

**ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS
COLEHILL**

**Worship and Prayer Resources to use during the Covid-19
pandemic.**



Beloved in Christ

This comes to you with love and prayers from me at this strange and unusual time in the life of our church. We may not be able to meet together in the normal ways on Sunday and at activities during the week, but we are still the church – as Bishop Nicholas encouraged us this week, we are ‘doing church differently’.

This booklet contains worship resources for you to use.

There is a form of Morning Prayer and Night Prayer which I will also be using in church when I say the daily offices. (8am and 4.30pm). Please do join me in prayer in your homes if you can at those times, or at another time during the day.

Can I particularly encourage all of us wherever we are on Sunday, to pause at 10am and to light a candle, and make a special effort to follow the material together. I used to joke at times that I was ‘giving up church’ for Lent, who knew that we would now be in the situation in which we find ourselves.

Perhaps God is calling us to focus on what is essential and important, to recognise our vulnerability, our interdependency, and to focus on what is truly important: our love for God and our love for our neighbour. Those of us who are older may be feeling there is not much that you can do, but you can pray, you can phone friends and neighbours, you can connect via email or facetime if you use those means of communication. We need not feel that we are alone and abandoned in our fear and distress. And even when we do feel that way, we can lament and cry out to God. I encourage all of us to pray especially for those at the front line trying to make decisions which will safeguard the security and wellbeing of all, especially those working for the NHS, caregivers and providers, food distribution networks, the retail sector – indeed the whole nation as we navigate through a very disturbing time.

We rest on the promise of God: ‘Fear not for I have redeemed you, I have called you by name you are mine.’ At the end of Matthew’s Gospel Jesus reassured his disciples, ‘I am with you always, even to the end of the age’

May God bless, protect and preserve you all.
With my love and prayers.

Revd Suzanne Pattle.

Places to find prayer and worship while at home

You might find it helpful to set aside specific times of the day and week to pray and worship. Find a quiet place in your home and enable other members of your household to join you. You might want to light a candle to create a prayerful atmosphere and to use as a focus for your prayers.

There is a daily service on **Radio 4** every morning at 9.45am.

BBC One broadcasts Songs of Praise every Sunday at 1.15pm and the BBC have said they will also broadcast a Sunday morning service – check listings.

If you have access to the internet, there are many churches that are broadcasting their services, either on their website or using Facebook Live. The Church of England has a list of churches that are doing this – do have a look.

You could also try praying with others while still physically distant – for example, over the phone, text messaging, or using video calls.

If you are able to leave the house, the church building remains open for private prayer only (should you find someone in church when you visit, please do observe strict social distancing and hygiene rules).

Online, there are countless resources that provide daily prayer & Bible readings.

Church of England Daily Prayer:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/common-worship/daily-prayer>

Pray As You Go: <https://pray-as-you-go.org/>

You can sign up for a free weekly email with lectionary-based colouring sheets, reflections and children's activities from Illustrated Ministries online at:

<https://www.illustratedministry.com/flattenthecurve>

Do also look at resources on our new website which explains the practice of lectio divina (look for silent prayer) – meditative slow reading of the Scriptures

www.stmichaels-church-colehill.co.uk

St Michael and all Angels

Worship at Home: Morning Prayer



You may wish to light a candle and have some reflective music playing in the background.

The Lord is good, a strong refuge when trouble comes. God is close to those who trust in him. Nahum 1:7

O Lord, open our lips
and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

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

Pause for reflection as you offer the day to God.

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 for ever. **Amen.**

You may wish to say Psalm 23 or another psalm here, such as Psalm 16 or Psalm 139.

Psalm 23

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd; ♦ therefore can I lack nothing.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures ♦
and leads me beside still waters.
- 3 He shall refresh my soul ♦
and guide me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

4. Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; ♦
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

5. You spread a table before me
in the presence of those who trouble me; ♦
you have anointed my head with oil and my cup shall be full.

6. Surely goodness and loving mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, ♦
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

**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.**

You may wish to use the weekly pattern of short readings given below, or choose a passage of your own.

Sunday Morning

But now thus says the Lord,
he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;

when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.

For I am the Lord your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour. [*Isaiah 43.1-3a*]

Monday Morning

‘Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.’ Thomas said to him, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?’ Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’
[*John 14.1-6*]

Tuesday Morning

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you. *Philippians 4.8-9*

Wednesday Morning

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. *Colossians 3.16,17*

Thursday Morning

You are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling-place for God. *Ephesians 2.19-22*

Friday Morning

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. *Romans 19.9-12*

Saturday Morning

He said to his disciples, 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, strive for his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well. *Luke 12.22-31*

Prayers

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.

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen.

