



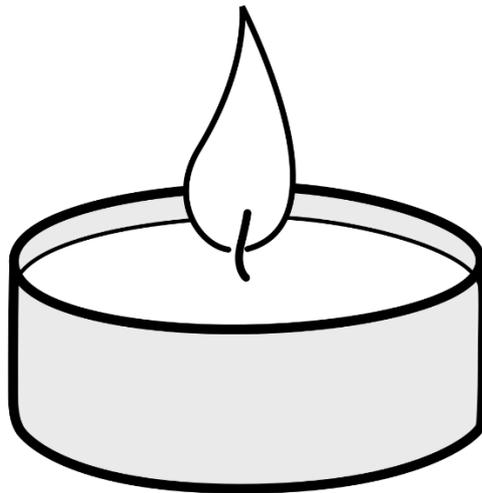
St. John the Evangelist
Churchdown & Innsworth



A member of
Churches Together

Simple Acts of Worship and Prayers

Prayer resources for those
unable to meet together



**“The LORD is good,
a strong refuge when trouble comes.
He is close to those who trust in him.” Nahum 1:7**

Contents

A Reflective Service (for use at any time)	3
A Service of Night Prayer (Compline)	6
Bible readings and Collects for Sundays	9
How to find a Bible reading	13
Various prayers	14
Prayer on TV, radio and the internet	15
If you are lonely	16

These simple acts of worship, and some selected prayers have been put together for us all to use while we are unable to gather together.

Christians across the world worship daily, so you will be taking part in these acts of worship in company with many others! We are not together, but we are not alone.

Why not pause for a moment in the morning and evening to spend a few moments with God.

You may like to have to hand:

- a Bible,
- a candle to light,
- some reflective music.

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A Reflective Service: to be used at any time

We come from scattered lives to meet with God.
Let us recognise God's presence with us now.

Keep a short silence, still your heart.

As God's people we have gathered in spirit and in truth;
Let us worship God now together,
Sitting apart, yet joined in prayer.

Let us pray.
Come, Holy Spirit,
fill the hearts of your faithful people,
and kindle in us the fire of your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

We say sorry to God:

God our Father, we come to you in sorrow for our sins.

Keep a short silence.

For turning away from you, and ignoring your will for our lives;
Father, forgive us: save us and help us.

For behaving just as we wish, without thinking of you;
Father, forgive us: save us and help us.

For failing you by what we do and think and say;
Father, forgive us: save us and help us.

For living as if we were ashamed to belong to your Son;
Father, forgive us: save us and help us.

We are assured of God's forgiveness:

May the God of love bring us back to himself,
forgive us our sins, and assure us of his eternal love
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Read a passage of the bible. You may like to use the
readings for Sunday found on page 8 onwards, or find the
bible reading for today on the Church of England Website.*

We make a statement about what we believe.

Let us declare our faith in God.

We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.

We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.

We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

We pray for others in the quiet of our hearts.

Lord, meet us in the silence
And hear our prayer.

Silence for prayer is kept.

Pray for yourself, that God would sit with you
Pray for others in their loneliness
Pray for our country
Pray for the world

For God has said, 'I will not leave you or forsake you' so we can confidently say, 'The Lord is my helper; I will not fear'.
(Hebrews 13:5-6)

It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not be dismayed.
(Deuteronomy 31:8)

Cast all your anxiety on God, because he cares for you.
(1 Peter 5:7)

Please God, we ask that we can meet together in church again, soon. Amen

The Lord's 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 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.

Silence is kept.

Faithful God, may we who share in this time of worship
Glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,
Our salvation and hope, who reigns as Lord now and forever.

Fill us, Good Lord with your Spirit of love;
And as you have fed us with your presence,
so, make us one in heart and mind,
In Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let us bless the Lord: Thanks be to God.



A Service of Night Prayer

The office of Compline (Night prayer) is a good way to end the day in quiet contemplation and reflection upon the past day before commending oneself to God and a peaceful night's sleep. You might like to light a candle and perhaps sing a simple hymn.

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.

In a short time of silence we reflect on the past day.

The following psalm may be used.

