

## A Time of Prayer Together: WE ARE NEVER ALONE

### Opening Words (from Psalm 46)

God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.  
Therefore we will not fear,  
though the earth should change,  
though the mountains shake in the heart of  
the sea...

‘Be still, and know that I am God!  
I am exalted among the nations,  
I am exalted in the earth.’  
The LORD of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

### Canticle

Jesus, Saviour of the world,  
come to us in your mercy:  
*we look to you to save and help us.*  
By your cross and your life laid down,  
you set your people free:  
*we look to you to save and help us.*  
When they were ready to perish,  
you saved your disciples:  
*we look to you to come to our help.*  
In the greatness of your mercy,  
loose us from our chains,  
*forgive the sins of all your people.*  
Make yourself known to us  
as our Saviour and mighty deliverer;  
*save and help us that we may praise you.*  
Come now and dwell with us, Lord Christ Jesus:  
*hear our prayer and be with us always.*  
And when you come in your glory:  
make us to be one with you  
and to share the life of your kingdom. Amen.

*A Bible reading could be read here...*

### Silence and listening to God

*We sit for a few moments in silence...*

### We bring our prayers to God

#### **You might like to pray for...**

*Those suffering through illness, bereavement, or anxiety;*

*Those who feel isolated or ignored at this time;*

*God's church, as we share God's love and peace in these troubled times;*

*God's world, and the leaders of the world;*

*Our government and their advisors;*

*Our NHS, and all who work in the hospitals and emergency services;*

*The communities of Naseby, Kibworth, Market Harborough, and Husbands Bosworth;*

*Our schools, as they adapt to meet the needs of the vulnerable;*

*Families struggling to make ends meet, or to deal with the complications of the current restrictions.*

Keep us, good Lord,  
under the shadow of your mercy.  
Sustain and support the anxious,  
be with those who care for the sick,  
and lift up all who are brought low;  
that we may find 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.

### Closing Prayer

Dear God,  
Help us to remember that  
though we may be isolated, we are never alone;  
though we may be afflicted, we are not crushed;  
though we may be confused,  
we will not despair;  
though we may be tormented,  
we are not forsaken;  
through we may be struck down,  
it will not be our end;  
for the love of God shines in our hearts,  
the life of Jesus is already seen in us,  
and we will be raised, with Jesus,  
into God's presence for ever. Amen.

### 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 forever. Amen.

## Suggested Bible Readings:

### From the Lectionary:

#### Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March (Lent 4 / Mothering Sun)

- 1 Samuel 16: verses 1-13
- Psalm 23
- Ephesians 5: verses 8-14
- John chapter 9 (whole chapter)
- Exodus 2: verses 1-10 (*Mothering Sun*)
- Psalm 127: verses 1-4 (*Mothering Sun*)
- 2 Corinthians 1: verses 3-7
- Colossians 3: verses 12-17
- Luke 2: verses 33-35 (*Mothering Sun*)
- John 19: verses 25-27 (*Mothering Sun*)

#### Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March (Lent 5 / Passion Sunday)

- Ezekiel 37: verses 1-14
- Psalm 130
- Romans 8: verses 6-11
- John 11: verses 1-45

#### Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April (Lent 6 / Palm Sunday)

- Psalm 118
- Matthew 21: verses 1-11
- Isaiah 50: verses 4-9
- Philippians 2: verses 1-11
- The whole of the Passion Story from Matthew's Gospel: Matt 26, verse 14 – Matt 27, verse 54.

### Times when we might all like to pause where we are to pray together:

Fridays at 12noon – 12.30pm

Sundays at 10.30am – 11.00am

Sundays at 5.00pm – 5.30pm

And it is suggested that we light a candle in our windows on Sunday evenings at 7.00pm

### Other short passages which may be appropriate or helpful during a time of prayer:

- Psalm 23
- Psalm 121
- Isaiah 41: verses 8-10
- Isaiah 41: verses 17-20
- Isaiah 43: verses 1-7
- Isaiah 49: verses 13-16
- Jeremiah 1: verses 4-8
  
- Matthew 18: verses 10-14
- Matthew 18: verses 19-20
- Matthew 28: verses 16-20
- John 10: verses 11-18
- John 10: verses 27-30
- Romans 8: verses 18-27
- Romans 8: verses 28-30
- Romans 8: verses 31-39
- Ephesians 3: verses 14-21
- Philippians 4: verses 4-9
- Colossians 2: verses 1-17
- 1 Peter chapter 1: verses 3-9
- Revelation 21: verses 1-7

I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen. *(Ephesians 3:16-21)*

Further readings and resources will be sent out soon for Holy Week, Good Friday and the Easter season...