

## *Daily Prayers and Readings*

*February 2021 and March 2021*

*Come to me, all of you who are weary and  
burdened and I will give you rest. Take my  
yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am  
gentle and humble n heart and you will find  
rest for your souls.*

*For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.*

*Matthew 11:28-30, New International Version*

*Dear friends,*

*Christmas seems far behind and Spring not yet here.  
It has been a strange year so far and perhaps, for  
many, the hopes we held for 2021 do not seem to be  
yet coming to fruition as fast as we might like.*

*In our waiting we add ourselves to a long line of  
God's people. The Bible is full of those who waited.  
But as we wait, we can acknowledge and be thankful  
for the many good things in our lives. Vaccines have  
been found. Snowdrops bloom in the garden. The  
days are gradually getting longer. Spring will come.*

*Take heart and hold fast to hope and faith. We will  
be together again.*

*JD*

*The weekly readings are taken from the Common  
Lectionary and reflect those used on the immediate  
Sunday in our own church and very many others. In  
normal times we use them on a daily basis in our  
chapel at 10am. They can be used equally for private  
devotions. In the chapel the prayers of Intercession  
include those requested by members of the public and  
our own congregation. We pray too for our sister  
church in Fenstanton, for the local community, for  
Churches Together in St Ives, and the Imans and  
worshippers at the local Mosques. We pray for each  
other and our world.*

## February 2021

- L. As I come before you, O Lord.  
As the sun rises may your hope rise up in me.*
- R. As the birds sing, may your love flow out of me.  
As the light floods into this new day,  
May your joy shine through me.*
- All. I come before you, O Lord  
And drink in this moment of peace,  
That I may carry something of your hope, love  
And joy today in my heart.*

*Amen*

*(www.living-prayers.com)*

*Let us keep silent for our personal reflection  
and confession.*

- All. To you Lord, all hearts are open.  
Forgive our secret sins  
Forgive our habitual sins  
Forgive our unnoticed sins;  
Our sins of thought, word and deed,  
All that we have left undone;  
Our sins against ourselves,  
Our sins against others,  
Our sins against you,  
And where we have fallen short of your Glory  
And not done what you have called us to do. Amen*

*(The Open Gate, David Adams, 1994)*

## THE READING

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*To the words 'Merciful Father' please respond with  
'Hear us in your steadfast love'.*

### THE LORDS 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 this day 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*

- L. Help me Lord, to live my life in this word today  
In such a way that when I meet you face to face  
You'll say to me:*
- R. Come, blessed of my Father, possess the kingdom  
I prepared for you before the world began.*
- L. For I was hungry and you gave me food,  
Thirsty and you gave me drink,*

*Naked and you covered me,  
A stranger but you welcomed me,  
In prison and you came to me,  
Sick and you cared for me.*

*All. For when you did this to the least of those who  
are my brothers and sisters  
You did unto me                      Amen*

*All. God grant me the serenity  
To accept the things I cannot change,  
Courage to change the things I can,  
And the wisdom to know the difference.  
Living one day at a time;  
Enjoying one moment at a time;  
Accepting hardship as the pathway to peace.  
Taking, as He did, this sinful world  
as it is, not as I would have it.  
Trusting that He will make all things right  
If I surrender to His will;  
That I may be reasonably happy in this life,  
And supremely happy with Him forever  
in the next.                      Amen*

*(Reinhold Niebuhr)*

**THE GRACE**

*All. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of  
God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us  
all ever more.                      Amen*

**March 2021**

*L. Into a dark world  
a snowdrop comes,  
a benison of hope and peace,  
carrying within it a green heart,  
symbol of God's renewing love.*

*R. Come to inhabit our darkness  
Lord Christ,  
for dark and light  
are alike to you.*

*All. May nature's white candles of hope  
remind us of your birth  
and light our journey  
through Lent and beyond.                      Amen*

*(Kate McIlhagga, The Green Heart of the Snowdrop, 2004)*

*Let us keep silent for our personal reflection and  
confession.*

*All. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we might perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your Holy name;  
through Christ our Lord                      Amen*

*THE READING*

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION*

*To the words 'Merciful Father' please respond with  
Hear us in your steadfast love'.*

*THE LORDS 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 this day 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*

*L. Jesus, you are the light of the world,  
A light no darkness can quench*

*R. Upon your church  
Wrestling with the darkness of evil  
Battling against doubt,*

*All. Let your light shine.*

*L. Upon the world governments  
Facing gloom and despair  
Battling against disaster*

*R. Let your light shine.*

*All. Upon those that live in the shadows  
Caught up in sorrow and strife,  
Struggling against oblivion  
Let your light shine.*

