

FOR OUR WEEK AHEAD

God our Father,
by whose mercy the world turns
safely into darkness and returns
again to the light;
we place into your hands
our unfinished tasks,
our unsolved problems and
unfulfilled hopes -
knowing that only what you bless
will prosper.
We commit to your love and
protection one another, and all
those we love;
and as one week ends and
another begins, we commit to you
ourselves and all that lies ahead,
knowing that you alone are our
sure defender,
in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FOR THE FAMILY OF GOD

Father, thank you for your
beautiful, multi-cultural, inter-
generational family, gathering
today in so many countries. Revive
and sanctify us, we pray. Make us a
house of prayer for all nations.
And set our hearts on fire again
with the good news of your
Kingdom. **Amen.**

FOR WIDER HORIZONS

O Lord, in our world where
many are lonely,
**Thank you for our
friendships.**
In our world where many are
captive,
**Thank you for our
freedom.**

In our world where many are
hungry,
**Thank you for your
provision.**
We pray that you will deepen our
compassion,
enlarge our generosity,
and motivate us with gratitude.
Grant to us leaders in this land
and in the nations who will
exemplify and embody all that we
have prayed for,
in Christ's name. Amen.
(Based on a prayer of Terry Waite)

Our Father ...

MUSIC ... to listen to

Send us out, in the power of your
Spirit,
**to live and work to your
praise and glory**

Blessing



Welcome to Every One! Gathered or at Home w/c 20th September '20

Valuing Every One

It's extraordinary how *inclusive*
are the writings we call the
Bible - all 66 books of them.
Especially when we recall how
easily the family of God can
fragment & exclude. I'm sure
it's a vital part of our vocation,
as those bound to God-as-
seen-in-Christ, to role-model
that inclusivity to an even more
fragmented but God-loved
world - showing Him, and us,
to be an *outward-facing, open-
hearted, healing community.*

Do we have, given our track
record, the right or 'cred' to be
that role-model? Yes; the full
answer lies in our 'fessing
up' (confession!), repentance,
forgiveness & transformation.

We then become that divinely
useable resource: healed
wounded healers. That seems
to be His way, and after all, we
owe our own healing & life to
God-as-seen-in-Christ, *THE*
Wounded Healer ... Reflections
for today and this week?

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH



Great is the
mystery of our
faith:

**Christ was wounded,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again!**

from PSALM 68

Sing to God, sing praise to his
name,
**extol him who rides on the
clouds;**
rejoice before him:
his name is the Lord.
A father to the fatherless,
**a defender of widows, is
God in his holy dwelling.**
God sets the lonely in families,
**and he leads out the
prisoners with singing.**
Praise be to the Lord, to God our
Saviour,
**who daily bears our
burdens.**

HYMN

God is love: His the care,
Tending each, everywhere.
God is love, all is there!
Jesus came to show him,
That mankind might know Him!

Refrain:

Sing aloud, loud, loud!
Sing aloud, loud, loud!
God is good! God is truth!
God is beauty! Praise Him!

None can see God above;
We can share life and love;
Thus may we Godward move,
Seek him in creation,
Holding every nation. R ...

Jesus lived on the earth,
Life and hope brought to birth
And affirmed human worth,
For He came to save us
By the truth He gave us. R ...

To our Lord praise we sing,
Light and life, friend and King,
Coming down, love to bring,
Pattern for our duty,
Showing God in beauty. R ...
Percy Dearmer, 1867-1936

Prayer for Today

O God, who in generous mercy
sent the Holy Spirit
upon your Church in the burning
fire of your love:
grant that your people may be
fervent in the fellowship of the
gospel so that, always abiding in
you,
we may be found steadfast in faith
and active in service;
through Jesus Christ your Son our
Lord, **Amen.**

READING from Isaiah ch.56

This is what the Lord says:
'Maintain justice and do what is
right, for my salvation is close at
hand and my righteousness will
soon be revealed. Blessed is the
one who does this – the person
who holds it fast, and keeps their
hands from doing any evil.'

Let no foreigner who is bound to
the Lord say, 'The Lord will surely
exclude me from his people.' And
let no eunuch complain, 'I am only
a dry tree.'

For this is what the Lord says: 'To
the eunuchs who keep my
Sabbaths, who choose what
pleases me and hold fast to my
covenant – to them I will give
within my temple and its walls a
memorial and a name better than
sons and daughters; I will give
them an everlasting name that will
endure for ever.

And foreigners who bind
themselves to the Lord to
minister to him, to love the name
of the Lord, and to be his
servants, all who hold fast to my
covenant – these I will bring to
my holy mountain and give them
joy in my house of prayer. Their
burnt offerings and sacrifices will
be accepted on my altar; for my
house will be called a house of
prayer for all nations.' The
Sovereign Lord declares – he who
gathers the exiles of Israel: 'I will
gather still others to them besides
those already gathered.'

Isaiah 56:1-8

This is the Word of the Lord;
Thanks be to God.

HYMN (based on Mark ch.8)

All
Take up thy cross, the Saviour said,
if thou wouldst my disciple be;
deny thyself, the world forsake,
and humbly follow after me.

Women

Take up thy cross, let not its
weight
fill thy weak spirit with alarm;
his strength shall bear thy spirit
up,
and brace thy heart and nerve
thine arm.

Men

Take up thy cross, nor heed the
shame,
nor let thy foolish pride rebel;
thy Lord for thee the cross
endured,
to save thy soul from death and
hell.

Women

Take up thy cross then in his
strength,
and calmly every danger brave;
'twill guide thee to a better home,
and lead to victory o'er the grave.

Men

Take up thy cross and follow
Christ,
nor think 'til death to lay it down;
for only those who bear the cross
may hope to wear the glorious
crown.

All

To thee, great Lord, the One in
Three,
all praise forevermore ascend:
O grant us in our home to see
the heavenly life that knows no
end.

Charles W. Everest 1814-1877

READING from Isaiah 56;
part of the 1st reading, but from a
translation by Eugene Petersen.

Make sure no outsider who now
follows God ever has occasion to
say, "God's put me in second-class.
I don't really belong."

And make sure no physically
mutilated person is ever made to
think, "I, too, am damaged goods. I,
too, do not really belong."

This is the Word of the Lord;
Thanks be to God.

PRAYERS FOR TODAY AND THE WEEK AHEAD

We are not people of fear,
we are people of courage.
We are not those who merely
protect ourselves,
**we look out for one
another.**
We are not 'consumers',
**we are people of
generosity.**
We are your people, O Lord:
**giving and loving,
serving with a smile,**
wherever we are,
whatever the cost,
**for as long as it takes -
like Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

