

St Mary's Church Market Drayton

Worship at Home

For the time being it is no longer possible for us to worship together in St Mary's.

As well as various Church of England online and smartphone apps for *Daily Prayer* and *Reflections*, many churches and organisations have produced online resources. There is also a free app from the Church of England called 'Time to Prayer' which can be downloaded for either Apple or Android phones.

For those who do not have access to online worship resources the Church of England has crafted two simple acts of worship, particularly geared to those who are isolated or housebound, or who are unable to attend church.

As the worshipping community of St Mary's we are sending this out in booklet form for you to use if you wish in your private prayers. If you live alone, may we suggest finding a friend with the same material and use it to pray together over the phone.

Morning Prayer

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

The Lord is good, a strong refuge when trouble comes. God is close to those who trust in him. *Nahum 1.7*

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.**

Bible Reading(s)

You may wish to say Psalm 23 or another psalm here, such as Psalm 16 or Psalm 139.

Psalm 23

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd;
therefore can I lack nothing.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.

- 3 He shall refresh my soul
and guide me in the paths of righteousness for his name's
sake.
- 4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- 5 You spread a table before me
in the presence of those who trouble me;
you have anointed my head with oil and my cup shall be full.
- 6 Surely goodness and loving mercy shall follow me all the days
of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

**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.**

*You may wish to use the weekly pattern of short readings given
below, or choose a passage of your own.*

Sunday Morning

But now thus says the Lord,
he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through
the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,

and the flame shall not consume you.
For I am the Lord your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour.

Isaiah 43.1-3a

Monday Morning

‘Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.’ Thomas said to him, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?’ Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. *John 14.1-6*

Tuesday Morning

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you. *Philippians 4.8-9*

Wednesday Morning

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*

Thursday Morning

You are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling-place for God. *Ephesians 2.19-22*

Friday Morning

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. *Romans 19.9-12*

Saturday Morning

He said to his disciples, 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your

Father knows that you need them. Instead, strive for his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well. *Luke 12.22-31*

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 in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, our will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

(or)

**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.

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.

Bible Reading(s)

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.**

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

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 in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

(or)

**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.**

An Act of Spiritual Communion

You may wish to find a space for prayer in front of a cross, a candle, or a special place. You might choose to make your Spiritual Communion at a particular time of day, or after viewing a live streamed service or a service on the radio.

Reflect on the day and on your relationships.

- What good things have come from God today?
- Where have I fallen short?
- What might I do tomorrow?

You may wish to say or pray

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Read the following words from Scripture. If you have access to today's lectionary readings for Holy Communion, you may wish to read and reflect on them¹

Jesus said, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.'

John 6.35

Pray for the needs of the world, for your local community, and for those close to you. End with the Lord's Prayer.

Our Father... (see previous sections)

¹ see <https://www.chpublishing.co.uk/features/lectionary>

Give thanks for the saving death and resurrection of Jesus and ask him to be with you now.

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits you have given me,
for all the pains and insults you have borne for me.
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.
O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,
may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly,
and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.

after the Prayer of St Richard of Chichester

You might then add one or more of the following prayers:

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your disciples,
'I am with you always'.
Be with me today, as I offer myself to you.
Hear my prayers for others and for myself,
and keep me in your care. Amen.

O God,
help me to trust you,
help me to know that you are with me,
help me to believe that nothing can separate me from your love
revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lord, in these days of mercy, make us quiet and prayerful;
in these days of challenge, make us stronger in you;
in these days of emptiness, take possession of us;
in these days of waiting,
open our hearts to the mystery of your cross.

Angela Ashwin

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you
most humble and hearty thanks
for all your goodness and loving kindness.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ,
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And give us, we pray, such a sense of all your mercies
that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful,
and that we show forth your praise,
not only with our lips but in our lives,
by giving up ourselves to your service,
and by walking before you in holiness and
righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honour and glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Conclude with the following:

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

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