

**Mears Ashby and Hardwick
and Sywell with Overstone**



**Prayers and Reflections
for use at home**

Sunday 7 June 2026

Trinity 1

Welcome to our prayers and reflections for the first Sunday after Trinity. Having waited on our Lord's coming, celebrated his birth, journeyed with our Lord for forty days, reflected on his death on the cross and his rising to new life, and seen him leave and his Spirit come, it is time now to explore what Jesus did and said in those three busy years. Ordinary Time is when we think about how he shapes the way we live. We begin with a passage that is about finding the true life Jesus offers.

Enjoy stepping into this passage.

Every blessing,

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*As you prepare to explore the true life that Jesus offers,
hear again his call on your life.*



Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?

Will you go where you don't know,
and never be the same?

Will you let your love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown
in you, and you in me?

John L. Bell (b. 1949) and Graham Maule (b. 1958)

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Prayers and Reflections
for use at home on Trinity 1
Finding true life

PREPARING OURSELVES

Take a moment to be still in God's presence and feel his love. If you are indoors, you may wish to light a candle as a sign of God's love - here, in your room. You may also wish to have a bowl of water ready for the time of letting go. When you are ready, say this opening prayer.

Lord, as I sit and wait in silence,
I place my hopes and dreams,
my fears and concerns,
into your safe and loving hands.
Enfold me with your love,
make my heart beat in time with yours;
in Jesus' name,
I pray. **Amen.**

LETTING GO

If you come to this time of prayer and reflection with any regrets, with things that you wish you had not said, done or been, offer them to God in the silence of your heart. And then, reflect on the words of this second verse.

Will you leave yourself behind
if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind,
and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare
should your life attract or scare,
will you let me answer prayer
in you, and you in me?

John L. Bell (b. 1949) and Graham Maule (b. 1958)

CCLI reported



*If you wish, dip your finger into a bowl of water and make the sign of the cross on your palm.
Feel God's forgiveness.*

Our second verse is an invitation to let go of 'our old selves' and live a life of radical love that we see in the Gospels of Jesus. It is an invitation to do so without fearing what people will say about us. Take a moment to think about some of the ways that following Jesus has changed your approach to life and/or your attitude to others – those who have touched your life and/or those you have encountered in the news.

Jesus showed an all-inclusive love. He reached out to those who were rejected by Jewish society and the elders. He offered redemption to those who wanted to make a new start in life. He did so knowing that this would result in opposition and risk death. Imagine a world in which everyone lived by his approach to life.

This is our Lord's prayer for life on earth. The closing lines of this verse contain an invitation: "Will you let me answer prayer in you, and you in me?" How might you be an answer to our Lord's prayer for those who are on your heart and on his?



*Will you let me answer prayer in you,
and you in me?*

PRAYING TODAY'S PRAYER (The Collect)

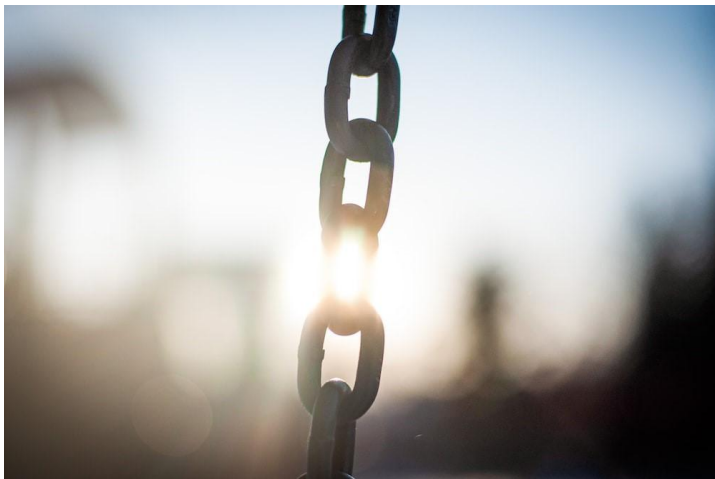
*Add your voice to the of prayer to our God who loves us with
an all-inclusive love.*

God of truth,
help us to keep your law of love
and to walk in ways of wisdom,
that we may find true life
in Jesus Christ your Son. **Amen.**

Our prayer asks God to inspire, guide and strengthen us as we seek to follow our Lord's radical example of love. Daily life contains opportunities to be loving and caring towards those who feel downtrodden by life. Also, it contains times of temptation, to overlook those who are different to us or to be rude to those who are hard to like. Leaning into Jesus can enable our love to broaden and deepen. Pause to wonder how our Lord is inviting you to expand the range of your love and kindness. It might be through loving action, or it could be through caring prayers.

