

Welcome to a time of prayer and reflection. Let's be still and recognise that we are in the presence of God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

In today's beautiful collect we are reminded what we do in love is what is of true worth. Let's ask God to remove in us all that impedes the giving and receiving of love.

Father, you come to meet us when we return to you:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Jesus, you died on the cross for our sins:

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Spirit, you give us life and peace:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Let us pray:

Lord, you have taught us
that all our doings without love are nothing worth:
send your Holy Spirit
and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love,
the true bond of peace and of all virtues,
without which whoever lives is counted dead before you.
Grant this for your only Son Jesus Christ's sake,
who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

From the Gospel according to Mark: 4:26-34

Sermon (see attached text)

Let us pray:

For the unity of the Church in witness and proclamation of the Gospel,
that we may offer the open welcome to all that is the mark of the God's
Kingdom...;

let us pray to the Lord: R: Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer

For the peace and stability of all peoples

and for the leaders of the nations, especially for those who have been
gathered for the G7 summit in Cornwall, for their action to speed
vaccine equity, and co-operation on the way we honour the gifts of
Creation

let us pray to the Lord: R

For places of work, education and leisure, as we await the next decisions
on Covid restrictions: for the safety of all, for the wellbeing, mental and
financial of all badly hit by the changes required through the last year,
for a sense of calm and concern for the common good;

let us pray to the Lord: R

For a blessing on our homes;

for our relations and friends and all whom we love ...;

and for all those who feel isolated and excluded, lacking close family and
friends, for that we might help them find a place of welcome and love.

let us pray to the Lord: R

For the sick and suffering and all who minister to their needs ...;

let us pray to the Lord: R

For those we love and see no longer, all who have died recently or whose anniversaries fall at this time, and for those who mourn

Let us pray to the Lord: R

Let us commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray,
to the mercy and protection of God.

For the coming of God's kingdom we pray in the words Jesus gave us:
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. Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory. Forever and ever, Amen.

Giving thanks for the communion we share through baptism with one another and with God in Christ Jesus our Lord we make an act of spiritual communion in the words of this prayer:

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits you have given me, for all the pains and insults you have borne for me. As I cannot receive you sacramentally today, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.

God the Holy Trinity make you strong in faith and love,
defend you on every side,
and guide you in truth and peace;

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.