

SAFFRON WALDEN AND VILLAGES TEAM MINISTRY PRAYERS FOR SUNDAYS 11, 18 AND 25 OCTOBER 2020

This prayer sheet is now in a slightly different format, specially designed for those who are praying at home during this time of Coronavirus. It covers three consecutive weeks in October, with readings and suggested hymns for each. Text of the readings will be set out in the Grapevine, which will be sent round each week as usual. We hope that it will continue to connect you to the rhythm of our worship together.

Our readings over these weeks urge us to remain firm in our faith. Sometimes this may involve us in hard choices – but we know that God has chosen each one of us and will give us the strength we need.

You might like to light a candle, symbolising Jesus as the Light of the World: and to say the prayers and readings out loud. Remember that even if you are by yourself at home, you are still part of God's Church, praying across the world.

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: see pages 5-8.*

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, heavenly Father, for the privilege of joining in prayer with others across our town and villages, knowing that - even if we cannot see each other - we are all part of your Church and that you love and care for us all. 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.

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 living as if we were ashamed to belong to your Son:

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

Thanks be to God for his endless grace.

Readings *We now follow the readings on the Grapevine:*

Collect (the special prayer for each Sunday)

October 11:

First Reading: St Paul's Letter to the Philippians, Chapter 4, v 1-9

Gospel: St Matthew, Chapter 22, verses 1-14

October 18:

First Reading: St Paul's 1st Letter to the Thessalonians, Ch 1, verses 1-10

Gospel: St Matthew, Chapter 22, verses 15-22

October 25:

First Reading: St Paul's 1st Letter to the Thessalonians, Ch 2, verses 1-8

Gospel: St Matthew, Chapter 22, verses 34-46

Reflection

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

You may like to base your own prayers around the themes below: feel free to expand and to use your own words

Father, we thank you for the inspiration of today's readings: for the work of St Paul who brought the good news of Jesus Christ to so many countries, and for St Matthew whose Gospel brings us so close to the life and teachings of Jesus. Help us to listen to your Word, and to live it out in our daily lives.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We pray for your Church throughout the world. We ask your blessing and strength for Christians who are persecuted; for our Archbishops and Bishops; and for all the people and communities and churches of this Saffron Walden and Villages Team Ministry. Give your wisdom to all those involved in choosing a new Team Rector, and give us all your inspiration to live and love as you love us.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We pray for your world, and for all who seek to support the lives of their neighbours. We pray that all governments may lead their people with responsibility and integrity: remembering especially the United States as it approaches the Presidential Election and our own Government. Give strength to the hungry; the lonely; and all whose lives lack joy.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We pray for all those suffering from COVID-19, wherever they may be: all who cannot meet their families and loved ones; all whose education or employment is affected by restrictions. Support all doctors, nurses and carers, and inspire all medical researchers. Help us to be responsible, to protect and 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 the body of Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body. Let us then pursue all that makes for peace, and build up our common life. 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.

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: see pages 5-8.

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.**

SUGGESTED HYMNS

SUNDAY 11 OCTOBER

1. Rejoice, O land, in God thy might,
his will obey, him serve aright;
For thee the saints uplift their voice:
Fear not, O land, in God rejoice.

2. Glad shalt thou be, with blessing crowned,
With joy and peace thou shalt abound;
Yea, Love with thee shall make his home
Until thou see God's kingdom come.

3. He shall forgive thy sins untold:
Remember thou his love of old;
Walk in his way, his word adore,
And keep his truth for evermore.

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1 Faithful Shepherd, feed me
in the pastures green;
faithful Shepherd, lead me
where thy steps are seen.

2 Hold me fast, and guide me
in the narrow way;
so, with thee beside me,
I shall never stray.

3 Daily bring me nearer
to the heav'nly shore;
may my faith grow clearer,
may I love thee more:

4 Hallow ev'ry pleasure,
ev'ry gift and pain;
be thyself my treasure,
though none else I gain.

5 Day by day prepare me
as thou seest best,
then let angels bear me
to thy promised rest.

SUNDAY 18 OCTOBER

Glorious things of thee are spoken,
Zion, city of our God.
He whose Word cannot be broken
formed thee for His own abode.
On the Rock of Ages founded,
what can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded,
thou may'st smile at all thy foes.

See, the streams of living waters,
springing from eternal love,
well supply thy sons and daughters
and all fear of want remove.
Who can faint while such a river
ever flows their thirst to assuage?
Grace, which like the Lord, the Giver,
never fails from age to age.

Saviour, since of Zion's city
I through grace a member am,
let the world deride or pity,
I will glory in Thy name.
Fading is the worldling's pleasure,
all its boasted pomp and show;
solid joys and lasting treasures
none but Zion's children know.

Take my life and let it be
consecrated, Lord, to thee.
Take my moments and my days,
let them flow in endless praise.

Take my hands, and let them move
at the impulse of thy love;
Take my feet, and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice, and let me sing
always, only, for my King;
Take my lips and let them be
filled with messages from thee.

Take my silver and my gold;
not a mite would I withhold;
Take my intellect, and use
ev'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

Take my will and make it thine:
it shall be no longer mine;
Take my heart: it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
Take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

SUNDAY 25 OCTOBER

Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing,
"My God and King!"
The heav'ns are not too high,
his praise may thither fly;
the earth is not too low,
his praises there may grow.
Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing,
"My God and King!"

Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing,
"My God and King!"
The church with psalms must shout:
no door can keep them out.
But, above all, the heart
must bear the longest part.
Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing,
"My God and King!"

1 Lord, thy word abideth,
and our footsteps guideth;
who its truth believeth
light and joy receiveth.

2 When our foes are near us,
then thy word doth cheer us,
word of consolation,
message of salvation.

3 When the storms are o'er us,
and dark clouds before us,
then its light directeth,
and our way protecteth.

4 Who can tell the pleasure,
who recount the treasure
by thy word imparted
to the simple-hearted?

5 Word of mercy, giving
succour to the living;
word of life, supplying
comfort to the dying.

6 O that we discerning
its most holy learning,
Lord, may love and fear thee,
evermore be near thee.