

Some topics for prayer

People who feel lost or in danger.
People who need guiding or protecting.
People who need to know Jesus better.
People who are victim in any way to the pandemic.
The distribution of the covid-19 vaccine across the world.
People who have to make decisions about how to manage the pandemic.
The street you live in and individuals in it.
Members of your family. Friends. Not-so-friends.
Our town, our nation and our world.
Our NHS. Our schools and care homes.
People who work in our public services.
Our economy.
Caring for our planet.
People living anywhere in the world where there is famine, war, poverty, pandemic, depression, hopelessness ...
That we may begin to learn from what the pandemic has exposed in our society that needs healing, and to plan what to do about it.

Some prayers ('collects') set for today

Risen Christ,
faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep:
teach us to hear your voice
and to follow your command,
that all your people may be gathered into one flock,
to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life:
raise us, who trust in him,
from the death of sin to the life of righteousness,
that we may seek those things which are above,
where he reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

*Please take this leaflet home with you.
May God bless you and everyone you love and pray for.*

Welcome to private prayer for 25th April 2021



This sheet offers you one of the readings set for today, together with a structured way of reading it prayerfully. It also offers you prayers set for today, some other prayers, and ideas for topics for prayer.

But first and foremost, let us 'Be still and know that I am God'
(Psalm 46:10)

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 Grace

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

***You can hear our weekly audio service -
around 20 minutes - on our website***

<https://standrewswatford.org.uk/>

A reading set for today

Here is a suggestion for a structured way of reading prayerfully. It is based on an ancient practice called Lectio Divina.

First, breathe slowly and deeply.

Ask God to speak to you through the passage that you are about to read.

1st reading of the passage: listen.

Read through the passage once, silently, but 'saying each word out loud in your mind', and listening.

Allow a word or phrase to attract your attention. Let it arise naturally from the passage as if it were God's word for you today, however unexpected.

Say it to yourself a few times, or underline it with a pen.

2nd reading of the passage: ponder.

Read the passage a second time. As you read and listen, ask how and why this word or phrase is speaking to you.

Summarise what it means for you.

3rd reading of the passage: pray.

Read the passage a third time, prayerfully asking Christ what he is saying to you in this word or phrase, and listen.

What is it that you need to do - or consider - or relinquish - or take on - as a result of what God is saying to you?

Talk to God about it in prayer.

Here is space to jot things down, to take away and to return to later:

Jesus says, "I am ..."

"I am the good shepherd.

"The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away - and the wolf snatches them and scatters them.

"The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep.

"I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep.

"I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

"For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

John 10:11-18 (NRSV translation)

I wonder ...

... what your favourite part of this is?

... what the most important part is?

... what Jesus meant when he said he had other sheep from different flocks?

... what it feels like to be inside a sheep pen with a good shepherd looking out for you?

... what it feels like to go through the places of danger with the good shepherd looking out for you?

... what Jesus' disciples felt and thought when they remembered him saying this?

... What Jesus means in your own life, when he says "I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father."?

... and why?