

SUNDAY PRAYERS

28th June 2020



(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.)

Loving God, we have come to worship you.
Help us to pray to you in faith,
to sing your praise with gratitude,
and to listen to your word with eagerness;
through Christ our Lord.

PRAYER FOR THE DAY

For the joy of your presence
Changing and renewing us
Day by day,
We offer you our praise.
For the blessing you bring us,
The outpouring of your love
Day by day,
We offer you our praise.
For peace beyond understanding,
Blesséd assurance
Day by day
We offer you our praise.
For the Word that endures,
Teaches and challenges,
Generation to generation,
We offer you our praise.

MICAH 4:1-5

In the last days
the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established
as the highest of the mountains;
it will be exalted above the hills,
and peoples will stream to it.

Many nations will come and say,
“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the temple of the God of Jacob.
He will teach us his ways,
so that we may walk in his paths.”
The law will go out from Zion,
the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
He will judge between many peoples
and will settle disputes for strong nations far and wide.
They will beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks.
Nation will not take up sword against nation,
nor will they train for war anymore.
Everyone will sit under their own vine
and under their own fig tree,
and no one will make them afraid,
for the LORD Almighty has spoken.
All the nations may walk
in the name of their gods,
but we will walk in the name of the LORD
our God for ever and ever.

CONFESSION

God of all ages,
who from generation to generation
has heard the cries of your children
humbly seeking forgiveness,
and has welcomed sinners
back into your embrace,
hear the thoughts of our hearts,
examine our motives,
and forgive us our faults.
We ask this through your Son
who died and rose that we might know
the true cost of forgiveness.

JAMES 5:7-12

Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy. Above all, my brothers and sisters, do not swear—not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. All you need to say is a simple "Yes" or "No." Otherwise you will be condemned.

To listen to Will Hunter Smart's sermon on this passage [click here](#).

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION written by Dawn Aldridge.

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

Gracious and loving heavenly Father

We thank you for the gift of this day, and for bringing us together today, creator and sustainer of our faith. Thank you for sustaining us through this difficult time of loss and sadness, where so many have lost their lives, leaving grieving relatives to mourn their loss – so many of them must be wondering why. Life indeed is very precious, and we lift the remaining loved ones up to you Father – healer, restorer and comforter.

Lord, your word tells us that you are strong and mighty and able to save, and that you long to draw others to yourself. You are the rock on whom we can depend, and the hope that the world needs at this time. Give us eyes and ears to listen to the friends, family and neighbours that surround us, who do not yet know you for themselves. Help us to shine like stars in a world where so many do not yet know you, and to connect with so many groups of people in our daily lives, even if only in small ways. May they see something different in us, both in what they say and in how we interact with them and others.

May your Spirit strengthen each one of us in our innermost beings as we go about our daily lives at this time. We pray particularly today for any who are experiencing relationship problems, illness of any kind, and any who have lost loved ones during this time. We pray for children whose lives have been disrupted, from the youngest to the school leavers preparing to start university. We pray also for the number of

people who have been made redundant. Father, wrap them in the blanket of your love. May they feel your tender care and your loving arms around them.

We pray that you will continue to protect the health and well-being of our leadership team and their families, together with all the members of St Nicolas' congregation.

We pray for the wider world – for all who have suffered from the virus as well as the plagues of locusts that have devastated so much of Africa. May we not forget this continent. We pray for the situation in Hong Kong during this period of transition. We pray that you will give strength to the citizens there, and that an equitable solution will be found to prevent a recurrence of the previous violence.

Finally, Father, strengthen each one of us in our innermost beings. Help us to walk closely with you day by day as we try to return to some kind of normal life over the next few weeks. Fill us with the assurance that you will bring us through this, because we know that you care deeply for each one of us, and you are willing and able to meet each of our needs.

We ask these prayers in the precious name of Jesus.
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

Are you able to think back on times where you have had to exercise patience in your life or your faith?

What has this looked like?

How successful were you at being patient?

What was the end result?

Where in your life and faith do you need to exercise patience now?

How can you turn this waiting into a positive experience with God?

Where in your life have other people had to be patient with you?

How and when have you experienced God being patient with you?

Say sorry to God for these times, and ask him to help you to be patient in the situations you are facing.