

SAFFRON WALDEN AND VILLAGES TEAM MINISTRY PRAYERS FOR SUNDAYS 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd November 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 services in November prior to the last Sunday (which will be the first Sunday in Advent), 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. 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.

This season marks the end – or culmination – of the Church's year, and is sometimes called the Kingdom Season since our minds turn to the end things and the coming of God's kingdom. We start by remembering the saints, then proceed through Remembrance Sunday and end with the feast of Christ the King. Many churches use red vestments and altar frontals for these Sundays.

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 5-12.*

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

Christ calls us to share the heavenly banquet of his love with all the saints in earth and heaven. Knowing our unworthiness and sin, let us ask from him both mercy and forgiveness.

Lord, you are gracious and compassionate

Lord have mercy *Lord have mercy*

You are loving to all and your mercy is over all your creation:

Christ have mercy *Christ have mercy*

Your faithful servants bless your name and speak of the glory of your kingdom:

Lord have mercy *Lord have mercy*

Hearing God's forgiveness

May God our Father forgive us our sins and bring us to the eternal joy of his kingdom, where dust and ashes have no dominion. **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)

November 1st (All Saints Day):

First Reading: 1st letter of John, Chapter 3, verses 1-3

Gospel: St Matthew, Chapter 5, verses 1-12

November 8th (Remembrance Sunday):

First Reading: St Paul's 1st Letter to the Thessalonians, Ch 4, verses 13- end

Gospel: St Matthew, Chapter 25, verses 1-13

November 15th:

First Reading: St Paul's 1st Letter to the Thessalonians, Ch 5, verses 1-11

Gospel: St Matthew, Chapter 25, verses 14 - 30

November 22nd (Christ the King):

First Reading: St Paul's Letter to the Ephesians, Ch 1, verses 15 - end

Gospel: St Matthew, Chapter 25, verses 31- end

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 those who have gone before us in faith and for the promise of your Kingdom. Help us to work together as your body that your kingdom may come on earth as it is in heaven
Lord, in your mercy ***Hear our prayer***

We pray for your Church throughout the world, especially in those places where Christians face hardship or persecution. We pray for all the people, communities and churches of this Saffron Walden and Villages Team Ministry, and for our Bishops. Give us all strength and wisdom as we seek to show your love,
Lord, in your mercy ***Hear our prayer***

We pray for your world; for all world leaders; and for peace. We remember with love and thanksgiving all who have inspired us; all those whose love has touched and strengthened us; all who sacrificed their lives in war in the hope of lasting peace. As we mourn their passing, give us grace to trust that they are safe in your kingdom: and give us courage to live as your children of peace.
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

May the God of peace sanctify you,
may he so strengthen your heart in holiness that you may be blameless
before him at the coming of our Lord Jesus with his saints.
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 5-12.

May Christ our King make us faithful and strong to do his will, that we may
reign with him in glory, and may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the
Son, and Holy Spirit, be with us all now and evermore.

Following God's saints in the way of holiness and truth,
may we go in the peace of Christ, to love and serve him.

Thanks be to God

SUGGESTED HYMNS

SUNDAY 1st November

1. For all the saints, who from their labours rest,
who thee by faith before the world confessed,
thy Name, O Jesus, be forever blessed.

Alleluia, Alleluia!

2. Thou wast their Rock, their Fortress and their Might;
thou, Lord, their Captain in the well fought fight;
thou, in the darkness drear, their one true Light.

Alleluia, Alleluia!

3. O may thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,
fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,
and win, with them the victor's crown of gold.

Alleluia, Alleluia!

4. And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,
steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
and hearts are brave, again, and arms are strong.

Alleluia, Alleluia!

5. The golden evening brightens in the west;
soon, soon to faithful warriors comes their rest;
sweet is the calm of paradise the blessed.

Alleluia, Alleluia!

6. But lo! there breaks a yet more glorious day;
the saints triumphant rise in bright array;
the King of glory passes on his way.

Alleluia, Alleluia!

7. From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
and singing to Father, Son and Holy Ghost:

Alleluia, Alleluia!

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1. Ye servants of the Lord
each for his coming wait
observant of his heav'nly word
and watchful at his gate.

