

**Night Prayer At Home,
All Saints' Cottenham
with Rampton
Sunday 4 July 2021**



Preparation

The eternal God is your refuge,
and underneath are the everlasting arms.

Deuteronomy 33.27

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.

***Take a moment to think about the day gone
by, giving thanks for what was good
and bringing to God those times that need His
forgiveness.***

**Lord God,
We have sinned against you;
We have done evil in your sight.
We are sorry and repent.
Have mercy on us according to your love.
Wash away our wrongdoing
and cleanse us from our sin.
Renew a right spirit within us
and restore us to the joy of your salvation,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

***Take a moment to thank God that through
Jesus' sacrifice we are forgiven.***

Save us, O Lord, while waking,
and guard us while sleeping,
that awake
we may watch with Christ
and asleep may rest in peace.

Psalm 91

Assurance of God's Protection

1 You who live in the shelter of the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,

2 will say to the Lord, 'My refuge and my
fortress; my God, in whom I trust.'

3 For he will deliver you from the snare of the
fowler and from the deadly pestilence;

4 he will cover you with his pinions,
and under his wings you will find refuge;
his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.

5 You will not fear the terror of the night,
or the arrow that flies by day,

6 or the pestilence that stalks in darkness,
or the destruction that wastes at noonday.

7 A thousand may fall at your side,
ten thousand at your right hand,
but it will not come near you.

8 You will only look with your eyes
and see the punishment of the wicked.

9 Because you have made the Lord your
refuge, the Most High your dwelling-place,

10 no evil shall befall you,
no scourge come near your tent.

11 For he will command his angels concerning
you to guard you in all your ways.

12 On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a
stone.

13 You will tread on the lion and the adder,
the young lion and the serpent you will
trample under foot.

14 Those who love me, I will deliver;
I will protect those who know my name.

15 When they call to me, I will answer them;
I will be with them in trouble,
I will rescue them and honour them.

16 With long life I will 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.**

Introduction to Bible reading

Spirit of Wisdom, take from us all fuss,
the clattering of noise,
the temptation to dominate
by the power of words,
the craving for certainty.
Lead us through the narrow gate
of not knowing,
that we may listen and obey,
and come to a place of silence and stillness,
of true conversation and wisdom.

Jim Cotter

Church of England Lectionary Bible reading for
Sunday 4 July 2021, 3rd service

Deuteronomy 24.10-15

When you make your neighbour a loan of any kind, you shall not go into the house to take the pledge. You shall wait outside, while the person to whom you are making the loan brings the pledge out to you.

If the person is poor, you shall not sleep in the garment given you as the pledge. You shall give the pledge back by sunset, so that your neighbour may sleep in the cloak and bless you; and it will be to your credit before the LORD your God.

You shall not withhold the wages of poor and needy labourers, whether other Israelites or aliens who reside in your land in one of your towns. You shall pay them their wages daily before sunset, because they are poor and their livelihood depends on them; otherwise they might cry to the LORD against you, and you would incur guilt.

Here ends the reading.

Short talk

*...it will be to your credit
before the LORD your God.*



Application of the Bible reading in 2021

When you make your neighbour a loan of any kind, you shall not go into the house to take the pledge. If the person is poor, you shall not sleep in the garment given you as the pledge.

What is an ethical response to UK government plans to re-shape overseas aid, tying aid to UK interests? Christian Aid says this year:

“People give money, sign petitions or bake cakes because they believe helping those in need is a fundamental part of being human. Their giving has continued in the face of a pandemic. They expect their government to do the same. These are challenging and difficult times. But the government has a clear choice: honour its commitment to the world’s poorest, or not. As Archbishop Desmond Tutu has said, a promise to the poor is particularly sacred.”

You shall pay them their wages daily before sunset, because...their livelihood depends on them.

The Trussell Trust says: *“from April 2020 to March 2021 a record 2.5 million emergency food parcels were given to people in crisis”*. The primary causes of crisis are low income (39%), benefit delays (17%) and benefit changes (15%). There are multiple reasons for loss of jobs. Many people in low paid work also take on debt to buy essentials, not luxuries. At foodbanks, donated food, household items and signposting to grants are a lifeline. Debt advice gives people the dignity of choice. Foodbanks, many run by churches, *‘recognise the innate value of each individual person and seek to prioritise the other person’s needs and concerns in the spirit of mutuality and friendship’*, as Jesus did:

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was in prison and you visited me.”

(Matthew 25:35-36)

Prayers

We pray for those who are newly alone:

- after the death of a loved one
- after the breakdown of a relationship
- having become housebound through ill health.

Help us to help them find new ways of life.

Silence

We pray for those in poverty:

- lacking housing or shelter tonight
- uncertain of money for tomorrow.

Help us to help them in practical ways.

Silence

We pray for those who seek stability and human dignity, far from home and family:

- refugees from war and famine
- low paid workers in the UK

Help us to welcome, honour and protect them.

Silence

Dear God, we pray that you would open our hearts to always share good things with those in greater need. **Amen.**

**Prayers for comfort, healing,
recovery and renewal,
for others and for ourselves**

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.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**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.**

Collect for Night Prayer

Visit this place, O Lord, we pray,
and drive far from it the snares of the enemy;
may Your holy angels dwell with us
and guard us in peace,
and may Your blessing be always upon us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Conclusion

In peace we will lie down and sleep;
for you alone, Lord, make us dwell in safety.

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 shine upon us
and be gracious to us;
the Lord look kindly on us
and give us peace.

Amen.

