

The Wellington & District Team

Worship at Home

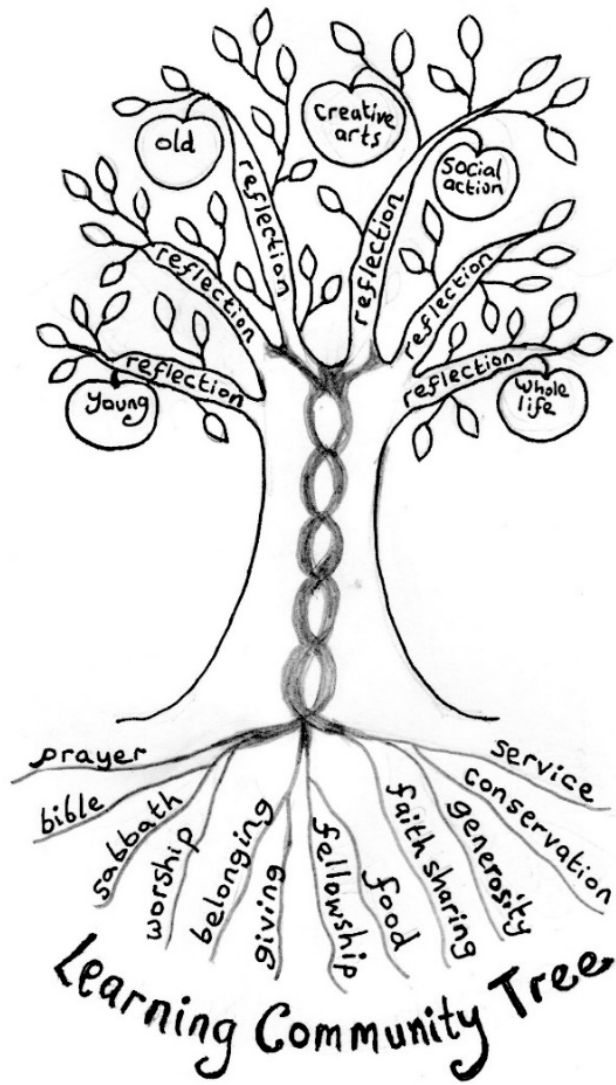
Morning Prayer

&

Night Prayer

'Seven whole days, not one in seven, I will praise thee.'

(from George Herbert 'King of glory, King of peace')



Introduction

The habit of praying daily is an ancient tradition of the Church. Some individuals have prayed the Office in their homes. For many years in this benefice Morning Prayer has been said by a group of people in St John the Baptist, Wellington. Tolling a church bell is the traditional way of reminding the community that the Office is being said.

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have written to all members of the Church of England:

“We urge you sisters and brothers to become a different sort of church in these coming months: hopeful and rooted in the offering of prayer and praise and overflowing in service to the world.”

So, we want to encourage everyone to offer prayer and praise at home. Indeed, the pandemic is an opportunity for us all to strengthen and deepen our faith.

This booklet offers two short Daily Offices: Morning Prayer and Night Prayer. These give structure to the rhythm of our day. They also help us to punctuate each day of the week with praise, prayer and the reading of Scripture. They can be said on one's own or with other members of your household. Alternatively, you could telephone someone else and say the Office together.

As we pray, so we share in the Common Prayer of the Church and we affirm that ‘we are all of one body’.

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

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.

You may wish to add your own intercessions.

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.**

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

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.**

*You may wish to add your own intercessions and prayers of
thanksgiving.*

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.**

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.**

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