

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



**Prayers and Reflections  
for use at home**

**Sunday 6 July 2025**

**Trinity 3**

Welcome to our prayers and reflections for the third Sunday after Trinity. Having already sent his twelve core disciples on their first solo mission, Jesus sends out seventy-two others. It is not just the apostles who will be doing amazing things in our Lord's name. His church will need workers as well as leaders. Others, I am sure, will have been followers of Jesus in their daily lives. Where do you see yourself in this three layered mission, work of the Church?

Enjoy pondering this.

Every blessing,

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*As you prepare to enter these prayers and reflections,  
renew your promise to follow in our Lord's footsteps  
and accept his call on your life.*



O Jesus, I have promised  
to serve thee to the end;  
be thou for ever near me,  
my Master and my Friend:  
I shall not fear the battle  
if thou art by my side,  
nor wander from the pathway  
if thou wilt be my guide.

*John Ernest Bode (1816-1874)*

**Prayers and Reflections**  
**for use at home on Trinity 3**  
**Leading - Working - Living**

**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 next verse.*

O let me hear thee speaking  
in accents clear and still  
above the storms of passion,  
the murmurs of self-will;  
O speak to reassure me,  
to hasten or control;  
O speak, and make me listen,  
thou guardian of my soul.

*John Ernest Bode (1816-1874)*



*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.*

*What a beautiful phrase! O speak, and make me listen, thou guardian of my soul. It goes to the very heart of who Jesus is to us - he is both our Saviour and our Guardian. Once we have said 'Yes!' to him, perhaps, at our baptism or at a later stage in our life, we know - we can trust - Jesus will be always there for us. We have the sign of the cross to confirm his promise to us and ours to him.*

*And, this reminds me of the words that I say in the baptism service when I make the sign of the cross in blessed oil on the child's or candidate's forehead:*

Christ claims you for his own.

Receive this sign of the cross.

Do not be ashamed of Christ.

You are his for ever.

Stand bravely with him  
against all the powers of evil,  
and remain faithful to Christ  
to the end of your life.

*Staying faithful is hard to do on our own. It is why our Lord sends his Spirit to us to be our inner voice - our coach and our guide. We cannot stray too far from the true path in life if we listen to him. We can stand bravely in the face of life's challenges and temptations if we turn to him and seek his comforting words of wisdom.*

*Think about your life today and how you are feeling. How can our Lord's Spirit reassure, encourage or teach you at this time? Turn to him - silently - and listen with your heart and soul. Seek your Guardian's voice.*

## PRAYING TODAY'S PRAYER

### (The Collect)

*Across our villages and the worldwide Church,  
this prayer is being said today. Add your voice to this earthly circle  
of prayer to our God who loves us with an unbreakable love.*

God our saviour,  
look on this wounded world  
in pity and in power;  
hold us fast to your promises of peace  
won for us by your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

*Listening to the news, reading the papers, it is so very easy to become  
downhearted at the state of our world today. Recent events in Iran,  
ongoing conflict in Gaza, and the USA's involvement in these, can leave us  
fearing for the future of our planet home or cause us to doubt in God's  
power to heal our world's wounds. Where is our Prince of Peace? Where  
is the Guardian of our Galaxy? can be our heart's cry.*

*It is at times like these that we do have to hold fast to our trust in God's -  
our Lord's - power to save the human race from the worst that we can do.  
We have to hold on to our Lord's promise of a new heaven and new earth,  
when all will live in peace. This vision always lifts my spirits - Jesus is in  
charge and one day all will be as it should be. Until then, by listening to  
his still small voice, I will do what I can to offer little foretastes of a world  
filled with love and peace. Pause to ponder this prayerfully.*



O Jesus, thou hast promised  
to all who follow thee,  
that where thou art in glory  
there shall thy servant be;  
and, Jesus, I have promised  
to serve thee to the end:  
O give me grace to follow,  
my Master and my Friend.

*John Ernest Bode*

## LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD

### **Jesus sends out the seventy-two**

After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. He told them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road.

'When you enter a house, first say, "Peace to this house." If someone who promotes peace is there, your peace will rest on them; if not, it will return to you. Stay there, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house.

'When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is offered to you. Heal those there who are ill and tell them, "The kingdom of God has come near to you." But when you enter a town and are not welcomed, go into its streets and say, "Even the dust of your town we wipe from our feet as a warning to you. Yet be sure of this: the kingdom of God has come near."

'Whoever listens to you listens to me; whoever rejects you rejects me; but whoever rejects me rejects him who sent me.'

The seventy-two returned with joy and said, 'Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name.'

He replied, 'I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.'

## Leading - Working - Living...

*Jesus is coach not just to the twelve but also to the seventy-two. Both sets of evangelists - Good News bearers - have gone out in pairs to do what Jesus has been doing. It is a chance to practise what they will be doing - post-Pentecost - without him at their side. Not everyone who obeys our Lord's call is destined to be one of his teachers and preachers, his healers and miracle workers, his leaders and church builders. All are called to live fired up by their love for their Saviour and Guardian. For this is how our Lord's message gets to all four corners of his mission fields. So, as well as training to-be leaders and workers, Jesus transforms the lives of people - ordinary people - so that he can send them back to their homes to live by faith and love. Eagerly, excitedly these early believers will have told their family and friends about what Jesus has done for them - leaving God's Spirit to do the rest!*

*Our mission field today feels as vast and as untapped as the villages visited by the twelve and by the seventy-two. In some ways, our mission today is even more challenging than in Jesus' time. In the first century, most people grew up practising a faith, trusting in their god's power to save his people from worldly perils. Today, most people trust in their own skills and resources to achieve a comfortable life. A sense of otherness or an awareness of God's nearness is lying dormant in so many of our family, friends and neighbours. How is God's still small voice encouraging you to shine with faith or speak of what our Lord has done?*



O let me see thy foot-marks,  
and in them plant mine own;  
my hope to follow duly  
is in thy strength alone:  
O guide me, call me, draw me,  
uphold me to the end;  
and then in heaven receive me,  
my Saviour and my Friend.

*John Ernest Bode (1816-1874)*

## OUR PRAYERS

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

Lord Jesus, you sent seventy-two of your followers out into the villages as your mission workers. You were teaching them to trust in the power of your message not their own powers. Strengthen, I pray...

Lord, hear my prayer.

Lord Jesus, you sent others back to their own homes with hearts and souls, bodies and minds, transformed by your love and compassion, by your forgiveness. Their glowing faith touched hearts. Inspire, I pray...

Lord, hear my prayer.

Lord Jesus, you have the power to still our inner storms, to restore hope when we are struggling with life, and to guide us when we are fearing the way that lies before us. Speak, I pray to...

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.**