

# Worship at Home



**"Stat Crux Dum Volvitur Orbis"**  
**The cross stands steady as the world turns**

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We find ourselves in strange times where we are unable to meet fully as a whole church community.

As the inscription on the front page says – the cross stands steady as the world turns. Whatever is happening in the world during these uncertain times, the one thing we can hold on to is the trust and promises we have in God through Jesus Christ.

Jesus is our hope and our Saviour. A hope that we can continually turn to day by day.

Praying at home on your own may be something that is new or unfamiliar to you. It may be something that you do not find easy. We hope that the services in this book will provide a structure along words that are familiar.

You can either follow it exactly how it is or if you prefer use it as a guide and allow the Holy Spirit to lead your prayers. The most important thing is to do what is comfortable for you!

Morning prayer is said at 9:00 am each day.

The Sunday reflective service is said at 10.45 am, the time when we would usually all meet together.

We would encourage you to join in at these times.

Even though we are apart we can still be together as one praying community.

## Morning prayer

Find a comfortable place to pray.

Although we are apart, we come together to meet with God.

Let us recognise God's presence with us now.

Light a candle. Keep a short silence. Still your heart.

Blessed are you Sovereign God, creator of all,  
to you be glory and praise for ever.

You founded the earth in the beginning

and the heavens are the work of your hands.

In the fullness of time you made us in your image,

and in these last days you have spoken to us

in your Son Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.

As we rejoice in the gift of your presence among us

let the light of your love always shine in our hearts,

your Spirit ever renew our lives

and your praises ever be on our lips.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The night has passed and the day lies open before us;  
let us pray with one heart and mind.

A moment to think of others in our church community

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,  
so may the light of your presence, O God  
set our hearts on fire with love for you; now and  
forever.

Amen

Read the appointed Psalm for the day  
(See other booklet for details of today's Psalm)

End the Psalm with the following words

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.

Read the Old Testament reading set for the day  
(See other booklet for details of today's reading)

Come, let us go up to the mountain of God,  
to the house of the God of Jacob;  
That God may teach us his ways  
and that we may walk in his paths.  
For the law shall go out from Zion,  
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.  
God shall judge between the nations,  
and shall mediate for many peoples.  
They shall beat their swords into ploughshares,  
and their spears into pruning hooks.  
Nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
neither shall they learn war anymore.  
O people of Jacob, come:  
let us walk in the light of the Lord.

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.

Read the New Testament reading set for the day  
(See other booklet for details of today's reading)

Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel,  
who has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour,  
born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets God promised of old  
to save us from our enemies,  
from the hands of all that hate us,

To show mercy to our ancestors,  
and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:  
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

Free to worship him without fear,  
holy and righteous in his sight  
all the days of our life.

And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most  
High,  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

To give his people knowledge of salvation  
by the forgiveness of all their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the  
shadow of death,  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

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.

### Prayers of intercession are offered

- For today
- For the world
- For those that lead us
- For our parish and our church community
- For those who are sick
- For ourselves

### The Collect

Almighty and everlasting God,  
we thank you that you have brought us safely to the  
beginning of this day.  
Keep us from falling into sin  
or running into danger,  
order us in all our doings  
and guide us to do always  
what is righteous in your sight  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

## Lord's prayer

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.  
Amen.

## **A Reflective Service for Sunday morning: For worship in isolation**

We come from scattered lives to meet with God.  
Let us recognise God's presence with us now.

*A moment to be still and light a candle.  
Play a hymn/worship song if you wish to do so*

As God's people we have gathered;  
Let us worship God now together,  
Across the miles yet joined

Let us pray.  
Come, Holy Spirit,  
fill the hearts of your faithful people,  
and kindle in us the fire of your love;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
Amen.

In the light of Jesus, let us examine ourselves  
and confess our sins.

*Keep a short time of reflection,  
leave your sins at the cross*

*Confession:* Father, we have sinned against heaven  
and against you.

We are not worthy to be called your children.

We turn to you again, have mercy on us,  
bring us back to yourself as those who once were dead  
but now have life through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



*Absolution:* May the Father forgive us by the death of the Son,  
and strengthen us to live in the power of The Spirit  
all our days. **Amen.**

*Find the bible reading for today in the other booklet.*

*Be still for a short while to think about the bible reading. Complete the reflection box.*

## The Creed

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is,  
seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from  
heaven,  
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin  
Mary  
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and  
the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and  
glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of  
sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come.  
Amen.

## Prayers of Intercession

We intercede for others in the quiet of our hearts.  
Lord, meet us in the silence  
And hear our prayer.

- For today
- For the world
- For those that lead us
- For our town and our church community
- For those who are sick
- For ourselves

## Lord's prayer

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.  
Amen.

