



EVENING PRAYER

LENTEN SEASON

All God's People, Instruments of healing



Newbury, St George & St John

Welcome to Evening Prayer with St George the Martyr Wash Common and St. John the Evangelist, Newbury.

From earliest times, Christians gathered at regular hours during each day and night to respond to God's word with praise on behalf of all creation and with intercession for the salvation of the world.

We invite you to participate with us in this service as part of the Lenten season. The prayers are very simple to follow, and there will be a short reflection too.

Last Friday the worldwide Church celebrated the Women's World Day of Prayer. Today, is National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, when we remember the 17.8 million women, globally, with HIV/AIDS. (Data obtained as of 2018) *

Young women and adolescent girls (aged 15-24) are particularly affected, in 2018, there was an estimate of 2.4 million who are affected.

There are an estimated 14.8 million children aged 0-14 years living with HIV/AIDS and 16.5 million children, worldwide, who have lost either a mother, father or both parents to HIV/AIDS.

The figures are staggering. Through collective prayer, through a sense of healing and justice, for all of God's people, it is hoped, more can be done to prevent the spread of the disease, to encourage and promote testing and treatment and to eliminate the prejudice and stigma of women and girls associated with this disease.

* Data supplied by United Nations, 2018

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The Greeting

The officiant says:

Creator of the cosmos,
of eternity and time:

BE WITH US IN THIS TIME

Saviour of the world,
healer of the nations:

BE WITH US IN THIS PLACE

Breath of all that lives,
of people near and far:

STIR WITHIN OUR LIVES

We are called, into God's love,
men, and women, young and old,
rich and poor, strong and weak

WE YEARN FOR JUSTICE, HEALING AND PEACE

Maker-Spirit-Son,
God of here and now:

BE PRESENT IN OUR WORSHIP

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Loving God,
you have led us to this place, this time,
not to shield us from heartache
and the pain of human life,
but to heal us and inspire us,
to gently redirect us,
till we see the world as you do
and love it with your love.

Amen.

The Word of God

Psalm 39. 4-11 Wisdom and Forgiveness

4 'Lord, let me know my end,
and what is the measure of my days;•
let me know how fleeting my life is.

5 You have made my days a few handbreadths,
and my lifetime is as nothing in your sight. •
Surely everyone stands as a mere breath.

6 Surely everyone goes about like a shadow.
Surely for nothing they are in turmoil; •
they heap up, and do not know who will gather.

7 'And now, O Lord, what do I wait for?•
My hope is in you.

8 Deliver me from all my transgressions. •
Do not make me the scorn of the fool.

9 I am silent; I do not open my mouth, •
for it is you who have done it.

10 'Hear my prayer, O Lord,
and give ear to my cry;•
do not hold your peace at my tears.

11 Turn your gaze away from me, that I may smile again, •
before I depart and am no more.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever.**

Amen.

Scripture reading

St Paul's Letter to the Galatians 3.28

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

The Gospel of Matthew 5: 43-48

We are all brothers and sisters, children of our Heavenly Father.

A Prayer of Petition

**God of love and compassion,
Look upon the struggles of women, and of men everywhere,
Turn the wrong that has been done, into a right.
Give us understanding and wisdom that women and men are equal
in your sight, worthy of respect and belonging.
For the sake of Jesus, who died for us,
forgive all that is past,
and help every women, every man to live each day,
in the light of Christ' values and loved. Amen.**

Gospel Reading *John 4.5-30*

Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink'. (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?' (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink", you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?'

Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?’ Jesus said to her, ‘Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.’ The woman said to him, ‘Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.’

Jesus said to her, ‘Go, call your husband, and come back.’ The woman answered him, ‘I have no husband.’ Jesus said to her, ‘You are right in saying, “I have no husband”; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!’

Music Instrumental played by Imogen Brown

The woman said to him, ‘Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.’ The woman said to him, ‘I know that Messiah is coming’ (who is called Christ). ‘When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.’ Jesus said to her, ‘I am he, the one who is speaking to you.’

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, ‘What do you want?’ or, ‘Why are you speaking with her?’ Then the woman left her water-jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, ‘Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?’ They left the city and were on their way to him.

Short Reflection

Silence is kept.

Music Instrumental played by Imogen Brown

Prayers of Intercession Lead by Anneliese Brown

The response below may be used at the end of each bidding.

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Special Prayer for today

Almighty God,
whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain,
and entered not into glory before he was crucified:
mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross,
and find it none other than the way of life and peace;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer (Alternative Version)

As our Saviour has taught us, so we pray:

**Earth-Maker, pain-bearer, life-giver,
source of all that is and that shall be.**

Father and Mother of us all.

Loving God, in whom is heaven;

the hallowing of your name echoes through the universe!

The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the earth;

your heavenly will be done by all created beings.

Your commonwealth of peace and freedom,

sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.

In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.

In times of temptation and test, spare us.

From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power;

that is love,

now and forever. Amen.

New Zealand Prayer Book

Closing Responses

Peace to the nations,
east and west,
north and south,
healing and mercy to our neighbour, black and white,
peace to all women, peace to all men,
the peace of Christ above all peace.

Amen.

Iona Community prayer

Jesus Christ is the light of the world:
a light no darkness can quench.

Stay with us Lord, it is evening:
and the day is almost over.

The darkness is not dark to you:
the night is as bright as the day.

Let your light scatter the darkness:
and fill all peoples, with your glory.

Amen.

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