

SAFFRON WALDEN AND VILLAGES TEAM MINISTRY PRAYERS FOR SUNDAY 16 AUGUST 2020 (TRINITY 10)

Today we hear how Jesus, meeting a stranger from another society, responds to her faith and heals her sick daughter. May we too recognise and affirm the value of every human life, whatever their country or culture or situation – and know God’s love for his whole human family.

If you are using this leaflet at home, you might like to light a candle, 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. There’s a wideness in God’s mercy,
Like the wideness of the sea;
There’s a kindness in His justice,
Which is more than liberty.

2. There is no place where earth’s sorrows
Are more felt than up in heav’n;
There is no place where earth’s failings
Have such kindly judgment giv’n.

3. For the love of God is broader
Than the scope of human mind;
And the heart of the Eternal
Is most wonderfully kind.

4. But we make His love too narrow
By false limits of our own;
And we magnify His strictness
With a zeal He will not own.

5. If our love were but more simple,
We should take Him at His word;
And our lives would be all gladness
In the joy of Christ our Lord.

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 feeding us in body, mind and spirit. 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, in your mercy

Forgive us and help us.

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

Lord, in your mercy

Forgive us and help us.

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

Lord, in your mercy

Forgive 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 11, v. 1-2a, 29-32

Gospel: St Matthew's Gospel, Chapter 15, v. 21-28

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 human family. We hold before you with sorrow and shame the suffering of so many who have faced discrimination, or been marginalised and ignored by others. As you healed the daughter of the Canaanite woman, give us grace to see your face in every human being.

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. We pray for David Tomlinson and Jenny as he starts his new post in Birmingham, and pray for ourselves as we go through the process of appointing a new Team Rector and as our churches open up after lockdown. Keep us firm in faith, and help us share your love.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We pray for your world, remembering especially the people of Lebanon, India, Brazil, and so many nations troubled by the virus, by violence or by natural disaster. Give wisdom to all world leaders, and bring us your peace.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We pray for our own country as it seeks to balance safety and the opening up of society. We pray for those on holiday; for schools, teachers and pupils as they prepare for the new term; and for those running businesses. Give your strength and energy to all working in hospital or care homes, and inspire all medical researchers. Give us all responsibility, and help us care for each other.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We pray for our communities in town and villages. Bless all who are sick or in any kind of need. 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:

1. God is love, his the care
Tending each, everywhere.
God is love, all is there!
Jesus came to show him,
that we all might know him!
Sing a-loud, loud, loud!
Sing a-loud, loud, loud!
God is good, God is truth!
God is beauty, praise him!

2. None can see God above;
we can share life and love;
thus may we Godward move,
finding him in others,
holding all men brothers.
Sing a-loud, loud, loud....

3. Jesus lived on the earth,
hope and life brought to birth
and affirmed human worth,
for he came to save us
by the truth he gave us.
Sing a-loud, loud, loud....

4. To our Lord praise we sing,
light and life, friend and King,
coming down, love to bring,
pattern for our duty,
showing God in beauty.
Sing a-loud, loud, loud....

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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