

HELPS TO WORSHIP AT HOME

The prayers and act of worship which follow will, we hope, help us to maintain a rhythm of worship during this time when we are unable to meet as a community in our church buildings. In spite of our physical separation we continue to be ONE in Christ and with Him we offer our prayers to the Father. May all of us be strengthened by the grace which our generous God pours on us as we strive to be faithful in our discipleship and continue to put our trust in His love for us. The Act of Worship is designed for use for the next two weeks. Special prayers will be circulated for Holy Week and Easter.

AN ACT OF WORSHIP

+ In the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen

May Christ, the true, the only light,
banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.

Almighty God, from whose love neither life nor death can separate us: let the whole company of heaven praise you; let the whole church throughout the world praise you. Let us this day praise you.

We recall our lack of response to God's love, our sins, our failures, our shortcomings and God's great love in forgiving us:

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Now we listen to God's Word:

The Collect and Gospel for Passion Sunday (29th March):

Most Merciful God,
who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ
delivered and saved the world:
grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross

we may triumph in the power of his victory;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Gospel: St John 11: vv 1-45

PSALM 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills;
from where is my help to come?

My help comes from the Lord,
the maker of heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot be moved
and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.

Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel
shall neither slumber or sleep;

The Lord himself watches over you;
the Lord is your shade at your right hand,

So that the sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.

The Lord shall preserve you from all evil;
it is he who shall keep you safe.

The Lord shall watch over your going out
and your coming in,
from this time forth for evermore.

In your own words pray for the World, the Church, your family and friends and those who need the healing touch of the Lord today. There follows a selection of prayers about the outbreak:

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.

Lord Jesus Christ,
you taught us to love our neighbour,
and to care for those in need
as if we were caring for you.
In this time of anxiety, give us strength
to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick,
and to assure the isolated
of our love, and your love,
for your name's sake.
Amen.

For those who are ill

Merciful God,
we entrust to your tender care
those who are ill or in pain,
knowing that whatever danger threatens
your everlasting arms are there to hold them safe.
Comfort and heal them,
and restore them to health and strength;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

For hospital staff and medical researchers

Gracious God,
give skill, sympathy and reliance
to all who are caring for the sick.
and your wisdom to those searching for a cure.

Strengthen them with your Spirit,
that through their work many will be restored to health and wholeness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

For one who is ill or isolated

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.

*As you are not able to receive the Sacrament of our Lord's Body and Blood in
the Eucharist at present remember your continued communion with him. Pause
for a few moments as you offer yourself to God and He gives Himself to you.
Then say:*

Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me.
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all who love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

Our Father.....

God be in my head, and in my understanding.
God be in my eyes, and in my looking.
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking.
God be in my heart, and in my thinking.
God be at my end, and at my departing.

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.

You may like to use the weekly pattern of short readings given below in place of the Gospel for the remainder of the week.

Monday: Isaiah 43: 1-3a

Tuesday: St John 14: 1-6

Wednesday: Colossians 3: 16,17

Thursday: Ephesians 2: 19-22

Friday: Romans 19: 9-12

Saturday: St Luke 12: 22-31

Read the verses slowly and prayerfully two or three times and listen to God speaking to you through them.