

Morning Prayer for St Andrew's Church

Commemorating the National Day of Reflection

Welcome and Introduction

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Lord God, the maker and redeemer of all,
as we come before you in thanksgiving for the gift of health and
life,
we grieve for the thousands who have died:
comfort us with your presence,
sustain us with the hope of your kingdom,
and give us grace to live our lives well;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Hymn

We have come together in the name of Christ
To offer our praise and thanksgiving,
To hear and receive God's holy word,
To pray for the needs of the world,
And to seek the forgiveness of our sins,
That by the power of the Holy Spirit
We may give ourselves to the service of God.

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

Silence is kept.

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.

Saying Sorry to God

Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the cross
so that, free from sin, we might live for righteousness;
by his wounds we have been healed.
Let us confess our sins.

Those born of women have but a short time to live
We have our fill of sorrow.
We blossom like a flower and wither away.
We slip away like a shadow and do not stay.

**Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy upon us.**

In the midst of life we are in death;
where can we turn for help?
Only to you, Lord,
who are justly angered by our sins.

**Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy upon us.**

Shut not your ears to our prayers,
but spare us, O Lord.

**Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy upon us.**

You know the secrets of our hearts;
forgive us our sins.

**Holy God,
holy and strong,**

**holy and immortal,
have mercy upon us.**

Eternal and merciful judge,
both in life and when we come to die,
let us not fall away from you.

**Holy God,
holy and mighty,
holy and merciful Saviour,
do not abandon us to the bitterness of eternal death.**

May God who loved the world so much
that he sent his Son to be our Saviour
forgive *you your* sins
and make *you* holy to serve him in the world,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Listening and responding to God's word

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.

**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 readings from the Old and New Testaments
At the end of each reading:

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Hymn

Sermon

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

Hymn

A time of reflection

Lighting a candle to offer our reflections to God

Loving God,

You hold all our times in your hands: our past, our present, our future. Be close to us now as we remember the Covid pandemic. Be especially close to all of us who are thinking of someone we loved and knew, but see no longer, whether family, friend, colleague or neighbour. Help us to trust that they are at peace with you, and comfort us with your presence.

Lighting a candle to offer our connections to God

Loving God,

You place us in families and communities, and we give you thanks for all those around us who serve us and help us in so many ways. Give wisdom to community leaders, to our schools, hospitals, care homes and other agencies who make a difference to our lives. Help each of us to have the courage to reach out with thanks and kindness to those around us and to speak words of faith as we share the good news of your love.

Lighting a candle to offer our hope to God

Loving God,

Help us to live as people of hope, knowing that beyond the pain of the cross lies the joy of resurrection. Inspire us in our worship, through our churches and in our homes, that we may bring glory to you and joy to others. Be with those who are struggling in mind, body or spirit, and give courage to those who are facing uncertainty and change ahead. Help each of us to keep our eyes fixed on you, that we may reflect your light to all whom we meet.

God of love,

be with us as we think about all that has changed,
and help us to trust that you are always with us.

Be close to us as we remember those who have died,
and help us to trust they are at peace with you.

Show us how to reach out to others with kindness and care,
so that hope shines out in every heart and home,

Amen.

As we sit in silence and reflect on our own experiences of loss and change during the Covid pandemic, please come forward to light a candle offering your own reflections to God.

Lord Jesus Christ,
when fear and anxiety besiege us
and hope is veiled in grief,
hold us in your wounded hands
and make your face shine on us again,
for you are our Lord and God.
Amen.

Prayers of intercession

The response to
Lord in your mercy
Is Hear our Prayer

Concluding with:
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.

Notices and banns of marriage

Hymn

Blessing

The Lord God almighty is our Father:

he loves us and tenderly cares for us.

The Lord Jesus Christ is our Saviour:

he has redeemed us and will defend us to the end.

The Lord, the Holy Spirit, is among us:

he will lead us in God's holy way.

**To God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be praise and glory today and for ever.**

Amen.

We hope you will stay for refreshments

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