Where is the challenge in this? What risks or temptations might you face? Lean into Jesus and seek his help to be bold and to stay strong.

At the start and end of each day, you might like to remember our Lord's call and your promise to him. In the morning, you could ask yourself, 'What can I do this day? What should I pray today?' Then, in the evening, you could look back and ask yourself, 'How have I done? Did I love as I promised to do? Did I struggle and give in to temptation or miss an opportunity to be loving? Where was God for me?'



Will you let the blinded see
if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free,
and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean
and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean
in you, and you in me?

John L. Bell (b. 1949) and Graham Maule (b. 1958)

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LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD

Finding true life

As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. 'Follow me,' he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him.

While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, 'Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?'

On hearing this, Jesus said, 'It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but those who are ill. But go and learn what this means: "I desire mercy, not sacrifice." For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.'

While he was saying this, a synagogue leader came and knelt before him and said, 'My daughter has just died. But come and put your hand on her, and she will live.' Jesus got up and went with him, and so did his disciples.

Just then a woman who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak. She said to herself, 'If I only touch his cloak, I will be healed.'

Jesus turned and saw her. 'Take heart, daughter,' he said, 'your faith has healed you.' And the woman was healed at that moment.

When Jesus entered the synagogue leader's house and saw the noisy crowd and the people playing pipes, he said, 'Go away. The girl is not dead but asleep.' But they laughed at him. After the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took the girl by the hand, and she got up. News of this spread through all that region.

Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

Finding true life...

This is a passage full of contrasts. Interesting contrasts. The experts on the Jewish law – the Pharisees – break one of the Great Commandments, fail to see the wideness of God’s love and the depth of his desire to forgive and reclaim his lost sheep. They fail to accept the true path through life. Despite being the recognised experts on Hebrew Scripture, theologians, their eyes are blind to what God is doing. Instead, they focus on one of Scripture’s more minor rules.

What should they be doing? Celebrating that Matthew, the tax collectors and the other sinners have seen the error of their ways and are being welcomed back into God’s flock. This dinner party is a time for pure joy, not for proud – I’m better than you – condemnation.

By contrast, a leader of the local synagogue risks ostracism by reaching out to Jesus. Whilst his request for help is driven by his deep, deep grief at the death of his daughter, his words are words of true and trusting faith. “My daughter has just died. But come and put your hand on her, and she will live.” are spoken with a real belief that Jesus can perform this miracle. A belief that is as strong as the woman’s when she reached out to touch Jesus’ cloak. At a time of intense suffering – real darkness – Jesus was their light of hope and their path to true life.

Jesus crosses so many boundaries to show love to those on the margins: the lost sheep – the grieving – the unclean. What boundaries would you cross to show that God loves those who feel lost – hurting – unwelcome?



Lord, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you,
and never be the same.
In your company I’ll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I’ll move and live and grow
in you, and you in me. *John L. Bell and Graham Maule*

OUR PRAYERS

Feel free to use one or more of these prayers and to add your own.

Lord Jesus, you looked at Matthew with all his flaws and you saw his possibilities. You called him to come and be a disciple, to find the true life. Lord, thank you, for calling me by name...

Lord, hear my prayer.

Lord Jesus, you sat down and ate with tax collectors and sinners, and opened up the true and loving path through life. You forgave them. Lord, bless and guide those who seek to rehabilitate offenders...

Lord, hear my prayer.

Lord Jesus, you were filled with compassion for the hurting woman and for the grieving dad. You were moved by their faith. You spoke words of healing love. Lord, bless those who reach out in faith...

Lord, hear my prayer.

Offer your own heartfelt prayers and yearnings, praise and thanksgivings.

The Lord's Prayer

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.**

PRAYER OF BLESSING

A closing prayer of blessing for this week.

O God, you search me and you know me,
all my thoughts and feelings are open to your gaze,
you see the paths I will take before I take them. Guide my daily living.
Bless me and keep my loved ones safe, I pray. **Amen.**