

SAFFRON WALDEN AND VILLAGES TEAM MINISTRY HYMNS AND PRAYERS FOR SUNDAYS 7 AND 14 FEBRUARY

This prayer sheet is specially designed for those who are praying at home during this time of Coronavirus, and also forms the framework for some services livestreamed from our churches. It covers services for the first two weeks of February, with readings and suggested hymns for each week.

The text of the readings will be set out in the Grapevine, which will be sent round each week as usual. We hope that this sheet 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.

These two weeks are what is known as 'Ordinary Time', between the season of Epiphany and the start of Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday on 17 February. In these weeks, we think of the wonder and glory of Jesus Christ, before we prepare to walk with him on the hard and painful way to the cross – but knowing that those painful steps will lead him, and us, to the joy of Easter.

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 your Son, Jesus the image of the invisible God and the Word made flesh, who showed us the wonder of your eternal glory in human form. 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 wilfully misused your gifts of creation:

Lord have mercy *Lord, have mercy.*

We have seen the ill-treatment of others, and have not gone to their aid:

Christ have mercy *Christ have mercy*

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

Lord have mercy *Lord have mercy*

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)

February 7 (2nd Sunday before Lent):

First Reading: Colossians 1:15-20; Gospel: John 1:1-14

February 14 (Sunday before Lent):

First Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Gospel: Mark 9:2-9

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 know that you are above all things and in all things. Your wonder is beyond our understanding; and yet you sent Jesus your Son to live among us, as the Word Incarnate who revealed to us the image of your glory. We thank you for your goodness, and pray that we may always trust in you.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We pray for your creation; for this world in which you have set us; and thank you for the joys of the seasons and the first signs of spring. We pray for all farmers who work to till the earth: all who sow the seed which will grow so wonderfully to bring us food. Give us, we pray, respect for all your creation, and help us to care for this planet, living sustainably and safeguarding its resources.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We pray for your Church throughout the world, remembering especially those who are persecuted for their faith; and all those who miss worshipping together in church. Keep us strong in our faith at this time of uncertainty. We pray for all the people, communities and churches of this Saffron Walden and Villages Team Ministry, and for our Bishops, remembering Bishop Guli. We pray for Jeremy and Alison as they leave familiar people and places and prepare to join us here.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We pray for your world; for all world leaders facing difficult decisions; and for peace. We long for conflict to cease and for fairness and understanding between nations. Save us from the selfishness which ignores the needs of others far away: and help us to live out our responsibility as members of your global family.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We pray for your strength in the continuing uncertainty of life under COVID, and pray for all living under the restrictions, especially those whose livelihoods and education are affected. We pray for all who mourn loved ones; all suffering from COVID, especially in places where medical resources are few; and all who are anxious. We thank you for the dedication of all medical staff and key workers, and for all who develop and administer vaccines.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

SUGGESTED HYMNS

SUNDAY 7 FEBRUARY

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,
naught be all else to me save that thou art;
thou my best thought in the day and the night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,
I ever with thee, and thou with me Lord;
thou my great Father, and I thy true heir;
thou in me dwelling, and I in thy care.

Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight,
be thou my armour, and be thou my might;
thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tow'r:
raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.

High King of heaven, when battle is done,
grant heaven's joy to me, O bright heav'n's sun;
Christ of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Christ triumphant, ever reigning,
Saviour, Master, King!
Lord of heaven, our lives sustaining,
hear us as we sing:
*Yours the glory and the crown,
the high renown, the eternal name.*

Word incarnate, truth revealing,
Son of Man on earth!
power and majesty concealing
by your humble birth:
Yours the glory...

Priestly king, enthroned for ever
high in heaven above!
sin and death and hell shall never
stifle hymns of love:
Yours the glory...

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

SUNDAY 14 FEBRUARY

Christ, whose glory fills the skies,
Christ, the true, the only Light,
Sun of Righteousness, arise,
Triumph o'er the shades of night;
Dayspring from on high, be near,
Daystar, in my heart appear.

Dark and cheerless is the morn
Unaccompanied by Thee;
Joyless is the day's return,
Till Thy mercy's beams I see,
Till they inward light impart,
Glad my eyes, and warm my heart.

Visit then this soul of mine,
Pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
Fill me, Radiancy divine,
Scatter all my unbelief;
More and more Thyself display,
Shining to the perfect day.

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Lord Jesus Christ,
you have come to us,
you are one with us,
Mary's Son.
Cleansing our souls from all their sin,
pouring your love and goodness in;
Jesus, our love for you we sing,
living Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ,
now and every day
teach us how to pray,
Son of God.

You have commanded us to do
this in remembrance, Lord, of you:
into our lives your power breaks through,
living Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ,
you have come to us,
born as one of us,
Mary's Son.
Led out to die on Calvary,
risen from death to set us free,
living Lord Jesus, help us see
you are Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ,
I would come to you,
live my life for you,
Son of God.
All your commands I know are true,
your many gifts will make me new,
into my life your power breaks through,
living Lord.