

Prayer resources for the Vigil of Prayer Maundy Thursday 2020

Parish of Oxtou St Saviour

How lonely sits the city that once was full of people!
How like a widow she has become,
she that was great among the nations!
She weeps bitterly in the night, with tears on her cheeks;
among all her lovers she has no one to comfort her.

Jerusalem, Jerusalem, return to the Lord your God.

The roads to Zion mourn, for no one comes to the
festivals;
all her gates are desolate, her priests groan;
her young girls grieve, and her lot is bitter.
Her children have gone away, captives before the foe.
Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by?
Look and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow.
Jerusalem, Jerusalem, return to the Lord your God.

From on high he sent fire; it went deep into my bones;
he spread a net for my feet; he turned me back;
he has left me stunned, faint all day long.
For these things I weep; my eyes flow with tears;
for a comforter is far from me, one to revive my courage;
my children are desolate, for the enemy has prevailed.
Jerusalem, Jerusalem, return to the Lord your God.

All who pass along the way clap their hands at you;
they hiss and wag their heads at daughter Jerusalem;
'Is this the city that was called the perfection of beauty,
the joy of all the earth?'

The thought of my affliction and homelessness is
wormwood and gall.

Jerusalem, Jerusalem, return to the Lord your God.

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

'The Lord is my portion,' says my soul,
'therefore I will hope in him.'

The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul
that seeks him.

Jerusalem, Jerusalem, return to the Lord your God.

It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of
the Lord.

It is good for one to bear the yoke in youth,
to sit alone in silence when the Lord has imposed it,
to put one's mouth to the dust (there may yet be hope),
to give one's cheek to the smiter, and be filled with insults.
For the Lord will not reject for ever.

Jerusalem, Jerusalem, return to the Lord your God.

Lamentations Chapter 1.1-7, 12

How lonely sits the city

that once was full of people!

How like a widow she has become,

she that was great among the nations!

She that was a princess among the provinces

has become a vassal.

²She weeps bitterly in the night,

with tears on her cheeks;

among all her lovers

she has no one to comfort her;

all her friends have dealt treacherously with her,

they have become her enemies.

³Judah has gone into exile with suffering

and hard servitude;

she lives now among the nations,

and finds no resting place;

her pursuers have all overtaken her

in the midst of her distress.

⁴The roads to Zion mourn,

for no one comes to the festivals;

all her gates are desolate,

her priests groan;

her young girls grieve,

and her lot is bitter.

⁵ Her foes have become the masters,
her enemies prosper,
because the LORD has made her suffer
for the multitude of her transgressions;
her children have gone away,
captives before the foe.

⁶ From daughter Zion has departed
all her majesty.

Her princes have become like stags
that find no pasture;
they fled without strength
before the pursuer.

⁷ Jerusalem remembers,
in the days of her affliction and wandering,
all the precious things
that were hers in days of old.

When her people fell into the hand of the foe,
and there was no one to help her,

the foe looked on mocking
over her downfall.

¹² Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by?

Look and see

if there is any sorrow like my sorrow,
which was brought upon me,
which the LORD inflicted
on the day of his fierce anger.

Bible Readings

You may find the following readings useful as you pray

John 13.16-30

Psalm 113

John 13.31-end

Psalm 114

John 14.1-14

Psalm 115

John 14.15-end

Psalm 116.1-9

John 15.1-17

Psalm 116.10-end

John 15.18–16.4a

Psalm 117

John 16.4b-15

Psalm 118.1-9

John 16.16-end

Psalm 118.10-18

John 17.1-19

Psalm 118.19-end

John 17.20-end

Intercessions

Let us pray to the Father through his Son
who suffered on the cross for the world's redemption.

Fill with your Spirit Christ's broken body, the Church

...

Give to Christian people everywhere a deep longing
to take up the cross and to understand its mysterious
glory.

By the Saviour's cross and passion,

Lord, save us and help us.

Bless those who lead the Church's worship at this
solemn time ...

In the preaching of the word and the celebration of the
sacraments

draw your people close to you.

By the Saviour's cross and passion,

Lord, save us and help us.

Strengthen those who are preparing for baptism,
together with their teachers, sponsors and families ...
Teach them what it means to die and rise with Christ
and prepare them to receive the breath of his Spirit.
By the Saviour's cross and passion,
Lord, save us and help us.

Look in your mercy upon the world you loved so
much that you sent your Son to suffer and to die ...
Strengthen those who work to share
the reconciliation won at such a cost upon the cross.
By the Saviour's cross and passion,
Lord, save us and help us.

Bring healing by the wounds of Christ
to all who are weighed down by pain and injustice ...
Help the lonely and the betrayed, the suffering and the
dying, to find strength in the companionship of Jesus,
and in his passion to know their salvation.
By the Saviour's cross and passion,
Lord, save us and help us.

Welcome into paradise all who have left this world in
your friendship ...

According to your promises, bring them with all your
saints to share in all the benefits of Christ's death and
resurrection.

By the Saviour's cross and passion,
Lord, save us and help us.

Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.

Prayers about the viral pandemic

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.

Lord Jesus Christ,
you taught us to love our neighbour,
and to care for those in need
as if we were caring for you.
In this time of anxiety, give us strength
to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick,
and to assure the isolated
of our love, and your love,
for your name's sake.

Amen.

God of compassion,
be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation.
In their loneliness, be their consolation;
in their anxiety, be their hope;
in their darkness, be their light;
through him who suffered alone on the cross,
but reigns with you in glory,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

For those who are ill

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

Amen.

For hospital staff and medical researchers

Gracious God,
give skill, sympathy and resilience
to all who are caring for the sick,
and your wisdom to those searching for a cure.
Strengthen them with your Spirit,
that through their work many will be restored to
health;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

From one who is ill or isolated

O God,
help me to trust you,
help me to know that you are with me,
help me to believe that nothing can separate me
from your love
revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

For the Christian community

We are not people of fear:

we are people of courage.

We are not people who protect our own safety:

we are people who protect our neighbours' safety.

We are not people of greed:

we are people of generosity.

We are your people God,

giving and loving,

wherever we are,

whatever it costs

For as long as it takes

wherever you call us.

Barbara Glasson, President of the Methodist Conference

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