

The General Synod of the Church of England



**THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND**

Worship

NOVEMBER 2015

Monday 23 November 2015

Prayer During the Day

Preparation

Stand

Creator of the world, eternal God,

All we have come from many places.

Redeemer of humanity, God-with-us,

**All we have come with all our differences
seeking common ground.**

Spirit of Unity, go-between God,

**All we have come on journeys of our own,
to a place where journeys meet.**

So here in this place, let us take time together.

For where paths cross and people gather

there is much to share and celebrate.

**All In your name, three-in-one God,
pattern of community.**

Amen.

Adapted from the Iona Abbey service of welcome

Praise

Rejoice in God's saints, today and all days!

A world without saints forgets how to praise.

Their faith in acquiring a habit of prayer,

their depth of adoring, Lord, help us to share.

Some march with events to turn them God's way;

some need to withdraw, the better to pray;

some carry the gospel through fire and through flood:

our world is their parish: their purpose is God.

Rejoice in those saints, unpraised and unknown,
who bear someone's cross or shoulder their own:
they shame our complaining, our comforts, our cares:
what patience in caring, what courage is theirs.

Rejoice in God's saints, today and all days!
a world without saints forgets how to praise,
In loving, in living, they prove it is true,
the way of self-giving, Lord leads us to you.

Words: F Pratt Green 1903-2000

Words © 1973 by Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL 60188.

Music: Hanover (William Croft 1678-1708)

The Word of God

Sit

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4. 4-7

Response

A time of silence followed by

Blessed are the poor in Spirit

All for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5.3

Prayers

Surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses,
let us make our prayer in the power of the Spirit,
looking to Jesus the pioneer of our faith.

That with the noble fellowship of the prophets
we may discern the signs of your kingdom in our midst,
we pray to you, O Lord:

Lord, in your mercy,

All Hear our prayer.

That with the glorious company of the apostles
we may proclaim your gospel throughout the world,
we pray to you, O Lord:

Lord, in your mercy,

All Hear our prayer.

That with the white-robed army of martyrs
we may be ready to suffer for the truth's sake,
we pray to you, O Lord:

Lord, in your mercy,

All Hear our prayer.

That with all who are anointed by your Spirit
we may bring good news to the poor
and freedom to the oppressed,
we pray to you, O Lord:

Lord, in your mercy,

All Hear our prayer.

That with the saints in light
we may bind up the broken-hearted and comfort all who mourn,
we pray to you, O Lord:

Lord, in your mercy,

All Hear our prayer.

That within the whole company of Christ's pilgrim people
we may come to the inheritance of the saints in glory,
we pray to you, O Lord:

Lord, in your mercy,

All Hear our prayer.

Collect

Spirit of the living God,
conceiver and shaper of the world,
and giver of life:
throughout this Synod
enliven our minds, inspire our debates,
inform our decisions and rule our hearts.
When choices are made
that we neither anticipate nor desire,
increase our faith and dispel our fears,
that we may continue to work together
as one body in Christ;
to the glory of the Father
and the building of your kingdom,
now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer is said.

The Conclusion

May God give us grace to follow the saints in glory.

All **Amen.**

Tuesday 24 November 2015

Prayer During the Day

Preparation

Stand

God was
in the beginning,

All bringing wonder and light.

God is
in the present,

All bringing truth and love.

God will be
in the future,

All bringing hope and glory.

Lord speak to us,

All that we may hear your Word.

Move among us,

All that we may behold your glory.

Receive our prayers,

All that we may learn to trust you.

The Word of God

Psalmody

As the deer pants for the water,
so my soul longs after you.
You alone are my heart's desire
and I long to worship you.

*You alone are my strength, my shield,
to you alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire
and I long to worship you.*

I want you more than gold or silver,
only you can satisfy.
You alone are the real joy-giver
and the apple of my eye.

*You alone are my strength, my shield,
to you alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire
and I long to worship you.*

You're my Friend and you are my Brother,
even though you are king.
I love you more than any other,
So much more than anything.

*You alone are my strength, my shield,
to you alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire
and I long to worship you.*

*Words and Music: Martin J Nystrom (b 1956)
©1983 Restoration Music Ltd. Psalm 42.1*

Scripture Reading

Sit

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the Kingdom, and curing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the Harvest to send out labourers into his harvest."

