

Service of Daily Morning 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.

The Rector will be saying this on **FaceBook live** each morning at 9am. Please feel free to join him with others from our congregation so that we can enjoy our worship together and support one another.

To participate, please sign up to **FaceBook** online or download the app and 'friend' St Margarets Lee.

Please regularly check the FaceBook page and Website for daily prayers and updates.

Morning Prayer

This service is to be used alongside the daily online Morning 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.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Colossians 3.16,17

Opening Sentences

O Lord open our lips
**and our mouth shall proclaim your
praise.**

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us; let us pray with one heart and mind.

Pause for reflection as you offer the day to God.

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day, so may the light of your presence, O God, set our hearts on fire with love for you; now and for ever. **Amen.**

Psalm

We share in the appointed psalm of the day.

Bible Reading

We share in the appointed Bible reading of the day.

Prayers

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

Almighty and everlasting God,
we thank you that you have brought us safely
to the beginning of this day. Keep us from
falling into sin or running into danger; order us
in all our doings and guide us to do always

what is righteous in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy in this time of uncertainty and distress. Sustain and support the anxious and fearful, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may rejoice in your comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus 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

The Lord bless us, and preserve us from all evil, and keep us in eternal life.

Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Materials in this booklet are drawn from *Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England*, *Common Worship: Pastoral Services*, and *Common Worship: Daily Prayer*, all of which are copyright © The Archbishops' Council of the Church of England.