1. Come, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord, •
you that by night stand in the house of the Lord.
2. Lift up your hands towards the sanctuary •
and bless the Lord.
3. The Lord who made heaven and earth •
give you blessing out of Zion.

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.

Read a passage of the bible. You may like to use the readings for Sunday found on page 8 onwards, or find the bible reading for today on the Church of England Website.

The Nunc dimittis (The Song of Simeon) is said or sung

Save us, O Lord, while waking,
and guard us while sleeping,
that awake we may watch with Christ
and asleep may rest in peace.

1. Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace:
your word has been fulfilled.
2. My own eyes have seen the salvation
which you have prepared in the sight of every people;
3. A light to reveal you to the nations
and the glory of your people Israel. Luke 2.29-32

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.

*Prayers of intercession and thanksgivings may be offered.
Silence may be kept.*

Visit this place, O Lord, we pray,
and drive far from it the snares of the enemy;
may your holy angels dwell with us and guard us in peace,
and may your blessing be always upon us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer may be said.

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 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.

In peace we will lie down and sleep;
for you alone, Lord, make us dwell in safety.
Abide with us, Lord Jesus,
for the night is at hand and the day is now past.
As the night watch looks for the morning,
so do we look for you, O Christ.

The Lord bless us and watch over us;
the Lord make his face shine upon us and be gracious to us;
the Lord look kindly on us and give us peace. Amen.

Bible readings and collects for Sundays

Sun 22 Mar 2020 The Fourth Sunday of Lent

Colossians 3.12-17 Luke 2.33-35 Psalm 127. 1-4

God of love, passionate and strong, tender and careful:
watch over us and hold us all the days of our life
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sun 29 Mar 2020 The Fifth Sunday of Lent

Romans 8.6-11 John 11.1-45 Psalm 130

Gracious Father,
you gave up your Son out of love for the world:
lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion,
that we may know eternal peace
through the shedding of our Saviour's blood,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sun 5 Apr 2020 Palm Sunday

Philippians 2.5-11 Matthew 21.1-11 Psalm 118.1-2,19-29

True and humble king, hailed by the crowd as Messiah:
grant us the faith to know you and love you,
that we may be found beside you on the way of the cross,
which is the path of glory. Amen.

Sun 12 Apr 2020 Easter Day

Acts 10:34-43 Matthew 28.1-10 Psalm 118:1-2,14-24

God of glory, by the raising of your Son
you have broken the chains of death and hell:
fill your Church with faith and hope;
for a new day has dawned and the way to life stands open
in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Sun 19 Apr 2020 The Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 2.14a,22-32 John 20.19-end Psalm 16

Risen Christ, for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred:
open the doors of our hearts,
that we may seek the good of others
and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace,
to the praise of God the Father. Amen.

Sun 26 Apr 2020 The Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 2.14a,36-41 Luke 24.13-35 Psalm 116. 1-4,12-19

Risen Christ,
you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope:
strengthen us to proclaim your risen life
and fill us with your peace, to the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

Sun 3 May 2020 The Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 2.42-47 Psalm 23 John 10.1-10

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.

Sun 10 May 2020 The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 7.55-60 Psalm 31.1-5 John 14.1-14

Risen Christ, your wounds declare your love for the world
and the wonder of your risen life:
give us compassion and courage to risk
ourselves for those we serve,
to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Sun 17 May 2020 The Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 17.22-31 Psalm 66.7-18 John 14.15-21

Risen Christ,

by the lakeside you renewed your call to your disciples:
help your Church to obey your command
and draw the nations to the fire of your love,
to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Sun 24 May 2020 Sunday after Ascension Day

Acts 1.6-14 Psalm 68.1-10 John 17.1-11

Risen, ascended Lord, as we rejoice at your triumph,
fill your Church on earth with power and compassion,
that all who are estranged by sin
may find forgiveness and know your peace,
to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Sun 31 May 2020 Day of Pentecost

Acts 2.1-21 Psalm 104.26-35 John 20.19-23

Holy Spirit, sent by the Father, ignite in us your holy fire;
strengthen your children with the gift of faith,
revive your Church with the breath of love,
and renew the face of the earth,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

How to find a Bible reading.

Check the index in your bible to find out if it numbers all the pages consecutively, or starts again for the New Testament.

