

Mears Ashby and Hardwick and Sywell with Overstone



**Prayers and Reflections
for use at home**

Sunday 5 July 2026

Trinity 5

Welcome to this week's prayers and reflections. In our Gospel reading, Jesus offers an invitation, 'Come to me.' Short as it is, this is a two-part invitation. It is an invitation to come, which suggests that we are to go somewhere or to someone. The one we are invited to come and see is Jesus. Not any Jesus, but the Jesus who is the Messiah, the Son of the living God. Will the crowds be able to recognise him?

May you hear our Lord's words of invitation.

Every blessing,

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As you prepare to hear our Lord's invitation, ponder who he is to you with the words of this beautiful verse.



As water to the thirsty,
as beauty to the eyes,
as strength that follows weakness,
as truth that follows lies,
as songtime and springtime
and summertime to be,
so is my Lord,
my living Lord,
so is my Lord to me.

Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926-2024)

CCLI reported

Prayers and Reflections
for use at home on Trinity 5
Come to me

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.

Like calm in place of clamour,
like peace that follows pain,
like meeting after parting,
like sunshine after rain,
like moonlight and starlight
the sunlight on the sea,
so is my Lord,
my living Lord,
so is my Lord to me.

Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926-2024)



*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.*

This image of Jesus is of one who brings inner peace and calm and solace during turbulent times. The turbulence can be in our own or our family's lives or it could be the impact that the world news has on our wellbeing. Our Lord's offering can be the relief and release that we feel when letting go of a past mistake – our own – or in forgiving someone who has hurt us. Take a moment to re-read the moving words of this beautiful verse. Notice how they speak to your seeking. Lay this before our Lord Jesus prayerfully. He is listening. He is our source of inner peace. Receive of him gently and thankfully.



Be still, and know that I am God.
Be still, and know that I am God.
Be still, and know that I am God.
from Psalm 46

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 whose love is unbreakable.

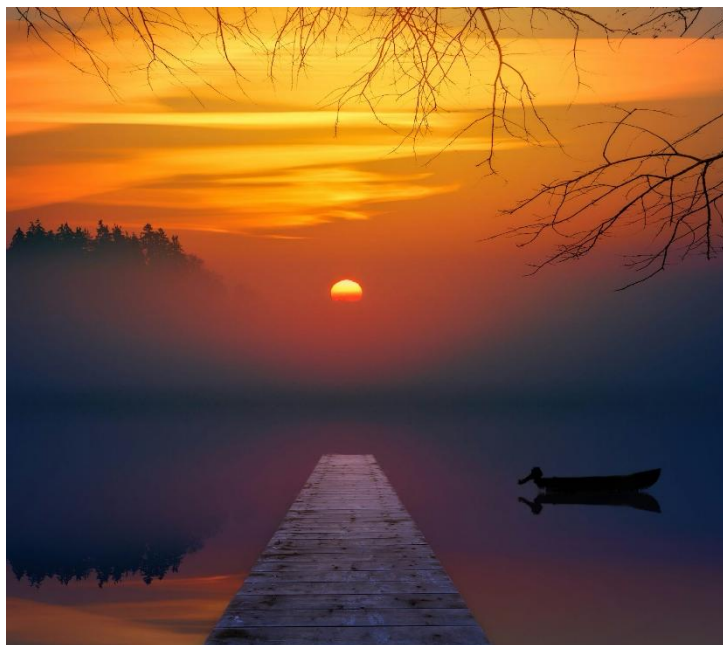
Almighty God,
send down upon your Church
the riches of your Spirit,
and kindle in all who minister the gospel
your countless gifts of grace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

What a beautiful prayer for us - Christ's Church, and for each one of us - Christ's followers. We are called to be signs and foretaste of his kingdom of love and peace, of welcome and acceptance. We can only do this by being in tune with God's voice, his Spirit within us, and by paying close attention to our Lord's words to us. We can only offer his love and peace, his welcome and acceptance, if we have experienced these gifts for ourselves. We cannot minister to others from a place of emptiness.

Take a moment to ponder this. Contemplate the times in your life when you've turned to our Lord for help. What were you seeking? How did he answer your prayers? It is through these experiences that you are being called to be a source of blessing to others so that they too may receive of his deep wells of love and grace.

This is who our Lord – our living Lord – is to you and can be to others who are yearning for peace and calm in their lives.

*Give thanks for who he has been – who he is – who he will be to you:
Jesus, Lord of our lives, our very own Prince of Peace.*



As sleep that follows fever,
as gold instead of grey,
as freedom after bondage,
as sunrise to the day,
as home to the traveller
and all we long to see,
so is my Lord,
my living Lord,
so is my Lord to me.

Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926-2024)

CCLI reported

LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD

Come to me

Jesus said, 'To what can I compare this generation? They are like children sitting in the market-places and calling out to others:

“We played the pipe for you,
and you did not dance;
we sang a dirge,
and you did not mourn.”

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, “He has a demon.” The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, “Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.” But wisdom is proved right by her deeds.’

At that time Jesus said, ‘I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do.

‘All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

‘Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.’

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Come to me...

The first part of our reading reminds me of the fairy tale: Goldilocks and the three bears. For some in the crowds – especially, the Pharisees and the Lawyers – John the Baptist was being too critical of God's people, and should not have included the religious leaders in his call to come, come and seek God's forgiveness. He was too cold!

For these people, Jesus was too liberal. Eating and drinking with sinners, healing the sick on the Sabbath, touching the unclean, was not on. This is not what a rabbi – a teacher – should be doing. He was too hot!

What they were looking for was a prophet – a herald – a messiah who fitted their image of a person of God rather than being open to God's radical choices. By looking for the one who was 'just right', they missed out on John the Baptist's call to come and receive God's forgiveness. Now, they are missing out on Jesus' invitation to come and receive God's joy and love, his peace and hope.

The message from this is God is who he is, not who we want him to be. God will call who he wants to call to be his messengers, carers, missionaries, and they are not always the people that we would expect him to call to be agents of his love. No one is too cold or too hot, all can be 'just right', which is good news for us! For we all have value in his eyes. We all have a role to play.

And this leads us into the second part of our passage, where Jesus offers his two-part invitation. He is saying to all who are struggling, 'Come, come to me.' We see that his bias is towards those who are looked down on by their neighbours and those who cannot cope with life. He will be their one true source of inner peace – outer calm – future hope. He is saying 'Ignore those who dismiss me. Come to me. I am your Messiah.' Ponder your need of him. Ponder too how he is calling you to care.



Christ's is the world in which we move,
Christ's are the folk we're summoned to love,
Christ's is the voice which calls us to care,
and Christ is the one who meets us here.

*To the lost Christ shows his face;
to the unloved he gives his embrace;
to those who cry in pain or disgrace,
Christ makes with his friends a touching place.*

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

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OUR PRAYERS

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

Lord Jesus, you are just right for me. You are my Messiah, my Lord and my Saviour. You are my one true source of inner peace, outer calm and future hope. Lord, accept my praise and my prayers...

Lord, hear my prayer.

Lord Jesus, you are the world's Saviour King and Prince of Peace.

Yours is a kingdom which welcomes everyone. No one is too weak or too strong, too poor or too rich. All are welcome to receive and give...

Lord, hear my prayer.

Lord Jesus, you looked at the people in the crowds. You could see who was weighed down in life, who needed your gift of peace and calm, healing and wholeness. You said, 'Come to me.' Lord, invite I pray...

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.**