Matthew 9.35-38

Response

A time of silence followed by

The love of Christ compels us.

All We are ambassadors for him.

cf 2 Corinthians 5.14, 20

Let us praise Christ our King,
by whose cross we have citizenship in heaven, saying:
all your saints praise you.

Lord, you built your Church on the foundation of the apostles:
All **all your saints praise you.**

You witness to your truth in the lives of your saints:
All **all your saints praise you.**

You made us to be a kingdom and priests serving our God:
All **all your saints praise you.**

You have shared our burdens,
revealing the holiness of our life and work:
All **all your saints praise you.**

You stir us to seek the mysteries of the kingdom:
All **all your saints praise you.**

You lead us to the eternal assembly of the saints:
All **all your saints praise you.**

Collect

Spirit of the living God,
conceiver and shaper of the world,
and giver of life:
throughout this Synod
enliven our minds, inspire our debates,
inform our decisions and rule our hearts.
When choices are made
that we neither anticipate nor desire,
increase our faith and dispel our fears,
that we may continue to work together
as one body in Christ;
to the glory of the Father
and the building of your kingdom,
now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer is said.

The Conclusion

Let us bless the Lord
All **Thanks be to God.**

Tuesday 24 November 2015

Evening Worship

Preparation

Stand

O God, make speed to save us.

All O Lord, make haste to help us.

Your faithful servants bless you

All They make known the glory of your kingdom.

We have gathered in the presence of the One
who is making us.

We have gathered in the presence of the One
who is healing us.

We have gathered in the presence of the One
who is guiding us.

All We gather in love and adoration.

Where we have failed to listen:

All God, open our ears.

Where we have failed to see:

All God, open our eyes.

Where we have failed to understand:

All God, open our hearts.

Where we have failed to praise:

All God, open our mouths.

We gather in the presence of the One who is shaping us.

We gather in the presence of the One who is helping us.

We gather in the presence of the One who forgives us.

All We gather together in praise.

*Jim Cotter from Out of the Silence...Into the Silence,
Cairns Publications, Harlech 2006 (adapted)*

The Word of God

Psalm 89

My song forever shall record
the tender mercies of the Lord;
your faithfulness I will proclaim,
and every age shall know your name.

I sing of mercies that endure,
for ever builded firm and sure,
of faithfulness that never dies,
established changeless in the skies.

Almighty God, your lofty throne
has justice for its cornerstone,
and shining bright before your face
are truth and love and boundless grace.

With blessing is the nation crowned
whose people know the joyful sound;
they in the light, O Lord shall live,
the light your face and favour give

All glory unto God we yield,
who is our constant help and shield;
all praise and honour we will bring
to you, the Holy One, our King.

Words; Psalter, 1912, alt P.D.

tune: Winchester New

(Bartholomäus Crasselius, Musikalisches Handbuch, Hamburg, 1690)

Scripture Reading

Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand and marked off the heavens with a span, enclosed the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance? Who has directed the spirit of the Lord, or as his counsellor has instructed him? Whom did he consult for his enlightenment, and who taught him the path of justice? Who taught him knowledge, and showed him the way of understanding?

Even the nations are like a drop from a bucket, and are accounted as dust on the scales; see, he takes up the isles like fine dust. Lebanon would not provide fuel enough, nor are its animals enough for a burnt-offering. All the nations are as nothing before him; they are accounted by him as less than nothing and emptiness.

To whom then will you liken God, or what likeness compare with him? An idol?—A workman casts it, and a goldsmith overlays it with gold, and casts for it silver chains. As a gift one chooses mulberry wood—wood that will not rot—then seeks out a skilled artisan to set up an image that will not topple.

Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in; who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

‘To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal?’ says the Holy One. ‘Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing.’

Isaiah 40.12-26

Gospel Canticle

My spirit glorifies the Lord;
in God my Saviour I rejoice,
for he beheld my humble state
and in his love made me his choice.

All generations from now on
shall call me blest and spread my fame,
for he has done great things for me
mighty and holy is his name.

His mercy shall extend to those
who fear the Lord from age to age;
he has revealed his mighty arm,
scatt'ring the proud in all their rage.

