

# St. Paul's Church, Astley Bridge

## Sunday Morning Prayer

### 29<sup>th</sup> March 2020

The Lord is good, a strong refuge when trouble comes. God is close to those who trust in him. *Nahum 1.7*

#### Opening Sentences

O Lord, open our lips  
**and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us; let us pray with one heart and mind.

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day, so may the light of your presence, O God, set our hearts on fire with love for you; now and for ever. **Amen.**

#### Psalm 23

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd;  
therefore can I lack nothing.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures  
and leads me beside still waters.
- 3 He shall refresh my soul  
and guide me in the paths of righteousness for his  
name's sake.

- 4      Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
          I will fear no evil;  
          for you are with me;  
          your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- 5      You spread a table before me  
          in the presence of those who trouble me;  
          you have anointed my head with oil  
          and my cup shall be full.
- 6      Surely goodness and loving mercy shall follow me  
          all the days of my life,  
          and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

**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.**

*Bible Reading : Isaiah chapter 43 verses 1 to 3a*

But now thus says the Lord,  
he who created you, O Jacob,  
he who formed you, O Israel:  
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by name, you are mine.  
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;  
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;  
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,  
and the flame shall not consume you.  
For I am the Lord your God,  
the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour.

## **A Short Reflection Drawing On The Bible Reading**

### **Prayers**

Almighty and everlasting God, we thank you that you have brought us safely to the beginning of this day. Keep us from falling into sin or running into danger; order us in all our doings and guide us to do always what is righteous in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy in this time of uncertainty and distress.

Sustain and support the anxious and fearful, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may rejoice in your comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Amen.**

### **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 Conclusion**

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

Now and in the weeks to come

May the LORD bless you and keep you;  
the LORD make his face shine upon you  
and be gracious to you;  
the LORD turn his face towards you  
and give you peace.

**Amen.**

*Materials in this service are drawn from Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England, Common Worship: Pastoral Services, and Common Worship: Daily Prayer, all of which are copyright © The Archbishops' Council of the Church of England.*