hallow all we find,
New treasures still, of countless price,
God will provide for sacrifice.
4. Old friends, old scenes, will lovelier be,
As more of heav'n in each we see;
Some soft'ning gleam of love and prayer
Shall dawn on ev'ry cross and care.
5. The trivial round, the common task,
Will furnish all we need to ask,
Room to deny ourselves, a road
To bring us daily nearer God.
6. Only, O Lord, in thy dear love,
Fit us for perfect rest above;
And help us, this and every day,
To live more nearly as we pray.

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 assurance of your love, from which nothing can separate 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

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

We have wilfully misused your gifts of creation:

Father, forgive us. *Save us and help us.*
We have seen the ill-treatment of others, but not gone to their aid:
Father, forgive us. *Save us and help us.*

We have heard the good news of Christ, but have failed to share it with others:
Father, forgive us. *Save us and help us.*

Hearing God's forgiveness

May the Father forgive us by the death of his Son and strengthen us to live in the power of the Spirit all our days. **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 26-39

Gospel: St Matthew's Gospel, Chapter 13, verses 31-33 and 44-52

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, help us to see your hand in the small things: in the little acts of kindness; in the joys of our friendships and everyday life. May we trust that your kingdom will come, and help us to do your will.

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. Especially we pray for all our congregations as church buildings gradually reopen for worship. Make us a beacon of your love.

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. We pray for those who have been shielding. and for all who are going on holidays.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We pray for your troubled world, remembering nations where the virus is still rife, and ask for your wisdom for 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

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:

Thine be the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son,
Endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won;
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
Kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay.
*Thine be the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son;
Endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.*

Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
Lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom,
Let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
For her Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting.
Thine be the glory....

No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life!
Life is naught without thee: aid us in our strife;
Make us more than conqu'rors, through thy deathless love.
Bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above.
Thine be the glory....

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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