

Mears Ashby and Hardwick and Sywell with Overstone



**Prayers and Reflections
for use at home**

Sunday 20 June 2021

Trinity 3

Welcome to this week's Prayers and Reflections. This week, our readings invite us to think about how we can find God in nature. Everywhere around us are signs of God's handiwork. What do they tell us about who God is? It is a perfect follow on from last week's contemplation of the humble seed.

May God's glorious creation and these prayers and reflections fill you with praise for the One who made us.

Every blessing,

Revd Katrina

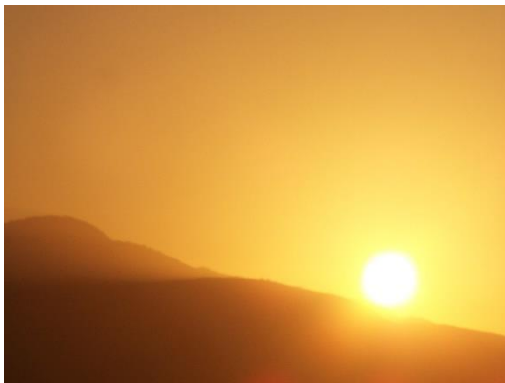
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All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice and with us sing
alleluia, alleluia!
Thou burning sun with golden beam,
thou silver moon with softer gleam:
*O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

William Henry Draper (1855-1933) alt.

Prayers and Reflections
for use at home on Trinity 3
Finding God in his glorious creation

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 cross in your palm, or on the table, and a bowl of water ready for the time of confession.

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 opening words of our hymn.

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
forgive our foolish ways!
Re-clothe us in our rightful mind,
in purer lives thy service find,
in deeper reverence praise,
in deeper reverence praise.

If you wish, dip your finger into a bowl of water and make the sign of the cross on your palm.



As you think about the mistakes you have made, feel God's forgiveness, and sense his loving desire for you love as he loves. How might you tread more gently through life?

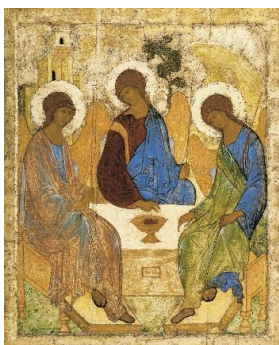
PRAYING TODAY'S PRAYER **(The Collect)**

Across our villages and the worldwide Church, this prayer is being said today. Add your voice to this earthly circle of prayer to our loving Father.

Almighty God,
you have broken the tyranny of sin
and have sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts
whereby we call you Father:
give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service,
that we and all creation may be brought
to the glorious liberty of the children of God;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Our prayer for this week is a glorious celebration of God's love for us, and for the whole of his creation. We see all of the Trinity's love at work: Jesus' love setting us free to live and love and care for his creation; through his Spirit's love, we know we are God's beloved children, and so - with love - we call him Father. Pause to abide in this circle of love.

When you are ready, offer your praise through the closing verse of
All creatures of your God and King.



Let all things their Creator bless,
and worship him in humbleness,
O praise him, alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, Three in One:
*O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

W H Draper (1855-1933) alt.

LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD

God's answer to Job

Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind:

'Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?

Gird up your loins like a man,

I will question you, and you shall declare to me.

'Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?

Tell me, if you have understanding.

Who determined its measurements—surely you know!

Or who stretched the line upon it?

On what were its bases sunk,

or who laid its cornerstone

when the morning stars sang together

and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy?

'Or who shut in the sea with doors

when it burst out from the womb?—

when I made the clouds its garment,

and thick darkness its swaddling band,

and prescribed bounds for it,

and set bars and doors,

and said, "Thus far shall you come, and no farther,

and here shall your proud waves be stopped"?

Job 38:1-11

Setting the scene...

As the Book of Job draws to a close with Job no nearer to understanding why he has suffered so much, God steps into the conversation.

God asks Job, 'Who is it that made all that you can see?'

'Can you control nature?'

To which, of course the answer is 'No!'.

Like King Cnut who tried to stop the tide coming in, Job sees that there is so much about life on Earth that he cannot control. Only God can.

If you are outdoors, take a look at the world around you.

If you are indoors, look out of a window.

What can you see? Notice the things that we - as humans - did not make, or cannot influence. What do they say to you about who God is?

Where can you see God's handiwork? His love?

In the beauty of nature, we see God's creative wisdom in...

- ☆ *The cycle of life*
- ☆ *The diversity of life on Earth*
- ☆ *The interdependence of all that lives and grows*
- ☆ *The beauty that fills our senses - sight, touch, sound, smell, taste*
- ☆ *The way God provides for all living things*

Do you, like me, wonder about what there was before the Big Bang and ponder all that came into being when God triggered creation: our universe... the planets... the stars... our sun... our moon... all of the billions of objects in the night sky? Out of all of this, ours is the planet that is life giving. God has chosen to have the closest and most loving relationship with Planet Earth, our home. What a wondrous thought!

Pause to drink this is.



Dear mother earth, who day by day
unfoldest blessings on our way.
O praise him, alleluia!
The flowers and fruits that in thee grow,
let them his glory also show:
O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

W H Draper (1855-1933) alt.

As you read our Gospel reading, think about who can calm the waves, still a storm. Even with all our technological advances, the forces of nature are mostly outside of our control. Who can stop a storm? Only God can.

Jesus stills a storm

On that day, when evening had come, Jesus said to them, 'Let us go across to the other side.' And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. A great gale arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, 'Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?' He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, 'Peace! Be still!' Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to them, 'Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?' And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, 'Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?'

Mark 4:35-41

Being out on inland sea in a storm must be a terrifying experience. Yet, Jesus sleeps. When woken, he speaks and the storm stills. His disciples must have been in awe of what he has just done. The opening words of Genesis would have come to mind. And God said, 'Let there be...'. When God speaks, creation obeys. Did they also call to mind God's challenge to Job and begin to form a tentative answer to their own question?

How does this passage speak to you of who Jesus is?



Thou rushing wind that art so strong,
ye clouds that sail in heaven along,
O praise him, alleluia!
Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,
ye lights of evening, find a voice:
O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

W H Draper (1855-1933) alt.

OUR PRAYERS

Here are some prayers for this Sunday. Feel free to add your own.

Creator God, as I look out on all that you have made,
I am filled with love and joy and praise for who you are,
and with amazement at your love for me.

I am just one of the many billions in your care. Yet, you know me.

Creator God, hear my prayer.

Creator God, you made our universe,
and filled Planet Earth with an abundance of life.

You have given us this glorious home,
yet we are failing in our care for your creation.

Show us how we can take action before it is too late,
and begin to reverse the harm we are doing.

I pray for...

Creator God, hear my prayer.

Creator God, you have the power to calm our storms,
and to still our pain. Trusting in your love for each one of us,
and your plans for us, I lift up to you those whose ill-health,
loneliness and sadness, is on my heart. Speak into their lives. I pray for...

Creator God, 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 my 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.**