*Play a hymn or song if you are able*

## Concluding prayers

Christ be with me, Christ within me,  
Christ behind me, Christ before me,  
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,  
Christ to comfort and restore me.  
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,  
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,  
Christ in hearts of all that love me,  
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.  
*(from St Patrick's Breastplate)*

Fill us, Lord with your Spirit of love;  
And as you have fed us with your presence,  
so make us one in heart and mind,  
In Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

Let us bless the Lord  
Thanks be to God.

## **ALTERNATIVE PRAYER IDEAS**

### **The “Examen” (end of the day prayers)**

Don't let the name put you off! This is a very simple way to prayerfully review your day with God in five steps:

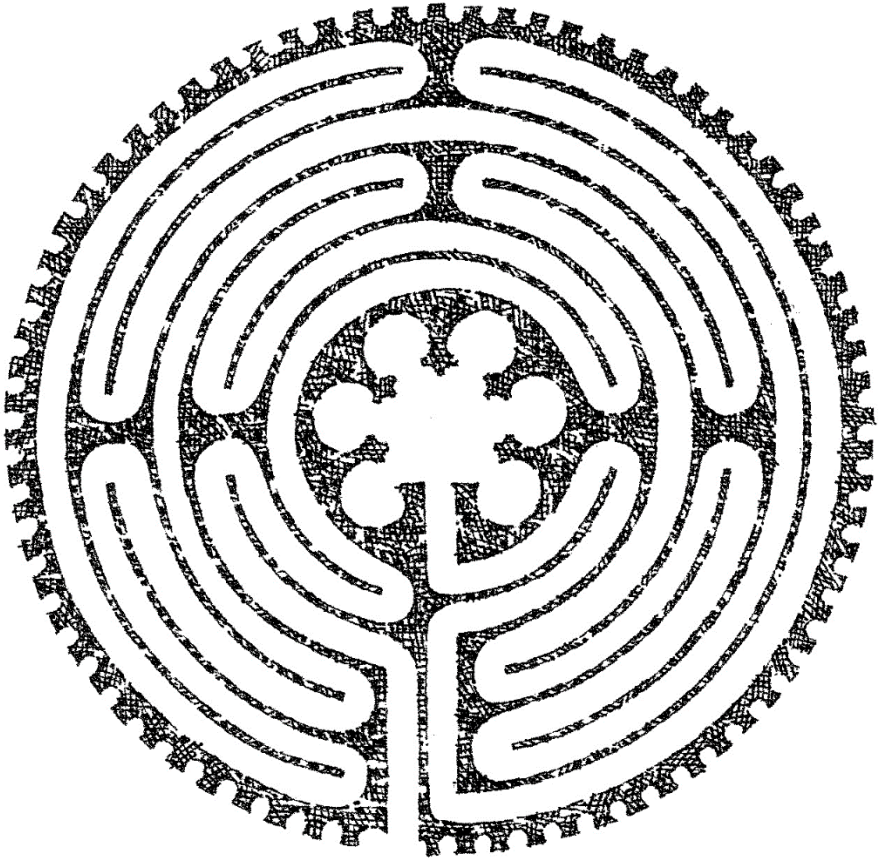
1. Become aware of God's presence, or ask God to help you remember he's there with you.
2. Review the day with gratitude (as best you can!)
3. Pay attention to how you're feeling about it.
4. Choose one feature of the day and pray about it.
5. Look toward tomorrow. What do you expect the day to hold? Ask God to help you remember He is with you.

### **Lectio Divina:**

Again, if this is new to you, don't let the name put you off. Lectio helps you to read the Bible in a prayerful way. Pick a short passage of Scripture (it can be anything you like, but if you're stuck, parables of Jesus or the shorter Psalms are a good choice). Read it through, slowly, two or three times. Notice what jumps out at you, and ask yourself, what is God saying to me here? Reflect on this for a few minutes. Then, read the passage again. Now ask yourself, what do I want to say to God? - then say it. Lastly, sit quietly and know that God is with you.

## A Prayer Labyrinth

You might find it helpful to 'walk' the labyrinth by tracing it with your finger as you pray.



*Labyrinth with thanks to Dr Jo Kershaw*

## **Plumb-line prayers**

Using Amos 7.7-9 where God is holding a plumb-line against a wall. The plumb-line would show if the wall had been straight or, because a plumb-line always drops in a direct perpendicular, it would also show how crooked the wall is.

A plumb-line could represent the truth of God. We should try and align our lives to God's plumb-line. To live in a way that He wants us to live. If everyone lived their lives according to God's plumb-line peace and justice will reign.

Make your own plumb-line out of some rope or string with a weight tied to the bottom.

During this time of prayer in your home, attach your prayers to the string or rope to remind us that when we cannot meet together, we all have this one thing in common:

God is our plumb-line and is at the centre of our lives.

You could also attach the names of family and friends who need God's peaceful presence during this time of uncertainty.

*Plumb-line prayer: With thanks to Creative Ideas for Whole Church Family Worship by Brind and Wilkinson*