

**A SHORT ORDER OF PRAYER AND PRAISE
FOR THE WEEK OF 16th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY, 27th SEPTEMBER 2020**
Drawn from 'Woven into Prayer' by Angela Ashwin, Canterbury Press 1999

A moment of quiet: be still and know that God is here.

When you are ready – and God always is...

Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking;
if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me. *Revelation 3:20*

Sit with that...

Now...

Lord, touch my lips – that I may sing your praise with all my heart.

O God make speed to save me – O Lord, come to my aid.

Glory to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit – mystery of love, behind, through and beyond all things.

I will worship the Lord – all praise to his name.

And focus...

As I turn my face to you, O God, let my worship be once more a new beginning:

cleanse my spirit with your mercy, draw me ever deeper into your love,

and accept my offering of praise and prayer on behalf of the world;

through Jesus Christ, our Brother and Saviour. Amen.

Listen to the Word of God

Psalm 25: 1-8

Try to pause for a beat or two at the diamonds – let the words you've just read reverberate

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; O my God, in you I trust; ♦

let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies triumph over me.

Let none who look to you be put to shame, ♦ but let the treacherous be shamed and frustrated.

Make me to know your ways, O Lord, ♦ and teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth and teach me, ♦

for you are the God of my salvation; for you have I hoped all the day long.

Remember, Lord, your compassion and love, ♦ for they are from everlasting.

Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions, ♦

but think on me in your goodness, O Lord, according to your steadfast love.

Gracious and upright is the Lord; ♦ therefore shall he teach sinners in the way.

He will guide the humble in doing right ♦ and teach his way to the lowly.

...summed-up in a prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, grant me the grace to live with humility, hope and integrity;

let my life be ruled not by fear of what anyone can do to me,

but by delight in your will and trust in your saving presence, now and always. Amen.

and then hear...

Matthew 21:23-32

Jesus entered the temple courts,

and, while he was teaching, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him.

"By what authority are you doing these things?" they asked. "And who gave you this authority?"

Jesus replied, "I will also ask you one question.

If you answer me, I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

John's baptism – where did it come from? Was it from heaven, or from men?"

They discussed it among themselves and said,

"If we say, 'From heaven', he will ask, 'Then why didn't you believe him?'

But if we say, 'From men' – we are afraid of the people, for they all hold that John was a prophet."

So they answered Jesus, "We don't know."

Then he said, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

"What do you think?

There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work today in the vineyard.'

"I will not,' he answered, but later he changed his mind and went.

"Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, 'I will, sir,' but he did not go.

"Which of the two did what his father wanted?"

"The first," they answered.

Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth,

the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you.

For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him."

So that's See and Believe.

And if we believe, we shall see – as Benedictine encourages us...

O you works of the Lord,

O you angels of the Lord,

O you heavens, bless the Lord!

Praise him and magnify him for ever!

O you sun and moon,

O you stars of heaven,

O you rain and dew, bless the Lord!

Praise him and magnify him for ever!

O you winds that blow,

O you fire and heat,

O you frost and snow, bless the Lord!

Praise him and magnify him for ever!

O let the whole earth
and the souls of the righteous
and the people of God, bless the Lord!
Praise him and magnify him for ever!

And now we come to pray...

Lord have mercy: in you I trust; Christ have mercy: on you I depend; Lord have mercy: you are my peace.

Pray The Lord's Prayer...

...and Give thanks for... Confess... Ask for help and guidance...

*...and Pray for those you love – those we come across – those carrying responsibilities –
those suffering, especially everyone affected by COVID19*

We pray the **Collect**

Lord of creation,
whose glory is around and within us:
open our eyes to your wonders,
that we may serve you with reverence
and know your peace at our lives' end,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Finally, our familiar ending, binding us together in God's love and service as we face the week ahead...

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. In the name of Christ. Amen.