2. Let all your lamps be bright,
and trim the golden flame;
gird up your loins as in his sight,
for awesome is his name.

3. Watch! tis your Lord's command,
and while we speak, he's near;
mark the first signal of his hand,
and ready all appear.

4. O happy servants they,
in such a posture found,
who share their Saviour's triumph day,
with joy and honour crowned.

5. Christ shall the banquet spread
with his own royal hand,
and raise each faithful servant's head
amid th'angelic band.

SUNDAY 8th November

1. All people that on earth do dwell
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
him serve with fear, his praise forth tell,
come ye before him and rejoice.

2. The Lord, ye know, is God indeed,
without our aid he did us make;
we are his folk, he doth us feed,
and for his sheep he doth us take.

3. O enter then his gates with praise,
approach with joy his courts unto;
praise, laud and bless his name always,
for it is seemly so to do.

4. For why, the Lord our God is good:
his mercy is for ever sure;
his truth at all times firmly stood,
and shall from age to age endure.

5. To Father, Son and Holy Ghost,
the God whom heav'n and earth adore,
from us and from the angel-host
be praise and glory evermore.

1. For the healing of the nations,
Lord, we pray with one accord;
for a just and equal sharing
of the things that earth affords.
To a life of love in action
help us rise and pledge our word.

2. Lead us, Father, into freedom,
from despair your world release;
that, redeemed from war and hatred,
all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness
fear will die and hope increase

3. All that kills abundant living,
let it from the earth be banned;
pride of status, race and schooling,
dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice
may we hallow life's brief span

4. You, creator-God, have written
your great name on humankind;
for our growing in your likeness,
bring the life of Christ to mind;
that by our response and service
earth its destiny may find.

SUNDAY 15th November

1. Thy Kingdom come, O God,
thy rule, O Christ, begin;
break with thine iron rod
the tyrannies of sin.

2. Where is thy reign of peace
and purity and love?
when shall all hatred cease,
as in the realms above?

3. When comes the promised time
that war shall be no more,
and lust, oppression, crime
shall flee thy face before?

4. We pray thee, Lord, arise
and come in thy great might;
revive our longing eyes,
which languish for thy sight.

5. Some scorn thy sacred name,
and wolves devour thy fold;
by many deeds of shame,
we learn that love grows cold.

6. O'er lands both near and far
thick darkness broodeth yet:
arise, O morning star,
arise and never set.

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1. Forth in thy name, O Lord, I go
my daily labours to pursue;
thee, only thee, resolved to know,
in all I think or speak or do.

2. The task thy wisdom hath assigned
O let me cheerfully fulfill;
in all my works thy presence find
and prove thy good and perfect will.

3. Thee may I set at my right hand,
whose eyes my inmost substance see,
and labour on at thy command,
and offer all my works to thee.

4. Give me to bear thy easy yoke,
and ev'ry moment watch and pray,
and still to things eternal look,
and hasten to thy glorious day.

5. For thee delightfully employ
whate'er thy bounteous grace hath giv'n,
and run my course with even joy,
and closely walk with thee to heav'n.

SUNDAY 22nd November

1. Crown Him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon His throne.
Hark! How the heavenly anthem drowns
all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing
of Him who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless King
through all eternity.

2. Crown Him the Lord of love,
behold His hands and side,
whose wounds, yet visible above,
in beauty glorified.
No angel in the sky
can fully bear that sight,
But downward bends his burning eye
at mysteries so bright.

3. Crown Him the Lord of years,
the Potentate of time,
Creator of the rolling spheres,
ineffably sublime.
All hail, Redeemer, hail!
For Thou has died for me;
Thy praise and glory shall not fail
throughout eternity.

1. Christ Triumphant, ever reigning,
Saviour, Master, King,
Lord of heav'n, our lives sustaining,
hear us as we sing:

*Yours the glory and the crown,
the high renown, the eternal name.*

2. Word incarnate, truth revealing,
Son of Man on earth!
Pow'r and majesty concealing
by your humble birth:

3. Suff'ring servant, scorned, ill-treated,
victim crucified!
Death is through the cross defeated,
sinners justified:

4. Priestly King, enthroned for ever
high in heav'n above
Sin and death and hell shall never
stifle hymns of love:

5. So, our hearts and voices raising
through the ages long,
ceaselessly upon you gazing,
this shall be our song:

*Yours the glory and the crown,
the high renown, the eternal name.*