

Daily Prayers and Readings

October and November 2020

*As the autumn mist hides the hills,
As clouds veil the blue of the sky,
So the dark happenings of my lot hide the
shining of your face from me.
Yet, if I may hold your hand in the
darkness,
It is enough.
Since I know that, though I may stumble
in my going, you do not fall.*

(Gaelic prayer, translated by Alistair MacLean)

Dear friends,

So here we are, getting used to the new 'normal'. As yet, still not back in the chapel but hoping it won't be too long before we can gather, at an appropriately distanced manner, to pray together again.

During the past few months we have witnessed a great sense of community, both in our town and throughout the wider world. When dark times strike, we follow Jesus' example and look out for a neighbours, near and far. We remain hopeful that, this ever present crisis will pass but in the meantime, we devise new ways to worship, whether it be online with others or individually or sharing written reflections, readings and prayers.

We may not be together in person but our hearts remain linked, with every blessing. 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 Imams and worshippers at the local Mosques. We pray for each other and our world.

October 2020

- L. As autumn flames across park and field,
as smoke curls from ditch and garden,
R. as birds sing their farewell song,
as frost begins to touch the ground
and our hearts are warmed
By the scent, sound and touch of it;
L. Now is the time to throw away
the heavy stones of anger, regret and fear
which harden our hearts.
All. Now is the time to gather stones of praise
To build a cairn of thankfulness to our God
For all the blessings of our autumn life. Amen*
(Kate McIlhagga; The Green Heart of the Snowdrop)

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

- All. I am heartily sorry, and beg pardon for my sins,
especially for my little respect
and for wandering in my thoughts
when in your presence,
and for my continued infidelities to your graces;
for all which I beg pardon,
by the merits of the Blood you shed for them.
Amen*
(Lady Lucy Herbert 1669-1744)

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*

- All. Covenant maker, arouse your passion in us.
Remake us from the inside;
Purge us of all that harms peaceful living.
Encourage us to get a sense for justice and
Pursue it beyond our cosy comfort zones.
Write your forgiveness on us,
That everyone will know us as your people.
Amen*

- L. Pray hard for those who are hungry.*
R. Pray harder for those who will not feed them.
L. Pray for those who struggle to pay their bills.
R. Pray harder for the wealthy who do not care.
L. Pray for those who are homeless.
R. Pray harder for those who deny them shelter.
L. Pray for the sick and lonely.
R. Pray harder for those who refuse comfort.
L. Pray for those who cry out for dignity.
R. Pray harder for those who will not listen.
L. Prayer for those oppressed by unjust wages.
R. Pray harder for those who exploit them.
L. Pray for those who bear the yoke of prejudice.
R. Pray harder for those who discriminate against them.
L. Pray for those whose basic needs are denied.
R. Pray harder for public officials who cater to the greedy and ignore those bound unjustly.
*All. Enable us to confront your unfair world,
To tackle poverty, misery and injustice.
We ask this in Your name, Amen*

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

November 2020

A prayer for peace amongst chaos

- L. You promise the peace of a still lake even in the midst of a storm.*
R. You promise the peace of a slumbering child even in the middle of tension and disagreement.
L. You promise the peace of a poppy field even in the place of heartbreak and desolation.
R. Your promise is a peace that passes our human understanding.
*All. So I choose to rest by the still waters,
to lie down and rest among the poppies
Your resurrection declared peace over trauma,
Power over death, and life everlasting.
I trust in you. Amen*

Let us keep silent for our personal reflection and confession.