Look at the name of the book that you need to find. Numbers before the name of the book are part of the name (to distinguish between multiple books with the same name e.g. 1 Samuel and 2 Samuel).

Use the index to find which page the book you are looking for starts on and turn to that page.

The first number after the name of the book (before the dot) is the chapter number. Most bibles use a large print number in the text at the beginning of each chapter. Many also write the book name and chapters on that page at the top of each page to help you find your way around (This is especially helpful in the longer books). Turn over the pages until you find the start of the chapter you are looking for.

The numbers after the dot are the verse numbers, which are indicated by small numbers in the text often raised above the line of the text to stop them interrupting the flow of reading. Once you've found the chapter look for the verses you need to start and end at.

Examples:

Straightforward

1 Samuel 16.1-13

Book = 1st book of Samuel (in the Old Testament)

Chapter = 16 Verses 1-13

More complicated

1 Peter 4.12-14; 5.6-11

Book = 1st letter of Peter (in the New Testament)

Chapter = 4 verses 12-14 then skip a chunk and re-start at chapter 5, verses 5 and 6.

Acts 2.14a, 36-41

Book = Acts of the Apostles (in the New Testament)

Chapter = 2 Verse 14a- means the first sentence of verse 14, then skip a section and restart at verse 36 and read until verse 41.

A comma means skip a section, a or b means first or last sentence of the verse.

Don't worry if you don't find exactly the right passage! - St Paul assures us that "All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching," so whatever you read will help you to grow closer to God.



Various prayers

For those in isolation

God of compassion,
be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation.
In their loneliness, be their consolation;
in their anxiety, be their hope;
in their darkness, be their light;
through him who suffered alone on the cross,
but reigns with you in glory,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For those who are ill

Merciful God, we entrust to your unfailing and tender care,
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.

For medical staff and researchers

Gracious God, give skill, sympathy and resilience
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;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayers for when you can't get to church

Lord Jesus Christ,
you said to your disciples, 'I am with you always'.
Be with me today, as I offer myself to you.
Hear my prayers for others and for myself,
and keep me in your care. Amen.

Prayer on TV, radio and the internet

Television programs

- Songs of Praise Sundays at 1.15pm on BBC 1

Radio programs

- Prayer for the Day daily at 5.43am on Radio 4
- Sunday Worship Sundays at 8.10am on Radio 4
- Daily Service Monday to Friday at 9.45am on Radio 4 Longwave and DAB
- Sunday Morning, 6-9am on BBC Radio Gloucestershire
- Lent Talks Wednesdays at 8.45pm on Radio 4
- Choral evensong- Wednesdays at 3.30pm and the same service is repeated Sundays at 3pm on BBC Radio 3

A few internet resources

- Keep up to date with news from St John's on our church Facebook page.
<https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsChurchdown/>
- The Church of England website is producing a range of resources, including live services from around the country, podcasts and audio resources.
<https://www.churchofengland.org/>
- Keep up to date with news from the Diocese.
<https://www.gloucester.anglican.org/>
- Daily prayer with music, Bible reading, & short reflection.
<https://pray-as-you-go.org>
- Suggestions for ways to pray
<https://www.24-7prayer.com>

If you are lonely

Do keep in touch – you are not alone

- Please do call one another on the telephone- it is good to offer comfort and support to one another. Everyone in our church family is now in a group of ‘buddies’ to keep us all in touch. But please also stay in touch with as many of your friends and family as you can.
- You can call the Samaritans free on 116 123
- You can call Silverline (aged 55+) on 0800 4 70 80 90.
- There is some good advice on the Age UK website, <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/>
- You can, of course, call Rev’d Jacqui Hyde on 01452 713421. Do leave an answerphone message if she is unavailable and she will get back to you asap.
- Rev’d Richard Inglesby, 01452 541509, and the Church Office (01452 855553, open Tue, Thu, Fri, 9.30am-12.30pm) are also happy for you to call.

From Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the mountains,
where does my help come from?
My help comes from the LORD,
the Maker of heaven and earth.
He will not let your foot slip
he who watches over you will not slumber;
The LORD will keep you from all harm
he will watch over your life;
the LORD will watch over your coming and going
both now and for evermore.