

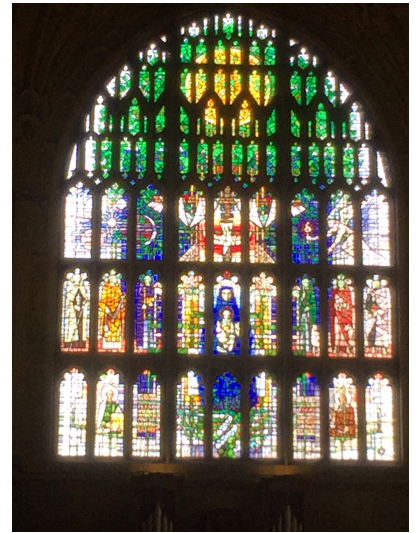
Palm Sunday 2020

From John Crossman



Hello to you all. I hope you are all keeping well. I run a monthly prayer service at the local home which cared for my father. During the present emergency, I am preparing a fortnightly service/prayer sheet for the residents. You are welcome to share it.

We live in very unusual times. My grandson was having his second birthday party on Saturday. But it had to be cancelled. I am sure you are also affected these events.



General thought

“Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go”. *Joshua Ch 1 v9*

Psalm 63 - This is the psalm we always share together

1. O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.
- 2 So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory.
- 3 Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.
- 4 So I will bless you as long as I live; I will lift up my hands and call on your name.
- 5 My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast and my mouth praises you with joyful lips
- 6 when I think of you on my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night;
- 7 for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.
- 8 My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me.

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be forever. Amen**

Our prayers

Let us first give thanks and praise for all God's gifts to us:

- for the gift of today... for our lives, for our memories
- for our families, friends and all those we remember and love
- for the warmth and growth of a new spring, promising flowers and harvest
- for our homes and all who provide for us or who care for us
- for all the wonderful acts of love and care that have sprung up all over the country - for "Viral Sherborne Kindness" who are delivering food and medicines to isolated people, for Sherborne Community Kitchen, making and delivering sustaining food, for the local Food Bank where demand has doubled this week.

For all those whom we care about or on whom we all rely in this time of the Covid-19 virus

- for all those known to us, family, friends carers that they may be kept safe through this difficult time,
- for those who are keeping vital services going, especially the health service and food suppliers.
- for those who've caught the virus,
- for those working on treatments and cures.
- for our Prime Minister and the government and our Queen that they may give the best guidance and leadership.



A view from the Church of the Good Shepherd, Tekepo New Zealand

Prayers for others

- We pray for all those we love, including those whom we no longer see...
- for blessings on all our young people, especially our grandchildren and great-grandchildren...
- for all those living alone - especially at this time...
- We give thanks for our wonderful bible and all our church services, and all those who bring them alive for us.

Prayers for ourselves

Finally we pray for ourselves

- We ask for peace and a deeper faith in you...
- Perhaps we need to pray for something special for ourself....
- Or maybe we just want to be quiet for a moment...
- Perhaps we find it difficult to pray - that's OK - many people do...tell God that you find it difficult and leave it in His hands.
- Sometimes I just hold this cross - it was made in Bethlehem from olive wood... I do not need to speak, just to be with God in my quietness.



A prayer for Palm Sunday

Almighty and everliving God, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to take upon him our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross, giving us the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may walk in the way of his suffering, and also share in his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Our Father

Our Father, which art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name;
Thy kingdom come;
Thy will be done
in earth, as it is in heaven:

Give us this day our daily bread;
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive them that trespass against us;
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil:
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
For ever and ever.

Amen.

This week's hymn is one you will probably know and is right for this time of year. It reminds us that in the midst of this life God came down as Jesus and gave his life that we all might have life with Him. It was written by C. F. Alexander.

There is a green hill far away

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| 1. There is a green hill far away,
without a city wall,
where the dear Lord was crucified,
who died to save us all. | 4. There was no other good enough
to pay the price of sin;
he only could unlock the gate
of heav'n, and let us in. |
| 2. 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. | 5. O dearly, dearly has he loved,
and we must love him too,
and trust in his redeeming blood,
and try his works to do. |
| 3. He died that we might be forgiv'n,
he died to make us good,
that we might go at last to heav'n,
saved by his precious blood. | |

Blessings on you all

John Crossman

*If you have any comments or requests for prayer please email:
john.crossman@btinternet.com*