

# SUNDAY PRAYERS

7<sup>th</sup> June 2020



St Nicolas  
NEWBURY

Being Good News. Bringing Good News.

*(Please use these prayers in whatever way is helpful for you, whether you follow them through as a service or pick out the sections which best help you to engage with our living God.)*

God of our days and years,  
we set this time apart for you.  
Form us in the likeness of Christ  
so that our lives may glorify you.

## PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Jesus, Lord of light and darkness,  
Find us in the darkness, find us in the light.

Jesus, Lord of work and stillness,  
Make our work of worth, make our stillness yours.

Jesus, Lord of our past and future,  
Cover our anxiety with love, cover our hopes with grace.

Jesus, Lord of everything,  
Fill those who have nothing, fill us with the right longing.

Jesus, we are your people,  
In darkness and light, in work and stillness,  
In anxiety and hope, having nothing,  
Yet possessing everything. Amen.

## PSALM 36

I have a message from God in my heart  
concerning the sinfulness of the wicked:  
There is no fear of God  
before their eyes.

In their own eyes they flatter themselves  
too much to detect or hate their sin.  
The words of their mouths are wicked and deceitful;  
they fail to act wisely or do good.  
Even on their beds they plot evil;  
they commit themselves to a sinful course  
and do not reject what is wrong.

Your love, LORD, reaches to the heavens,  
your faithfulness to the skies.  
Your righteousness is like the highest mountains,  
your justice like the great deep.  
You, LORD, preserve both people and animals.  
How priceless is your unfailing love, O God!  
People take refuge in the shadow of your wings.  
They feast in the abundance of your house;  
you give them drink from your river of delights.  
For with you is the fountain of life;  
in your light we see light.

Continue your love to those who know you,  
your righteousness to the upright in heart.  
May the foot of the proud not come against me,  
nor the hand of the wicked drive me away.  
See how the evildoers lie fallen –  
thrown down, not able to rise!

### **CONFESSION (by Hughes Oliphant Old)**

Holy God, Father most gracious!  
Rebuke us not in your anger, nor chasten us in your wrath!  
Heal us from our sin, for we are troubled.  
Deliver us for the sake of your steadfast love.  
Our sins trouble us, O God.  
We are troubled by how they have hurt others.  
We are troubled by how they have hurt us.  
Your ways are right! O righteous God!  
And whenever we have refused to follow them  
we have found out how right they are.  
Have mercy on us, O God. Amen

## BIBLE PASSAGE

To listen to Joy Mawdesley's sermon on this passage [click here](#).

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION** written by Marcia Wadham.

*(There is an alternative prayer activity on page 5 of this booklet)*

Father God

We thank you that you are a God of love, and that you love us perfectly, even when we don't love you or others as we should.

We pray for the brokenness we see in our world. We lift before you the people of America, and we ask that you will bring peace to the streets there. We ask for wise and compassionate leadership as tensions mount around both lockdown measures and race relations. We ask for justice, not revenge. We ask for love where there is hatred.

*But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream! (Amos 5:24)*

We pray for all those nations where lockdowns are being lifted. We pray for those in authority, and for those advising governments. We ask for wise decisions and clear communication. We pray for those struggling to live under lockdown rules; those who are isolated, lonely, and whose mental health is being affected. Give them peace and may they know your loving presence with them as they persevere. Help us to find ways to show your love to people, that their burdens may be eased.

*The wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. (James 3:17)*

We pray for the church as lockdown is lifted. Give wisdom to those planning a return to meeting in church buildings, both at national and local levels. We pray for a return that is safe, that will not leave people out, and that will meet the needs of those who know you and those who don't know you but are seeking your comfort at this time. Grant our leaders creativity, and grant them strength to keep going. Help them to find true rest in you.

*Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. (Matthew 11:28)*

And we pray for ourselves. Help us to love one another with the love you have shown to us. Help us to be more like Jesus, as we grow in love for you and for other people.

We pray that we will walk more closely with you each day, and that our love for you will shine through us. May people see something of you in us, as we seek to demonstrate your sacrificial love in real and practical ways.

*A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another. (John 13:34-35)*

All these things we ask in Jesus' name.

Amen

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and forever. Amen.

## **THE GRACE**

May the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.

## ALTERNATIVE PRAYER ACTIVITY



### Fruit that will last

We are starting a sermon series on the Fruit of the Spirit, from Galatians 5: 22-23

*The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.*

As we start on this series, reflect on the following questions:

Why would Paul use the word 'fruit' instead of 'acts'?

Why does Paul talk about 'fruit' (singular) instead of 'fruits' (plural)?

Write down each of the fruit listed, and try to define each of them.

Compare your definition with a dictionary definition.

How do you think the Bible defines each of them?

How has your view of 'love' been changed in the light of today's sermon?