

Sunday 6<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.*

God, through Jesus Christ,  
will judge the secret thoughts of all:  
Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,'  
will enter the kingdom of heaven:  
Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Let anyone who has an ear  
listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches:  
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

Almighty God, purify our hearts and minds,  
that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as  
judge and saviour  
we may be ready to receive him,  
who is our Lord and our God. **Amen**

### The Word of the Lord

**First Reading** *Isaiah 40. 1-11*

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your  
God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her  
that she has served her term, that her penalty is  
paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand  
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the  
way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a  
highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low; the  
uneven ground shall become level, and the rough  
places a plain. Then the glory of the LORD shall be  
revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the  
mouth of the LORD has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I  
cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the  
flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower  
fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;  
surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the  
flower fades; but the word of our God will stand  
forever.

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of  
good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O  
Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not  
fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your  
God!" See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his  
arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his  
recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a  
shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and  
carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother  
sheep.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

**The Holy Gospel** | *Mark 1. 1-8*

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

**Glory to you, O Lord**

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the  
Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, 'See,  
I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will  
prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the  
wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his  
paths straight,"' John the baptizer appeared in the

wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.

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 30	Luke 5.17-26
Tuesday	Psalm 36	Matthew 18.12-14
Wednesday	Psalm 34	Matthew 11.28-end
Thursday	Psalm 54	Matthew 11.11-15
Friday	Psalm 86	Matthew 11.16-19
Saturday	Psalm 42	Matthew 17.10-13

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.

