

# Praying Together

between All Saints and Advent

@St Luke's, Holmes Chapel

We meet in the presence of God  
**who knows our needs,**  
**hears our cries,**  
**feels our pain,**  
**and heals our wounds.**

Out of the depths I have called to you, Lord,  
Let your ears be open to hear my voice.  
**My hope is in God's word.**

If you recorded all our sins  
who could come before you?  
**My hope is in God's word.**

There is forgiveness with you:  
therefore you shall be feared.  
**My hope is in God's word.**

My soul is longing for the Lord,  
more than those who watch for daybreak.  
**My hope is in God's word.**

O Israel, wait for the Lord,  
for with the Lord there is mercy.  
**My hope is in God's word.**

*Psalm 130*

## Hearing and responding to the Word of God

*Bible readings can be found on the church website or Facebook page.  
Read them out loud then finish with this response:*

This is the word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## ***Canticles***

We have come before God's holy mountain,  
To the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God.

We have come before countless angels in joyful assembly,  
Before the church of the firstborn, citizens of heaven.

We have come before God, who is judge of all,  
Before the spirits of the just made perfect.

We have come before Jesus,  
The mediator of the new covenant.

We are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken:  
So let us give thanks and offer to God acceptable worship,

Full of reverence and awe;  
For our God is a consuming fire.

*Hebrews 12: 22ff,28f*

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord,  
**My lips shall proclaim your faithfulness.**

The heavens bear witness to your wonders;  
**I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.**

The assembly of your saints proclaims your truth;  
**My lips shall proclaim your faithfulness.**

Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne;  
Steadfast love and faithfulness go before you.

**I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord,**  
**My lips shall proclaim your faithfulness.**

*From Psalm 89*

Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel,  
Who has come to his people and set them free  
He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour,

Born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets God promised of old  
to save us from our enemies, and from the hands of all that hate us.

To show mercy to our ancestors,  
And to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham  
To set us free from the hands of our enemies,

Free to worship him without fear,  
Holy and righteous in his sight, all the days of our life

And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way.

To give his people knowledge of salvation  
By the forgiveness of all their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God  
The dawn from on high shall break upon us,

To shine on those who dwell in darkness  
And the shadow of death,  
And to guide our feet into the way of peace.

*Luke 1:68-79*

'I am the Lord, your Holy One,  
The Creator of Israel, your King.'

Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea,  
A path in the mighty waters.

'Remember not the former things,  
Nor consider the things of old.

'behold I am doing a new thing;  
Now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

'I will make a way in the wilderness  
And rivers in the desert,  
To give drink to my chosen people,

'The people whom I formed for myself,  
That they might declare my praise.'

*Isaiah 43:15ff*

## ***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.**

**Blessed Lord,  
Who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning:  
Help us so to hear them,  
To read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them  
That through patience and the comfort of your holy word,  
We may embrace and forever hold fast  
The hope of everlasting life,  
Which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**O God, forasmuch as without you  
we are not able to please you;  
mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit  
may in all things direct and rule our hearts;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. Amen.**

Let us pray to the Lord,  
who is our refuge and stronghold.

For the health and well-being of our nation,  
that all who are fearful and anxious  
may be at peace and free from worry:  
Lord, hear us,  
**Lord, graciously hear us.**

For the isolated and housebound,  
the vulnerable and the helpless,  
the mistreated and the hurt:  
Lord, hear us,  
**Lord, graciously hear us.**

For our homes and families,  
our schools and young people, health workers and carers,  
and all who are in need or distress:  
Lord, hear us,  
**Lord, graciously hear us.**

For a blessing on our local community,  
that our neighbourhoods may be places of trust and friendship,  
where all are known and cared for:  
Lord, hear us,  
**Lord, graciously hear us.**

**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.**

May God,  
who kindled the fire of his love in the hearts of the saints,  
pour upon you the riches of his grace. **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

May God give to you and to all those whom you love  
his comfort and his peace, his light and his joy,  
in this world and the next;  
and the blessing ...

*In The Parable of the Prodigal Son, the prodigal's realisation and speech to the Good Father is this: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.*

*With a turned around heart, this is the way to seek the gracious mercy of God. Not only pray to keep us from sin today, let us confess our sins already done:*

**Lord God,  
We have sinned against you;  
We have done evil in your sight.  
We are sorry and repent.  
Have mercy on us according to your love.  
Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin.  
Renew a right spirit within us  
And restore us to the joy of your salvation,  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

May Almighty God, who sent his Son into the world to save sinners,  
Bring you his pardon and peace, now and for ever. **Amen.**

We have come together in the name of Christ  
To offer our praise and thanksgiving,  
To hear and receive God's holy word,  
To pray for the needs of the world,  
And to seek the forgiveness of our sins,  
That by the power of the Holy Spirit  
We may give ourselves to the service of God

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
Born of the Virgin Mary,  
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
Was crucified, died and was buried;  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
He ascended into heaven,  
He is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
And he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
The communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
The resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Almighty and everlasting God,**

You are always more ready to hear than we to pray  
And to give more than either we desire or deserve:  
Pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy,  
Forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid  
And giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask  
But through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**