

## aUffington Group of Churches

### Joining in Prayer week beginning

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2020  
(16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity)

*If you are viewing this on a computer screen, you may wish to read the notes in the last two columns – which would form the front cover of a printed leaflet!*

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

### **A reading from the Gospel of St Matthew** (21.23-32)

Jesus entered the temple, and while he was teaching, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him and said, 'By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?' Jesus said to them, 'I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?' And they argued with one another, 'If we say, "From heaven", he will say to us, "Why then did you not believe him?" But if we say, "Of human origin", we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.' So they answered Jesus, 'We do not know.' And he said to them, 'Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

'What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, "Son, go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not"; but

later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, "I go, sir"; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?' They said, 'The first.' Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, the tax-collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax-collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.'

### **The Prayers**

In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ, we pray to the Father.

Almighty and ever-living God, who by thy holy apostle hast taught us to make prayers and supplications, and to give thanks, for all mankind: we humbly beseech thee most mercifully to receive these our prayers, which we offer unto thy divine majesty; beseeching thee to inspire continually the universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity and concord; and grant that all they that do confess thy holy name may agree in the truth of thy holy word, and live in unity and godly love.

Lord, hear us,

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

We beseech thee to lead all nations in the way of righteousness and peace; and so direct all monarchs and rulers, that under them thy people may be godly and quietly governed. Bring justice and reconciliation, we pray, throughout the world; and put into the hearts and minds of all the desire to respect all

races, cultures and faiths so that people may live in harmony and share the gifts that the world has to offer and rejoice in all that is gracious in the lives of men, women and children.

Lord, hear us,

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

Grant unto thy servant Elizabeth our Queen, and to all that are put in authority under her, wisdom that they may truly and consistently administer justice, to the punishment of wickedness and vice, and to the maintenance of thy true religion and virtue. Uphold all who bear responsibility for the welfare, health and wealth of our nation; and guide them as they seek to rebuild the life and livelihood of our country and its communities, while controlling the spread of infection. Protect all those following normal ways of life, and calm all whose lives remain disrupted, or unable to work and earn a living, or worried about future employment.

Lord, hear us,

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops, priests and deacons, that they may both by their life and doctrine set forth thy true and lively word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy sacraments. Uphold, we pray, Fr Aran and all the ministers in our group as plans are made for thy work in our parishes in the coming months.

Lord, hear us,

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

Guide and prosper, we pray thee, those who are labouring for the spread of thy gospel among the

nations, and enlighten with thy Spirit all places of education and learning; that all people may be filled with the knowledge of thy truth.

Lord, hear us,

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

Give to all thy people thy heavenly grace; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life. Help us and all thy people, even when separated from one another, to be faithful in worshipping thee and in sensing our common fellowship; and empower us in constantly making known thy love and holiness.

Lord, hear us,

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

And we most humbly beseech thee of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succour all them who in this transitory life are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity. Protect, we pray those in our villages who remain particularly vulnerable to Covid-19 and other conditions and illnesses. Comfort with thy presence those associated with our communities who are unwell or in any special need at this time (particularly the family of Joan Richardson, as they mourn the death of her stepfather Jack).

Lord, hear us,

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

And we commend to thy gracious keeping, O Lord, all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, beseeching thee, according to thy promises, to grant them refreshment, light and peace.

And here we give thee most high

praise and hearty thanks for all thy saints, who have been the chosen vessels of thy grace, and lights of the world in their several generations; and we pray that, rejoicing in their fellowship and following their good examples, we may be partakers with them of thy heavenly kingdom. Lord, hear us,  
**Lord, graciously hear us.**

Grant this, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only mediator and advocate. **Amen.**

### **The Collect of the Day**

O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to hear the prayers of your people who call upon you; and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil them; through Jesus Christ our Lord, **Amen.**

*(or)*

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. **Amen.**

*or on Tuesday, the festival of St Michael and All Angels*

Everlasting God, you have ordained and constituted the ministries of angels and mortals in a wonderful order: grant that as your holy angels always serve you in heaven, so, at your command, they may help and defend us on earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*also on Tuesday, the patronal festival of Uffington Parish Church*

Almighty God, to whose glory we celebrate the Church of St Michael

and all Angels, Uffington: we praise you for the many blessings you have given to those who worship you there: and we pray that all who seek you in that place may find you, and, being filled with the Holy Spirit, may become a living temple acceptable to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*or on Thursday, the full moon closest to the autumnal equinox (traditionally the "harvest moon") (or any other day on which you wish to celebrate the harvest!)*

Eternal God, you crown the year with your goodness and you give us the fruits of the earth in their season: grant that we may use them to your glory, for the relief of those in need and for our own well-being; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Conclusion**

We pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught 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. 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.**

Almighty God, you have taught us through your Son that love is the fulfilling of the law: grant that we may love you with our whole heart and our neighbours as ourselves; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Although we may not be able to gather freely together for worship and prayer, we can continue to offer our prayers to Almighty God. Without wishing to constrain the manner in which anyone prays, we hope that as many people as possible use this very short order of service on Sunday (in addition to any participation in any other service or the offering any other personal prayers on that day and the remaining days of the week), to help focus our thoughts in the coming days as well as providing some unity at this time in using material knowing that others within our seven villages are praying in a similar vein.*

*As previously suggested, if a household is praying together, one person may act as leader and the others as the congregation and they join in the sections in **bold** type. If alone, you may like to read all the words aloud.*

*You may want to light a candle before you begin, and have a bible, cross or crucifix.*

*The Rector of the Uffington Group, Fr Aran Beesley, remains contactable on 07590 055905 or email: [aran.beesley@gmail.com](mailto:aran.beesley@gmail.com) to stay in touch and offer whatever help he and the ministry team can do during these challenging times – though please observe Fridays as his usual days off.*

*Any comments on this prayer sheet, and items for inclusion in next week's update should be sent to Allan Crowson [allancrowson@hotmail.com](mailto:allancrowson@hotmail.com) or Martin Brebner ([rev.martin.brebner@btinternet.com](mailto:rev.martin.brebner@btinternet.com)) by 9pm on Friday.*

## **The Uffington Group of Churches**

### **Joining in Prayer**

**week beginning  
27<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

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