- All. May we be slow to judge the sins of others and quick to confess our own, forgiving others as Christ forgives us.
May we always be ready to open our hearts to others, reaching out to all we meet with the hand of His love. Amen*

(The Little Gidding Prayer Book, 1986)

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. As we are together, praying for peace,
Let us be truly with each other;
Let us be aware of the source of being,
common to us all, and to all living human beings.*
- R. Let us pray that all living beings may realise
That they are all brothers and sisters,
All nourished from the same source of life.*

*L. Let us pray that we ourselves may cease to be
the cause of suffering to each other and to any
we meet.*

*All. Let us plead with ourselves to live in a way
Which will not deprive other living beings of air,
Water, food, shelter or the chance to live.
Be aware of the sufferings that are going on
around us,
Let us pray for the establishment of peace,
In our hearts and on the earth. Amen*

*All. Ever living God
We remember those you have
gathered in from the storm of war,
into the peace of your presence;
May that same peace calm our fears,
bring justice to all peoples
and establish harmony among the nations,
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord Amen
(Church of England 2016)*

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*

*This space is for your
own notes*

*Oh God of the universe
We give you thanks
For the silver of the mists
For the lace of the spider web
For the gold of the leaves
For the diamonds of the woodsmoke
For the diamonds of the ground frost
For the velvet of the early darkness.
We give you thanks,
Oh God of the universe
For the blood red poppies.
We give you thanks and we remember.
(F. Wupp 'An Interior Anthology' 2003)*

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

Readings for October

Special dates for the month of October

1st October - Black History Month begins

Synod meetings Saturday 10th, 16th and 17th

One World Week 18th - 25th Saturday 31st All Saints Eve

Thurs	1 st	Philippians 3 v 4b - 14
Fri	2 nd	Psalms 128
Sat	3 rd	Matthew 21 v 33 - 46
Mon	5 th	Psalms 106 v 1-6 and 19-23
Tues	6 th	Exodus 32 v 1-14
Weds	7 th	Psalms 139 v 1-18
Thurs	8 th	Philippians 4 v 1-9
Fri	9 th	Psalms 138
Sat	10 th	Matthew 22 v 1-14
Mon	12 th	Psalms 99
Tues	13 th	Exodus 33 v 12-23
Weds	14 th	Psalms 149
Thurs	15 th	1 Thessalonians v 1-10
Fri	16 th	Psalms 79
Sat	17 th	Matthew 22 v 15 - 22
Mon	19 th	Psalms 90 v 1-6 and 13 - 17
Tues	20 th	Deuteronomy 34 v 1 - 12
Weds	21 st	Psalms 119 v 89 - 104
Thurs	22 nd	1 Thessalonians 2 v 1 - 8
Fri	23 rd	Psalms 119 v 137 - 152
Sat	24 th	Matthew 22 v 34 - 46
Mon	26 th	Psalms 34 v 1-10
Tues	27 th	Revelation 7 v 9 - 17
Weds	28 th	Psalms 150
Thurs	29 th	1 John 3 v 1 - 3
Fri	30 th	Psalms 15
Sat	31 st	Matthew 5 v 1 - 12

Readings for November

Special dates for the month of November

Sunday 1st All Saints Day

8th November Remembrance Sunday

29th Advent Sunday 20th - 22nd Mission Council

Church of England General Synod 23rd - 25th

25th Women Against Violence

Mon	2 nd	Psalms 70
Tues	3 rd	Amos 5 v 18 - 24
Weds	4 th	Psalms 82
Thurs	5 th	1 Thessalonians 4 v 13 - 18
Fri	6 th	Psalms 91
Sat	7 th	Matthew 25 v 1 - 13
Mon	9 th	Psalms 90 v 1 - 12
Tues	10 th	Zephaniah 1 v 7, 12 - 18
Weds	11 th	Psalms 89 v 19 - 29
Thurs	12 th	1 Thessalonians 5 v 1 - 11
Fri	13 th	Psalms 69
Sat	14 th	Matthew 25 v 14 - 30
Mon	16 th	Psalms 95 v 1-7
Tues	17 th	Ezekiel 34 v 11 - 16, 20 - 24
Weds	18 th	Psalms 22
Thu	19 th	Ephesians 1 v 15 - 23
Fri	20 th	Psalms 29
Sat	21 st	Matthew 25 v 31 - 46
Mon	23 rd	Psalms 80 v 1 - 20
Tues	24 th	Isaiah 64 v 1 - 9
Weds	25 th	Psalms 25
Thurs	26 th	1 Corinthians 1 v 3-9
Fri	27 th	Psalms 120
Sat	28 th	Mark 13 v 24 - 37
Mon	30 th	Psalms 85 v 1 - 13