

John1.1-14; Col. 1.15-20

2nd Sunday before Lent - 7th February 2021@ 10:30 am

Virtual Family Service from St. Andrew's Vicarage

As you all know, only too well, we are all having to stay at home to help protect each other from the darkness of this Coronavirus. As time goes by and more and more people are vaccinated, we look forward to a time when life will get back to some kind of normality, when we can mix with one another again freely and safely.

In the meantime, the two leaders of our church, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, Justin Welby and Stephen Cottrell, have recently invited all people, of every faith or none, to pray for the nation. Too many families have been devastated by the death of a loved one, and not just old folk but people of every age. The church has provided a short prayer for people to say every day at 6pm – it goes like this:

“Gracious God,

As we remember before you the thousands who have died, surround us and all who mourn with your strong compassion. Be gentle with us in our grief, protect us from despair, and give us grace to persevere and face the future with hope, in Jesus Christ our risen Lord. Amen.”

You could photograph this prayer and keep it to have handy.

The church has always believed strongly in the power of God at work in our lives, and therefore also in the power of prayer, that by expressing our innermost thoughts and feelings to God, we can make a difference. God doesn't always do just what we want, sometimes we don't always know what's best, so we have to have faith that whatever happens, in life or death, God is there with us, to meet us, to help lift up our spirits and to bring us hope, just like he was involved when Jesus was crucified.

God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit are really all part of one another. As the man Jesus, God suffered as we do, but he didn't die, and he came back to tell us life doesn't stop with death. So, even if all else fails, he's there to catch us in his everlasting arms. But he can really only help if we pray and ask, because God never does anything by force.

When he was with us, Jesus always encouraged us to have a relationship with God through him, and when he went back to heaven, he sent the Holy Spirit to enable his followers, and us, to keep up that relationship with him through prayer. Whenever we pray, God always hears us. You can't say anything to God that he doesn't hear. The more of us that pray to God for the virus to end, to help those here who are battling to end it, the sooner we may get through this together.

So today, we're offering you the opportunity to offer to us here your prayers for whoever you want prayed for. Could be someone you know, could be someone you love, could be your next-door neighbour - could be school children & teachers, could be all the doctors

and nurses at Barnet General hospital. You could even pray for all the people of the world if you wanted to, because our God's big enough to cope!

Send us your prayer now, via this zoom chat line, or just raise your hand on screen, and we'll light a prayer light right here on our tray, because we know that Jesus, God and the Holy Spirit are all tied up with light in a very special way.

He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

John 1:3-5

This is a great mystery, which we will never fully understand with our minds, but we can know it with our hearts. We need to pray and rejoice in God and know in our hearts that we are never outside of him. TSP prayers

Spoken in the name of the Father, Son & Holy Spirit. Amen.

Colossians 1:15-20 – ERV

The Son of God Is the Same as God

¹⁵ No one can see God,

but the Son is exactly like God.

He rules over everything that has been made.^[a]

¹⁶ Through his power all things were made:

things in heaven and on earth, seen and not seen—
all spiritual rulers, lords, powers, and authorities.

Everything was made through him and for him.

¹⁷ The Son was there before anything was made.

And all things continue because of him.

¹⁸ He is the head of the body, which is the church.

He is the beginning of everything else.

And he is the first among all who will be raised from death.^[b]

So in everything he is most important.

¹⁹ God was pleased for all of himself to live in the Son.

²⁰ And through him, God was happy to bring all things back to himself again—
things on earth and things in heaven.

God made peace by using the blood sacrifice of his Son on the cross.

Colossians 1.15-20

The Supremacy of Christ

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; ¹⁶for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him.

¹⁷He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

John 1.1-14

The Word Became Flesh

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

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