

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

This service is to be used alongside the daily online Night Prayer found on the St Margaret's Lee Facebook page.

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.**

Keep me as the apple of your eye
**Hide me under the shadow of your
wings.**

We say together the appointed psalm which concludes with the Gloria

**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

We listen to the appointed Scripture reading for the day

Prayers

Please share your own intercessions in the comments column. Our prayers will conclude with or more of the following 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.

Abide with us, Lord Jesus,
**For the night is at hand and the day is now
past.**

As the night watch looks for the morning,
So do we look for you, O Christ.

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.

The Service now ends with a recording of the Nunc Dimittis