



**An Order of Service of Thanksgiving
For
NHS Staff and All Key Workers**

Thursday 30 April 2020

*The Service will commence at 7.30pm. followed by the national
Thursday clapping for NHS Staff and key workers.*

Welcome

We are delighted that you are able to join together in this service of thanksgiving for our NHS staff and all key workers. It is a way we can express our gratitude to all those who daily put themselves at risk, during the Coronavirus pandemic, to care for others and to maintain vital services.

In every act of worship, the Church celebrates the grace of God who desires wholeness of body, mind and spirit for all people. At this service of thanksgiving we focus on God's grace and love. We reflect on God's blessings and ask that he gives strength and comfort to our NHS staff and all key workers.

'Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus'. (Philippians 4:6-7)

Jesus said: 'I have come that you may have life, and may have it in all its fullness'.

Prayers

Let us pray.

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

The Lord's Prayer

We say together as the Saviour has taught us:

**Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
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**

Bible Reading

Romans Ch 8 verses 31-39

More Than Conquerors

³¹ What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? ³³ Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁶ As it is written:

“For your sake we face death all day long;
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”^[1]

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons,^[k] neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Prayers for NHS Staff and all key workers

For frontline health care workers and all key workers, we thank you for their vocational call to serve us. We also pray:

- God, keep them safe and healthy. Keep their families safe and healthy.
- God, help them to be knowledgeable about the diagnosis and treatment of this disease, as well as the changing protocols.
- God, help them to stay clear-minded in the midst of the surrounding panic.
- God, deliver them from anxiety for their own loved ones (aging parents, children, spouses, roommates).
- God, give them compassion for every patient in their care.
- God, provide for them financially, especially if they fall ill and are unable to work.
- God, help Christians in health care to exhibit extraordinary peace, so that many would ask about the reason for their hope. Give them opportunities to proclaim the gospel.

Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus Christ, you taught us to love our neighbour, and to care for those in need as if we were caring for you. In this time of anxiety, give us strength to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick, and to assure the isolated of our love, and your love, for your name's sake.

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Words from Psalm 46:

God is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble.

² Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,

³ though its waters roar and foam
and the mountains quake with their surging.

⁴ There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy place where the Most High dwells.

⁵ God is within her, she will not fall;
God will help her at break of day.

⁶ Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall;
he lifts his voice, the earth melts.

⁷ The LORD Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.

⁸ Come and see what the LORD has done,
the desolations he has brought on the earth.

⁹ He makes wars cease
to the ends of the earth.

He breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields^[d] with fire.

¹⁰ He says, "Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth."

¹¹ The LORD Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.

A brief reflection:

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We thank you, gracious God.

You have loved us from the beginning of time
and remembered us when we were in trouble.

Your mercy endures forever.

We thank you redeeming God.

You have come to us in Jesus Christ,
who heals us and saves us from sin.

Your mercy endures for ever.

We thank you, holy God.

You have sent us your Spirit,
to comfort us and lead us into all truth.

Your mercy endures for ever.

Gracious, redeeming and holy God,
glory and praise be yours, now and for ever. **Amen**

Conclusion

The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face to shine on you
and be gracious to you;
the Lord look on you with kindness and give you peace. **Amen**

Go in peace
to rejoice in God's love
and to reflect his glory.

Thanks be to God. Amen