He brought down rulers from their thrones,
but lifted those of low degree.
He filled the hungry with good things,
but empty sent the rich away.

He helped his servant Israel,
remembering to be merciful,
keeping his word to Abraham
and to his seed for evermore.

All glory to the Father Son,
and to the Holy Spirit be;
as from the first it was, is now,
and will be for eternity.

*Words: (v.1-5) Luke 1.46-55; versified by Dewey Westra, (1899-1979)
(v.6) Christopher L Webber (b.1932)
Tune: Canon, Tallis (1505-1585)*

Prayers

Collect

God the Father,
help us to hear the call of Christ the King
and to follow in his service,
whose kingdom has no end;
for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, one glory.

All Amen.

Uniting our prayers with the whole company of heaven,
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

Our Father in heaven ...

The Conclusion

May Christ who has opened the Kingdom of heaven,
bring us to reign with him in glory.

God give us grace to follow the saints in glory.

All Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Wednesday 25 November 2015

Morning Worship

Preparation

Stand

The world belongs to God
All the earth and all its people.

How good it is, how wonderful,
All to live together in unity.

Love and faith come together,
All justice and peace join hands.

If Christ's disciples keep silent
All These stones would shout aloud.

Open our lips, O God,
All and our mouths shall proclaim your praise.

Adapted from the Iona Community Morning worship

Praise

Sing for God's glory that colours the dawn of creation,
racing across the sky, trailing bright clouds of elation;
sun of delight
succeeds the velvet of night,
warming the earth's exultation.

Sing for God's power that shatters the chains that would bind us,
searing the darkness of fear and despair that could blind us,
touching our shame
with love that will not lay blame,
reaching out gently to find us.

Sing for God's justice disturbing each easy illusion.
tearing down tyrants and putting our pride to confusion;
lifeblood of right,
resisting evil and slight;
offering freedom's transfusion

Sing for God's saints who have travelled faith's journey before us,
who in our weariness, give us their hope to restore us;
in them we see
the new creation to be,
Spirit of love made flesh for us.

*Words: Kathy Galloway b.1952 © Kathy Galloway
Music: Lobe den Herren*

The Word of God

Psalmody

Sit

**All I will make a way in the wilderness,
and rivers in the desert.**

1 Alleluia.

Blessed are those who fear the Lord ♦
and have great delight in his commandments.

2 Their descendants will be mighty in the land, ♦
a generation of the faithful that will be blest.

3 Wealth and riches will be in their house, ♦
and their righteousness endures for ever.

4 Light shines in the darkness for the upright; ♦
gracious and full of compassion are the righteous.

5 It goes well with those who are generous in lending ♦
and order their affairs with justice,

6 For they will never be shaken; ♦
the righteous will be held in everlasting remembrance.

- 7 They will not be afraid of any evil tidings; ♦
their heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord.
- 8 Their heart is sustained and will not fear, ♦
until they see the downfall of their foes.
- 9 They have given freely to the poor;
their righteousness stands fast for ever; ♦
their head will be exalted with honour.
- 10 The wicked shall see it and be angry;
they shall gnash their teeth in despair; ♦
the desire of the wicked shall perish.

**All 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.**

**All I will make a way in the wilderness,
and rivers in the desert.**

Scripture Reading

‘See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next; for truly I tell you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

‘A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

'So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground unperceived by your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

Matthew 10.16-33

Prayers

Collect

Spirit of the living God,
conceiver and shaper of the world,
and giver of life:
throughout this Synod
enliven our minds, inspire our debates,
inform our decisions and rule our hearts.
When choices are made
that we neither anticipate nor desire,
increase our faith and dispel our fears,
that we may continue to work together
as one body in Christ;
to the glory of the Father
and the building of your kingdom,
now and for ever.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer is said.

The Conclusion

May God give us grace to follow the saints in glory.

All Amen.

© The Archbishops' Council of the Church of England, 2000-2005.

The Bible readings (other than the psalms) are from The New Revised Standard Version Anglicized Edition, copyright 1989, 1995 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Texts of copyright hymns and songs are reproduced under the terms of CCL licence 1363240 and MRL licence 1363257, or Calamus Licence number 10445.