

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2020

## Prayer and worship at home



### Preparation

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

The Lord be with you  
**And also with you.**

### The Act of Penitence

*As we pray, we reflect on the week that has passed  
and ask the Lord for his forgiveness and healing.*

Turn to us again, O God our saviour,  
and let your anger cease from us:  
Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Show us your compassion, O Lord,  
and grant us your salvation:  
Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Your salvation is near for those that fear you,  
that glory may dwell in our land:  
Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

### Words of Forgiveness

May the God of love and power  
forgive us and free us from our sins,  
heal and strengthen us by his Spirit,  
and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### The Special Prayer for this week

Eternal God, as Mary waited for the birth of your Son,  
so we wait for his coming in glory;  
bring us through the birth pangs of this present age  
to see, with her, our great salvation  
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### The Word of the Lord

**First Reading** *Romans 16. 25-27*

Now to God who is able to strengthen you  
according to my gospel and the proclamation of  
Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the  
mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is  
now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is  
made known to all the Gentiles, according to the  
command of the eternal God, to bring about the  
obedience of faith— to the only wise God, through  
Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

**The Holy Gospel** | *Luke 1. 26-38*

*Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ...*

### Glory to you, O Lord

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God  
to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged  
to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of  
David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her  
and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with  
you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and  
pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel  
said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found  
favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your  
womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He  
will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High,  
and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his  
ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob  
for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary  
said to the angel, 'How can this be since I am a virgin?'  
The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon  
you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow  
you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will  
be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth  
in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the  
sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For  
nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said,  
'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me  
according to your word.' Then the angel departed from  
her.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Affirmation of faith

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family  
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us  
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen**

## Prayers of Intercession

*You may wish to offer prayer in your own words,  
or be prompted by the words here*

*We pray for our world, especially at this time of anxiety  
and fear...*

*We pray for our nation and its well-being...*

*We pray for neighbours, family and friends and we  
remember all those self-isolating at the moment...*

*We pray for all who are sick, worried or anxious, and for  
those who feel cut off from friends and family...*

*We pray for those who have died in recent days, and all  
whom we remember with love and affection*

## The Lord's Prayer

Joining with Christians throughout the world,  
we pray:

**Our Father....**

*Or*

**Our Father in heaven....**

## The Grace

**The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God, and the fellowship of the  
Holy Spirit be with us all, evermore. Amen**

## Readings for the coming week:

Monday	Psalm 121	Luke 1. 39-45
Tuesday	Psalm 124	Luke 1. 46-56
Wednesday	Psalm 130	Luke 1. 57-66
Thursday	Psalm 45	Luke 1. 67-79

### Christmas Day

Psalm 96  
Luke 2. 1-14

Lord Jesus Christ,  
your birth at Bethlehem  
draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching  
earth:  
accept our heartfelt praise  
as we worship you,  
our Saviour and our eternal God. Amen.

### Saturday - St. Stephen's Day

Psalm 13  
Matthew 10. 17-22

Gracious Father,  
who gave the first martyr Stephen  
grace to pray for those who took up stones against  
him:  
grant that in all our sufferings for the truth  
we may learn to love even our enemies  
and to seek forgiveness for those who desire our  
hurt,  
looking up to heaven to him who was crucified for  
us,  
Jesus Christ, our Mediator and Advocate,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Keep us, good Lord,  
under the shadow of your mercy.  
Sustain and support the anxious,  
be with those who care for the sick,  
and lift up all who are brought low;  
that we may find comfort  
knowing that nothing can separate  
us from your love  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
Amen.