

Welcome to a time of prayer and reflection. Let's be still and recognise that we are in the presence of God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

The readings for this Sunday are challenging because they remind us that responding to the call to faithfulness to the God of love does not offer a peaceful life. In this time of prayer and worship let us seek God's help to turn back to God's love by confessing those times when we have made choices that conflict with God's loving will. Let's confess our sins:

Father, you come to meet us when we return to you:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Jesus, you died on the cross for our sins:

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Spirit, you give us life and peace:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

May the God of love and power forgive you and free you from your sins, heal and strengthen you by his Spirit and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.  
Amen

Let us pray:

Almighty God,  
who sent your Holy Spirit  
to be the life and light of your Church:  
open our hearts to the riches of your grace,  
that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit  
in love and joy and peace;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

From the Gospel according to Luke 12: 49-56

Sermon (see attached text)

Let us pray:

For the Church

Especially for all our brothers and sisters in Christ who live in places where their faith puts them at risk of persecution asking protection and courage for the

For the unity of the church – within and across different denominations asking that our shared love for God may guide our relationships with each other

Lord in your mercy....hear our prayer

For the world

Especially for all places torn apart by war: for an end to violence and lasting reconciliation to be made possible

For all who lead the nations that they may seek to co-operate for the preservation of our planet, the fairer distribution of its resources and the relief of those in need

Lord in your mercy....hear our prayer

For those with whom we share our lives

Especially for the farmers around us as they cope with the water shortage at this difficult time: we pray for rain

For those in our area and beyond for whom this weekend is a poignant anniversary of the floods here seventy years ago and the shooting in

Keyham, Plymouth last year : we pray for comfort for all those for whom memories remain raw

Lord in your mercy....hear our prayer

For all who suffer, naming in our hearts all those for whom we have particular concern

Lord in your mercy....hear our prayer

For all who have died

Those who have died recently, those dear to us, those whose anniversary of death falls at this time

Lord in your mercy....hear our prayer

For all that is in our own hearts that we bring to God

Lord in your mercy....hear our prayer

We gather all these prayers as we pray in the words Jesus gave us:

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. 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. Forever and ever, Amen.

Giving thanks for the communion we share through baptism with one another and with God in Christ Jesus our Lord we make an act of spiritual communion in the words of this prayer:

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits you have given me, for all the pains and insults you have borne for me. As I cannot receive you sacramentally today, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.

God the Holy Trinity make you strong in faith and love,

defend you on every side,  
and guide you in truth and peace;

And the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

*All* **Amen.**