

**Thursday Prayer for 18th MAY 2023**  
**In Ely Cathedral and on Zoom 10.30am**

Anglican Pacifist Fellowship is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: ELY MU

Time: May 18, 2023 open from 10:00 AM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82753623816?pwd=UnBuS2JVeGVkRXFIZ3Z0OVBWYnBvdz09>

Meeting ID: 827 5362 3816

Passcode: 258882

**Prayer Focus: Being a disciple**

**Introductory Prayer:**

Thank you, Lord, that as we grow in faith, so we grow in commitment to those you call us to serve.

**We say together The Mothers' Union Prayer**

Loving Lord,

We thank you for your love so freely given to us all.

We pray for families around the world.

Bless the work of the Mothers' Union as we seek to share your love through the encouragement, strengthening and support of marriage and family life.

Empowered by your Spirit, may we be united in prayer and worship, and in love and service, reach out as your hands across the world.

In Jesus' name. Amen

**Prayer for the month:**

Lord Jesus, we ask for your blessing on those who feel called to your service.

Give them joy as they reflect on your call and are open to share their faith with others.

Give them grace for the work you are asking them to do.

Give them the power of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

May they know the joy of walking with you as they follow your call.

Amen

**Reading: Luke 24 : 44-53**

Our Reading is from Luke 24:44-53

He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."

Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his

name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

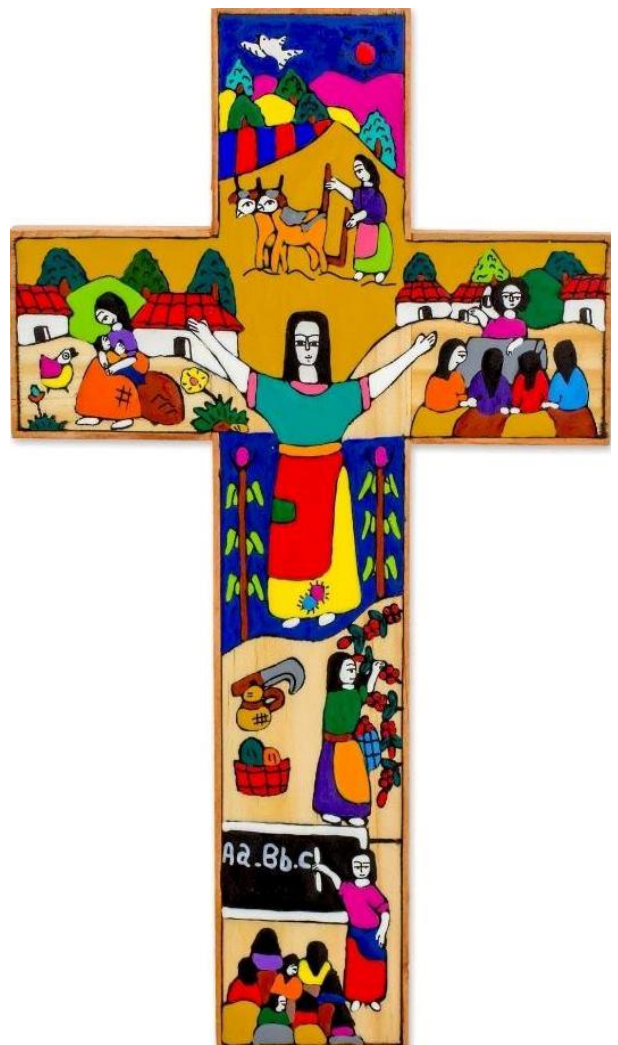
### Reflection: Being a disciple

As people arrived each was given a small wooden cross and a pen. Below is an outline of a cross for those at home. During our reflections I would like you to think about what this cross could mean to you.

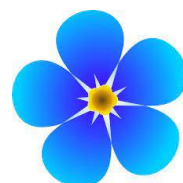
Let me give you an insight into what I mean.

A tradition of personlising crosses grew in El Salvador after the death of a young woman, Maria Gomez. She was an active member of her village church and met with others to think how they could lead faithful Christian lives when there was much injustice in the country, and a huge divide between the rich and poor.

She was a teacher in the nearby town and one day a black van drew up outside her school at home time. She was bundled inside and driven away. Later that day her body was found beside a road outside town. No one knows for sure why she was taken and killed, but there was a lot of persecution of Christians at that time in her country. The people who had loved her wanted her to be remembered for her discipleship and commissioned a picture cross to celebrate her life and faith. You can see an illustration of it.



During our time together I invite you to think how you would decorate your cross with a special meaning for you. You might want to write words or draw patterns, rainbow colours, add a dove or flowers.



Maria was a true disciple, living her life in the way that strengthened others to follow in Christ's footsteps.

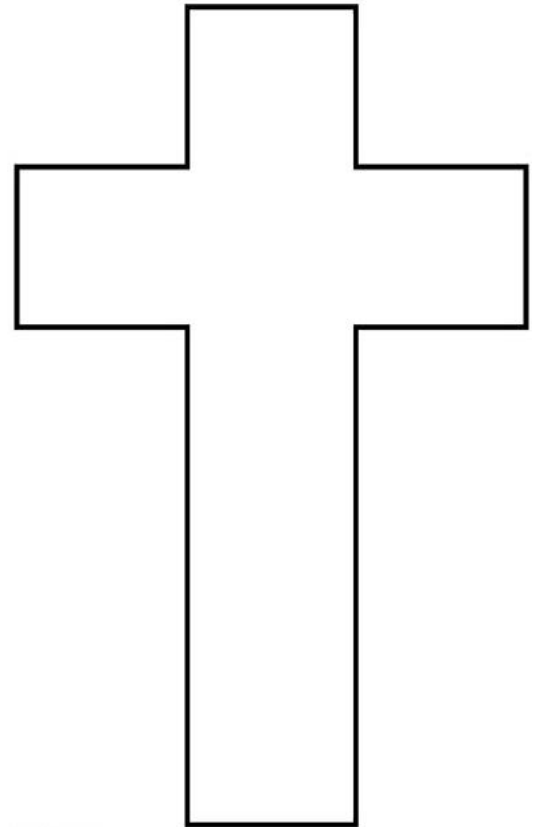
But what does 'being a disciple' mean to each one of us?

