

Prayer and The Lord's Prayer.

Gracious God, we understand only a tiny part of the salvation you are bringing to all the earth,
From the very dawn of life, through all the ages of human history and into the distant centuries, you are the same God .
We wonder, worship and adore. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.

As Isaac Watts wrote:

*He sent His Son with power to save
From guilt and darkness and the grave
Wonders of grace to God belong
Repeat his mercies with a song.*

Oh Lord, we confess that often we feel that we have nothing to give.
We are drained of enthusiasm, we lose confidence in our abilities,
Then, Lord, show us the richness of creation and your joy in what ordinary people can do to further your kingdom.
Bless the work of our hands good Lord, particularly at this time of distress.
Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.
Amen.
Our Father
Amen.

Comment

You may remember that a few weeks ago I started the prayers of intercession with my thoughts on a rainbow I had seen earlier in the week. It's colours seemed to be enhanced by the black storm clouds Gathering behind it. I said at the time that I had been through a very stressful week, but that rainbow seemed to show, for me, that even though we go through stormy times God's promise of his unfailing love is there for us if we but reach out for it.

Good Friday is a day when we remember the storms which Jesus faced during his time on earth:- the disownment by his own family and the community in which he was brought up, the lack of faith of his own disciples, the opposition of the Jewish leaders, the betrayal by Judas, that night in the Garden of Gethsemane when it seemed to Jesus that even his Father had deserted him, the denials by Peter, and finally the crucifixion.

And yet, his final submission with those words," never the less, not my will but thine be done, O, Lord."

William Barclay, writes of Jesus' death,
"Here is the precious thing, Jesus passed through the uttermost abyss and then the light broke. If we too cling to God, even when there seems to be no God, desperately and invincibly clutching to the remnants of our faith, quite certainly the dawn will break and we will win through."
May God bless us and those we love and care for in these difficult times.
Amen

Prayers of Intercession

Gracious, loving God, we bring before you our prayers of intercession. We remember before you our friends in our congregation and others who need our special prayers. (take time to quietly bring to God your own needs and others you know or care for)

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for all who look after those who are in need of care whether in hospital, at home or struggling to cope through the present difficulties.

We thank you for all who work in the NHS, our emergency services and for all who continue to work to provide for the needs of our community.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer

Thank you too for the rainbows which children have drawn and display in their windows, may we be uplifted and reminded of your enduring love as we pass and pray for the families inside.

As we remember today the great sacrifice of Jesus may we, O God, remember that you are present in the deepest darkness.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayers. **Amen.**

There is a green hill

There is a green hill far away, outside a city wall,
where the dear Lord was crucified, who died to save us all.

We may not know, we cannot tell, what pains he had to bear,
but we believe it was for us he hung and suffered there.

He died that we might be forgiven. He died to make us good,
that we might go at last to heaven, save by his precious blood.

There was no other good enough to pay the price of sin;
he only could unlock the gate of heaven, and let us in.

O dearly, dearly has he loved, and we must love him too,
and trust in his redeeming blood, and try his works to do.

My song is love unknown verses 5, 6, & 7

The rise, and needs will have my dear Lord made away;
a murderer they save, the Prince of Life they slay.

Yet cheerful he to suffering goes,
That he his foes from thence might free.

In life no house, no home, my Lord on earth might have;
In death, no friendly tomb but what a stranger gave.
What may I say? Heaven was his home;
But mine the tomb wherein he lay.

Here might I stay and sing, no story so divine:
Never was love, dear King, never was grief like thine!
This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise
I all my days could gladly spend.

THE CHURCH IN HOPE STREET

Service for Good Friday

Opening Sentences “Be still and know that I am God”

Hymn STF 284 There is a green hill far away

Prayers of Thanksgiving, confession and Lord’s Prayer

Reading Psalm 22 Verses 1—11

Reading Matthew 27 Verses 32—50

Comment

Prayers of Intercession

Hymn STF 277 My song is love unknown verses 5,6,7

Blessing

The words to the hymns can be found on the back page of this sheet