

SAFFRON WALDEN AND VILLAGES TEAM MINISTRY

PRAYERS FOR SUNDAY 14 JUNE 2020 (TRINITY 1)

*Since Advent, we have followed Jesus's life, death and resurrection: and have celebrated his Ascension, the coming of the Spirit at Pentecost, and the wonder of God as Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. In this second half of the Christian year, the focus changes to our own lives: our readings and prayers challenge us to think how **we** can follow the way of Jesus Christ. Today's themes are endurance and going out to do his work in the world – perhaps very appropriate as we hope that we may gradually come out of lockdown! You might like to light a candle at home while you use this leaflet, symbolising Jesus as the Light of the World: and to say the prayers and readings out loud.*

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:*

Father, hear the prayer we offer:
not for ease that prayer shall be,
but for strength, that we may ever
live our lives courageously.

Not for ever by still waters
would we idly rest and stay;
but would smite the living fountains
from the rocks along our way.

Not for ever in green pastures
do we ask our way to be;
but the steep and rugged pathway
may we tread rejoicingly.

Be our strength in hours of
weakness,
in our wand'rings be our Guide;
through endeavour, failure, danger,
Father, be thou at our side.

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, Father, for giving us strength and courage to do your work in your world. 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 heard the good news of Christ, but failed to share it with others:

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.**

Gloria *As God's forgiven people, we say together in thanksgiving*

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

Readings *We now follow the readings on the Grapevine:*

Collect (the special prayer for today)

First Reading: St Paul's Letter to the Romans Chapter 5, verses 1-8

Gospel: St Matthew's Gospel, Chapter 9, verse 35 - Chapter 10 verse 8

Reflection *If you are using this prayer sheet privately, 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

Father of all, we pray for your world, and for all its peoples in all countries. Help us to value every human being, knowing that each one is made in your image, and help us bring justice where your love has not been known. Give wisdom and integrity to all leaders of nations, and inspire them to safeguard their people.

Lord, in your mercy ***Hear our prayer***

We pray for your Church throughout the world, and in this Team Ministry of Saffron Walden and its villages. We ask for your blessing on those choosing the

next Bishop of Chelmsford, and the process for appointing a new Team Rector. Give us the vision to live as your people, and give us your energy as we prepare for the day when we may worship again in our churches. May we, like your apostles, be strong to proclaim your good news: and we thank you for all those down the centuries who have brought the faith to us.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

As the coronavirus continues to affect all our lives, we hold before you all who have suffered from it; all who are lonely or anxious or fearful or dying; all whose lives have been changed and have lost loved ones. We pray for all hospital staff and carers combating the virus, all those working to find a vaccine and a cure, and all key workers and volunteers; for teachers and students at schools and universities; and for all whose livelihood has been threatened by the lockdown.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We pray for our communities in town and villages. We thank you for the many acts of kindness we have each experienced from others; and pray that we too may be a blessing to others. We hold before you our families, friends and neighbours, especially those in need of any kind and those we cannot visit, and name them before you in the silence of our hearts Hold them always in your loving embrace, 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

We are the body of Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body. Let us then pursue all that makes for peace and builds up our common life. 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.

If you are joining the Eucharist celebrated live via Zoom, do follow the priest saying the Eucharistic prayer, with the standard responses. While only the priest can physically receive the consecrated bread and wine, all will be invited to say this prayer of Spiritual Communion, inviting Jesus to enter your deepest being.

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

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:

All my hope on God is founded;
He doth still my trust renew.
Me through change and chance he
guideth,
Only good and only true.
God unknown, he alone
Calls my heart to be his own.

God's great goodness aye endureth,
Deep his wisdom, passing thought:
Splendour, light, and life attend him,
Beauty springeth out of naught.
Evermore, from his store
New-born worlds rise and adore.

Human pride and earthly glory,
Sword and crown betray his trust;
What with care and toil he buildeth,
Tower and temple, fall to dust.
But God's power, hour by hour,
Is my temple and my tower.

Still from earth to God eternal
Sacrifice of praise be done,
High above all praises praising
For the gift of Christ his Son.
Christ doth call one and all:
Ye who follow shall not fall.

May the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit, be with us all now and evermore: and may we go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

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