The dictionary definition is: one who receives instruction from another; one who adheres to a particular school of philosophy/religious thought; a pupil, a scholar, a follower.

What did Jesus expect of his 'disciples'? He made it clear for them at the Last Supper, recorded by John in chapter 13 of his gospel.

Jesus said:

A new commandment I give unto you,  
That you love one another as I have loved you,  
By this shall all know that you are My disciples.



Jesus had even spelt it out previously when talking to the crowds one day. He tells them that we all should "love our neighbour as ourselves". When challenged to say who counted as a 'neighbour' Jesus told the story of the Good Samaritan. Oh how difficult this loving one another can be! And how to spread the message. Well, in our reading we learnt that special help would be sent to his followers. Then after giving that promise, Jesus was taken into heaven.

After he said this,  
he was taken up before their very eyes,  
and a cloud hid him from their sight.

**Acts 1:9**

DailyVerses.net

The ascension of Jesus is one of the most significant events recorded in the New Testament. In the Christian tradition, Ascension Day (which happens to be today this year) marks the 40th day of Easter, and was recorded in our reading today.

According to the biblical account of the ascension, Jesus appears to the disciples in His glorified state after rising from the dead. He then encourages His disciples that they will “receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you.” He tells them that they must serve as His “witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” He says to them: “I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

After Jesus’ ascension, the disciples followed His instruction and returned to Jerusalem, where the atmosphere is tense. The authorities were known to still be keen to wipe out all memory of Jesus. The disciples gathered in that upper room of the house in the city. Despite the tensions, they were going to quietly celebrate the Jewish festival of Pentecost.

Suddenly, the house was filled with a sound from heaven like the roaring, mighty windstorm. Then, what looked like tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and were no longer afraid. This was Jesus’ promised gift. They all felt a need to speak out about Jesus and his wonderful promise of salvation for all.

Outside the streets were filled with visitors from many of the surrounding countries, there to celebrate Pentecost. Seizing the moment Peter stood and spoke to the crowds. Each person could hear what he was saying in their own language! (Read all about it in Acts 2:1-4)

This was the birth of the Christian Church, marked this year on May 28<sup>th</sup>.

May we feel the coming of His spirit to encourage us all to try to be HIS DISCIPLES.

**Let us pray:**

Lord Jesus, we ask for your blessing on those who feel called to your service. Give them joy as they reflect on your call and are open to share their faith with others.

Give them grace for the work you are asking them to do.

Give them the power of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

May they know the joy of walking with you as they follow your call. Amen

**HYMN**

Take my life, and let it be  
Consecrated Lord, to thee:  
Take my moments and my days,  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands, and let them move  
At the impulse of thy love;  
Take my feet and let them be  
Swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice, and let me sing  
Always, only, for my King  
Take my lips, and let them be  
Filled with messages from thee.

Take my silver and my gold;  
Not a mite would I withhold;  
Take my intellect and use  
Ev’ry pow’r as thou shalt choose.

Take my will, and make it thine:  
It shall ne no longer mine;  
Take my heart: it is thine own;  
It shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love: my Lord, I pour  
At thy feet its treasure store  
Take myself, and I will be  
Ever, only, all for thee.

Our Intercessions.

We pray for The worldwide work of the Mothers' Union; Sheran Harper our Worldwide President; Our Chief Executive, Bev Jullien; and all who work in Mary Sumner House;

Also we pray for our President and Trustees in the Diocese of Ely and all the Task Group Leaders.

In our Province of Canterbury we pray for Kathryn Anderson, our Provincial President, and Julia Jamieson our Zonal Trustee.

We remember and pray for our Worldwide Links:

Lusaka in Zambia; Shyogwe in Rwanda; Sokoto & Ikka in Nigeria; Karimnager in India;

Plus the Diocesan Links with Kigali & Vellore

In our Wave of Prayer for today we pray especially for Grahamstown in Sth Africa, Masasi in Tanzania, Afikpo in Nigeria; Wiawso in Ghana; Chester in England and Northern Argentina.

**We join together to say The Thursday Prayer:**

Heavenly Father, you have called us apart to share in a worldwide fellowship of Christians united in prayer. Take our prayers we humbly ask, fill them with your love and power, and use them in the cause of your glorious kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

I close with the following prayer:

May we serve with the love of Christ and bring comfort that comes from God.

May we share burdens through the power of Christ and bring strength that comes from God.

May we view others through the eyes of Christ and show compassion that comes from God.

May we respond with the forbearance of Christ, and show grace that comes from God.

May our faith in Christ be lived out in commitment to serve our neighbour Amen.

**We end our prayers by saying the  
Grace**

May the grace of our Lord Jesus  
Christ, the love of God and the  
fellowship of the Holy spirit, be  
with us all this day, and evermore.  
Amen