

Thursday Prayers May 16th 2024

THURSDAY PRAYER in the Cathedral and on Zoom 10.30am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83847809128?pwd=VVhXUGlNWkpaeGkyMUdwWHQvcC9tQT09>

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Welcome everyone to our Thursday prayers.

Our Reflection today is “**Service with Love**”

We say together -

Lord guide us this day in all that we say and do, Lord in all things make us true: Keep us safe from evil thoughts and deeds, aware of other peoples’ needs. May we not wander from the straight and narrow way , may we trust in you Lord every day. Lord in all things, make us true. Amen. Rev. Moira Jameson, Province Scotland.

Prayer

Lord, let us serve your world with love as we mirror the example of Christ. Help us to love unconditionally. To refrain from needless expectations: to be generous in acceptance: to be selfless in support: as Christ has loved and forgiven us. Gracious Lord, show us the way to serve one another with love. May we place the needs of our neighbours above our own as we mirror the example of Christ. Amen

Our Monthly Prayer is

**Our Lord and Heavenly King,
Fill our lives with the presence of Christ,
Strengthen our faith to trust in You
And set our hearts to pursue your ways
That we may work in partnership
To build your Kingdom on earth. Amen**

Our Reading today is taken from 1 John 5: 1-6

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves his child as well. This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. This is love for God; to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the World? Only he who believes that Jesus is the son of God. This is the son that came by water and blood – Jesus Christ. He did not come by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who testifies because the Spirit is the truth.

Prayer

Lord let us serve your world with love as we mirror the example of Christ: Help us to love unconditionally. To refrain from needless expectation; to be generous in acceptance, to be selfless in support, as Christ has loved and forgiven us. Gracious Lord, show us the way to serve one another with love. May we place the needs of our neighbours above our own as we mirror the example of Christ. Amen

“**Service with Love**” is our prayer focus this morning. Carrying out Service is a powerful way to open the heart and fulfil the soul. Those who give service know how much joy is received from giving to others. There are many forms of service and we each need to find the way that works best for us. There is no right way. We can serve by helping one person. by being a Big Brother or Big Sister to a disadvantaged child or we can be of service by helping whole groups, such as raising funds for environmental projects. We can offer our time by building houses for the poor either here or in Africa for instance, I bet we all know of some young person working abroad during the holidays, volunteering by helping to build a medical centre, or school. My granddaughter’s boyfriend is doing just that this year in Fiji during his University holidays. He did it last year too so he must have found it fulfilling.

Your Service may be in being a loving parent to your family, helping a friend in need or being a loving mate who supports the other in many little ways. Offering Service is a matter of discovering your passion and then giving your time and love.

You might have a special interest such as protecting the environment, stopping child abuse, helping the homeless or caring for the dying. Service through your creativity like making beautiful drawings, ceramics, or quilts. I have made many quilts for my large family over the years. Some are for hospitals or as charitable gifts also for my many grandchildren and heritage quilts as wedding gifts for my children. On the label I always put “made with love”, I think in future I might add “and patience”!

Tuning into your feelings of what brings you joy will lead you towards knowing how you want to be of service to others.

Don’t forget, even if you get paid for your time no one can pay you for the love you put into it. Love is always a gift that comes through you.

In fact, anything you offer that expresses your love is Service, your time, your creativity, your encouragement or your warm smile. When your heart is open to others, service can be a way of life.

Through Service we are given the opportunity to practice our lovingness and expand beyond what we think are our limits. **It is a Powerful way to open the Heart and Fulfil the Soul.**

And as St Peter says in the New Testament, 1 Peter, verses 4-10

“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully “.

Today's Prayer

We pray that the world may know Jesus Christ as the Prince of Peace,
That the day may come when every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ
is Lord, we pray. Thy Kingdom come Amen.

We say together The Lord's Prayer

Our Father Who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,

Thy Kingdom come thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven,

Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses,

**As we forgive those 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.

We pray together:

**Lord, let us serve your world with love as we mirror the examples of Christ; Help us to
love unconditionally. To refrain from needless expectations; to be generous in
acceptance, to be selfless in support, as Christ has loved and forgiven us. Gracious
Lord, show us the way to serve one another with love. May we place the needs of our
neighbours above our own as we mirror the example of Christ. Amen**

Hymn

Rejoice, the Lord is King,
Your Lord and King adore;
Mortals, give thanks and sing,
And triumph evermore.

*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
Rejoice again I say, rejoice.*

Jesus, the Saviour, reigns,
The God of truth and love;
When he had purged our stains
He took his seat above:

Lift up your heart,

His Kingdom cannot fail;
He rules o'er earth and heaven;
The keys of death and hell
Are to our Jesus given:

Lift up your heart,.....

He sits at God's right hand
Till all his foes submit,
And bow to his command,
And fall beneath his feet:

Lift up your heart,.....

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

For our Diocesan President Hazel Williams and the Trustees in the Diocese of Ely and the Task Group Leaders. For our Province of Canterbury and Kathryn Anderson, our Provincial President, and Julie Jamieson our Zonal Trustee. All Branch Leaders and Branch Members in the Diocese of Ely.

For our Worldwide Links: Lusaka In Zambia; Shyogwe in Rwanda; Sokoto and Ikka in Nigeria; Karimnager in India; plus the Diocesan Links with Kigali and Vellore.

In our **Wave of Prayer** today we pray for Maridi in South Sudan, Kirinyaga in Kenya, Zaki-Biam and Ijesa North-East in Nigeria and Waikato and Taranki in New Zealand.

For our many blessings.

And anyone known to us who is ill or unwell.....

We pray for families around the world where there are troubles and where people are suffering and dying in war and conflict.

For the World we live in that God may open our eyes to recognise the goodness of all creation and help us to do what we can to restore and care for the wonderful gift that we have been given.

And finally Lord, help us to do the work you have appointed to us. To start, and to see it through, so that everything we do is to your glory and that you may find it pleasing in your sight.

Lord in Your Mercy Hear our Prayer Amen

Let us say together 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

And our 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 love and service, reach out as your hands across the world. In Jesus name. Amen

And we finish with The Grace

The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, evermore. Amen