

Online Service of Daily Night Prayer



Some words by Revd Dr Sam Wells – Vicar of St Martin in the Fields

We come to church each Sunday, we pray and read our Bibles through the week, to prepare ourselves. Jesus grew up in Nazareth, travelled around Galilee to prepare himself for Jerusalem. In Jerusalem people discovered who he truly was, and what his words and actions really entailed. We've spent decades, many of us, preparing we knew not what for. Well, now we know. This is the moment when the world finds out whether being a Christian makes any difference or not.

In Britain, we say pray for a sunny day, but take an umbrella. I'm not saying in the face of the virus we don't take sensible steps. We must follow public health advice. We do so not because others are a danger to us, but because we might, directly or indirectly, be a danger to them. We're a community defined not by fear but by trust, not by scarcity but by plenty, not by anxiety but by communion. It's time to show our true colours.

This is the time to find ways to overcome isolation that don't involve touch. We have this opportunity to explore the hinterland of the word with, that doesn't always involve physical presence, but still means solidarity and kindness, generosity and love. We will limit our contact to protect the most vulnerable, but we still need to proclaim that there's something more infectious than coronavirus – and that's joy and peace, faithfulness and gentleness.

It was in its most bewildered hour that Israel in exile found who God truly was. This is our chance to discover what God being with us really means. None of us would for a moment have wished this crisis on anybody, let alone the whole world. But our faith teaches us that we only get to see resurrection through crucifixion; that we see God most clearly in our darkest hour.

Remember what Isaiah tells us. You shall cross the barren desert; but you shall not die of thirst. You shall wander far in safety – though you do not know the way. If you pass through raging waters in the sea, you shall not drown. If you walk amid the burning flames, you shall not be harmed. If you stand before the power of hell and death is at your side, know that I am with you through it all. Be not afraid, says our God. I am with you like never before.

This is our faith.

Please do use this service as part of your daily devotion at home.

Please regularly check the St Margaret's Lee FaceBook page and Website for daily prayers and updates.

Night Prayer

You may wish to light a candle and have some reflective music playing in the background.

The eternal God is your refuge, and
underneath are the everlasting arms.

Deuteronomy 33.27

Opening Sentences

The Lord almighty grant us a quiet night and a perfect end. **Amen.**

Our help is in the name of the Lord
who made heaven and earth.

Pause and reflect on the day that is past.

Save us, O Lord, while waking,
and guard us while sleeping, that
awake we may watch with Christ
and asleep may rest in peace.

You may wish to say here the psalm given below, or Psalm 27, or another chosen psalm.

Psalm 91

- 1 Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High
 ◆ and abides under the shadow of the
 Almighty,
- 2 Shall say to the Lord, 'My refuge and my
 stronghold, ◆ my God, in whom I put my trust.'
- 3 For he shall deliver you from the snare of the
 fowler ◆ and from the deadly pestilence.
- 4 He shall cover you with his wings and you shall
 be safe under his feathers; ◆ his faithfulness
 shall be your shield and buckler.

- 5 You shall not be afraid of any terror by night, ♦
nor of the arrow that flies by day;
- 6 Of the pestilence that stalks in darkness, ♦ nor
of the sickness that destroys at noonday.
- 7 Though a thousand fall at your side and ten
thousand at your right hand, ♦ yet it shall not
come near you.
- 8 Your eyes have only to behold ♦ to see the
reward of the wicked.
- 9 Because you have made the Lord your refuge
♦ and the Most High your stronghold,
- 10 There shall no evil happen to you, ♦ neither
shall any plague come near your tent.
- 11 For he shall give his angels charge over you, ♦
to keep you in all your ways.
- 12 They shall bear you in their hands, ♦ lest you
dash your foot against a stone.
- 13 You shall tread upon the lion and adder; ♦ the
young lion and the serpent you shall trample
underfoot.
- 14 Because they have set their love upon me,
therefore will I deliver them; ♦
I will lift them up, because they know my name.
- 15 They will call upon me and I will answer them;
♦ I am with them in trouble,
I will deliver them and bring them to honour.
- 16 With long life will I satisfy them ♦ and show
them my salvation.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Bible Reading

You may wish to use one of the following short readings or choose a passage of your own.

Sunday Evening

You, O Lord, are in the midst of us, and we are called by your name; leave us not, O Lord our God.

Jeremiah 14.9

Monday Evening

Thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel: In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength.

Isaiah 30.15

Tuesday Evening

Jesus said, 'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Matthew 11.28-end

Wednesday Evening

Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you.

1 Peter 5.6,7

Thursday Evening

Jesus said, 'I have said this to you, so that in me you may have peace. In the world you face persecution. But take courage; I have conquered the world!'

John 16.33

Friday Evening

God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him.

1 Thessalonians 5.9,10

Saturday Evening

Jesus said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.'

John 8.12

Prayers

Please pray your own intercessions and then please feel free to use these two prayers

Merciful God,
we entrust to your unfailing and tender care this night
those who are ill or in pain, knowing that
whenever danger threatens your everlasting
arms are there to hold us safe. Comfort and
heal them and restore them to health and
strength; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Be present, O merciful God,
and protect us through the silent hours of this night,
so that we who are wearied
by the changes and chances of this fleeting
world, may rest upon your eternal
changelessness; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Visit this place, O Lord, we pray, and drive
far from it the snares of the enemy; may
your holy angels' dwell with us in peace,
and may your blessing be always upon
us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

The Conclusion

In peace we will lie down and sleep;
for you alone, Lord, make us dwell in safety.

The Lord bless us and watch over us;
The Lord make his face to shine upon us and be gracious to
us; The Lord look kindly upon us and give us peace. **Amen.**

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