*Amen*

*(David Adam, The Open Gate, 1994)*

*All. Almighty and everlasting God,  
you hate nothing that you have made,  
and forgive the sins of all those who are  
penitent.  
Create and make in us new and contrite hearts  
that lamenting our sins and acknowledging our  
wretchedness,  
may we receive from you, the God of mercy,  
perfect forgiveness and peace,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*Amen*

*(Thomas Cranmer, 1489-1556)*

*THE GRACE*

*All. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of  
God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us  
all ever more.*

*This space is for your  
own notes*

*A sleeping world emerges to new possibilities,  
weakening winter's icy grip,  
and birdsong and bleating lamb  
announce to all the promise  
that in due season  
creation bursts into life.  
And whilst the leaves that fell in winter  
lie upon the ground,  
soon to feed the earth,  
in nature's wondrous cycle  
of death and rebirth,  
within the tree is a stirring of new growth.*

Printed and published by The Free Church (United Reformed)  
Market Hill, St Ives, Cambridgeshire PE27 5AL  
email: [office@stivesfreechurch.org](mailto:office@stivesfreechurch.org) Tel: 01480 468535  
[www.stivesfreechurch.org](http://www.stivesfreechurch.org) Charity no: 1132694

## Readings for February

*Special dates for the month of February*

*9<sup>th</sup> February - Racial Justice Sunday*

*16<sup>th</sup> February - Shrove Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February - Ash Wednesday*

*21<sup>st</sup> Feb Frst Sunday in Lent*

*26<sup>th</sup> Feb - 2<sup>nd</sup> March - Church of England General Synod*

Mon 1<sup>st</sup> Psalm 104 v26-35  
 Tues 2<sup>nd</sup> Proverbs 8 v1, 22-31  
 Weds 3<sup>rd</sup> Psalm 65  
 Thurs 4<sup>th</sup> Colossians 1 v15-20  
 Fri 5<sup>th</sup> Psalm 26  
 Sat 6<sup>th</sup> Matthew 6 v 25-34

Mon 8<sup>th</sup> Psalm 50 v1-6  
 Tues 9<sup>th</sup> 2 Kings ch2 v1-12  
 Weds 10<sup>th</sup> Psalm 2  
 Thurs 11<sup>th</sup> 2 Corinthians 4 v3-6  
 Fri 12<sup>th</sup> Psalm 27  
 Sat 13<sup>th</sup> Mark 9 v2-9

Mon 15<sup>th</sup> Psalm 25 v1-9  
 Tues 16<sup>th</sup> Genesis 9 v8-17  
 Weds 17<sup>th</sup> Psalm 119 v17-32  
 Thurs 18<sup>th</sup> 1 Peter 3 v18-22  
 Fri 19<sup>th</sup> Psalm 99  
 Sat 20<sup>th</sup> Mark 1 v9-15

Mon 22<sup>nd</sup> Psalm 22 v23-31  
 Tues 23<sup>rd</sup> Genesis 17 v1-7, 15-16  
 Weds 24<sup>th</sup> Psalm 117  
 Thurs 25<sup>th</sup> Romans 4 v13-25  
 Fri 26<sup>th</sup> Psalm 3

## Readings for March

*Special dates for the month of March*

*14<sup>th</sup> March - Mothering Sunday*

*15<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> March - URC Assembly Executive (Mission Council)*

*28<sup>th</sup> March - Palm Sunday*

Mon 1<sup>st</sup> Psalm 19  
 Tues 2<sup>nd</sup> Exodus 20 v1-17  
 Weds 3<sup>rd</sup> Psalm 11  
 Thurs 4<sup>th</sup> I Corinthians ch1 v18-25  
 Fri 5<sup>th</sup> Psalm 28  
 Sat 6<sup>th</sup> John 2 v13-22

Mon 8<sup>th</sup> Psalm 107 v1-3, 17-22  
 Tues 9<sup>th</sup> Numbers 21 v4-9  
 Weds 10<sup>th</sup> Psalm 55  
 Thu 11<sup>th</sup> Ephesians 2 v1-10  
 Fri 12<sup>th</sup> Psalm 63  
 Sat 13<sup>th</sup> John 3 v14-21

Mon 15<sup>th</sup> Psalm 51 v1-13  
 Tues 16<sup>th</sup> Jerimiah 31 v31-34  
 Weds 17<sup>th</sup> Psalm 6  
 Thurs 18<sup>th</sup> Hebrews 5 v5-10  
 Fri 19<sup>th</sup> Psalm 7  
 Sat 20<sup>th</sup> John 12 v20-33

Mon 22<sup>nd</sup> Psalm 31 v9-16  
 Tues 23<sup>rd</sup> Isaiah 50 v4-9a  
 Weds 24<sup>th</sup> Psalm 9  
 Thu 25<sup>th</sup> Philippians 2 v5-11  
 Fri 26<sup>th</sup> Psalm 12  
 Sat 27<sup>th</sup> Mark 15