**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.**

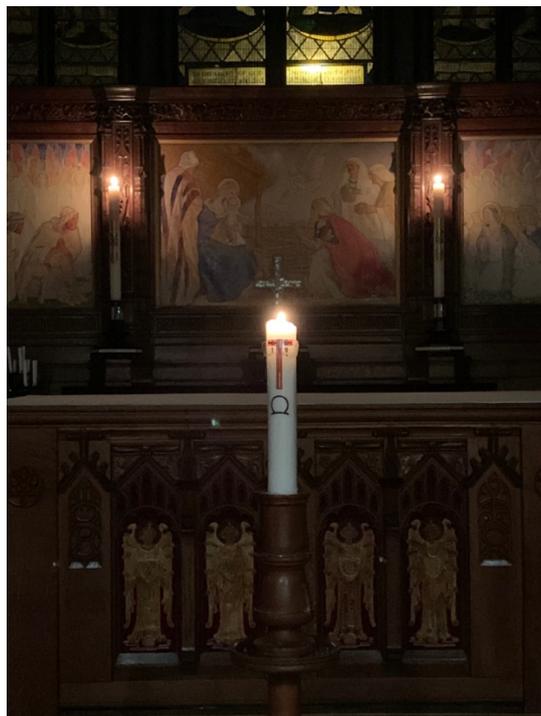
**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Lord bless us, and preserve us from all evil, and keep us in eternal life.

Amen.

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Night Prayer



You may wish to light a candle and have some reflective music playing in the background.

The eternal God is your refuge,
and underneath are the everlasting arms.
Deuteronomy 33.27

Opening Sentences

The Lord almighty grant us a quiet night and a perfect end. **Amen.**
Our help is in the name of the Lord
who made heaven and earth.

Pause and reflect on the day that is past.

Save us, O Lord, while waking,
and guard us while sleeping,
that awake we may watch with Christ
and asleep may rest in peace.

You may wish to say here the psalm given below, or Psalm 27, or another chosen psalm.

Psalm 91

1 Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High ♦
and abides under the shadow of the Almighty,
2 Shall say to the Lord, 'My refuge and my stronghold, ♦
my God, in whom I put my trust.'
3 For he shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler ♦
and from the deadly pestilence.
4 He shall cover you with his wings
and you shall be safe under his feathers; ♦
his faithfulness shall be your shield and buckler.
5 You shall not be afraid of any terror by night, ♦
nor of the arrow that flies by day;
6 Of the pestilence that stalks in darkness, ♦
nor of the sickness that destroys at noonday.
7 Though a thousand fall at your side
and ten thousand at your right hand, ♦
yet it shall not come near you.
8 Your eyes have only to behold ♦
to see the reward of the wicked.
9 Because you have made the Lord your refuge ♦
and the Most High your stronghold,
10 There shall no evil happen to you, ♦
neither shall any plague come near your tent.
11 For he shall give his angels charge over you, ♦
to keep you in all your ways.
12 They shall bear you in their hands, ♦
lest you dash your foot against a stone.
13 You shall tread upon the lion and adder; ♦
the young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot.
14 Because they have set their love upon me, therefore will I deliver them; ♦
I will lift them up, because they know my name.
15 They will call upon me and I will answer them; ♦
I am with them in trouble,
I will deliver them and bring them to honour.
16 With long life will I satisfy them ♦
and show them my salvation.

**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.**

Bible Reading

You may wish to use one of the following short readings or choose a passage of your own.

Sunday Evening

You, O Lord, are in the midst of us, and we are called by your name; leave us not, O Lord our God. *Jeremiah 14.9*

Monday Evening

Thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel: In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength. *Isaiah 30.15*

Tuesday Evening

Jesus said, 'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. *Matthew 11.28-end*

Wednesday Evening

Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. *1 Peter 5.6,7*

Thursday Evening

Jesus said, 'I have said this to you, so that in me you may have peace. In the world you face persecution. But take courage; I have conquered the world!' *John 16.33*

Friday Evening

God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. *1 Thessalonians 5.9,10*

Saturday Evening

Jesus said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.' *John 8.12*

Prayers

Merciful God,
we entrust to your unfailing and tender care this night
those who are ill or in pain,
knowing that whenever danger threatens
your everlasting arms are there to hold us safe. Comfort and heal them,
and restore them to health and strength;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Be present, O merciful God,
and protect us through the silent hours of this night, so that we who are
wearied by the changes and chances of this fleeting world, may rest upon your
eternal changelessness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Visit this place, O Lord, we pray,
and drive far from it the snares of the enemy;
may your holy angels dwell with us in peace,
and may your blessing be always upon us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The 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.**

The Lord's Prayer

The Conclusion

In peace we will lie down and sleep;
for you alone, Lord, make us dwell in safety.
The Lord bless us and watch over us;
The Lord make his face to shine upon us and be gracious to us; The Lord look
kindly upon us and give us peace. **Amen.**



Pandemic

What if you thought of it
as the Jews consider the Sabbath—
the most sacred of times?
Cease from travel.
Cease from buying and selling.
Give up, just for now,
on trying to make the world
different than it is.
Sing. Pray. Touch only those
to whom you commit your life.
Center down.

And when your body has become still,
reach out with your heart.
Know that we are connected
in ways that are terrifying and beautiful.
(You could hardly deny it now.)

Know that our lives
are in one another's hands.
(Surely, that has come clear.)
Do not reach out your hands.
Reach out your heart.
Reach out your words.
Reach out all the tendrils
of compassion that move, invisibly,
where we cannot touch.

Promise this world your love—
for better or for worse,
in sickness and in health,
so long as we all shall live.

—Lynn Ungar