

Pause for Prayer, 26th March 2021 at 12.00 noon in Church
PEACE

Let us still our bodies and minds for a moment to prepare to pray, and listen, to God

This day we ask, as the first disciples did - Lord, teach us to pray. May we always be open to learn more of you and serious in our commitment to prayer, as you guide us on our spiritual journey. We thank you that, as we come to you in prayer, you will always hear us. Keep us faithful, Lord, and may we be increasingly aware of those in need of our petitions on their behalf, whether they are near or far away, and may we never grow weary in bringing their needs to you. On the other hand, Lord, we must ensure that our prayers are not all asking, but giving thanks and praise to you always. As we bring our prayers of thanksgiving, may we be freed from anxieties and filled with the peace of Christ which passes all human understanding. Amen.

As Paul stated in his letter to the Philippians:

Do not be anxious about anything but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

1. Let us now pray in silence for peace in the world, between nations and within countries
Time for silent prayer

Lord, we pray for peace in the many troubled areas of the world. May those with authority and influence work tirelessly to establish peace, that communities may be able to live in places of security and safety. Amen

Living God,
deliver us from a world without justice
and a future without mercy;
in your mercy, establish justice,
and in your justice, remember the mercy
revealed to us in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Almighty Father,
whose will is to restore all things in your beloved Son, the King of all:
govern the hearts and minds of those in authority, and bring the families of the nations,
divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin, to be subject to his just and gentle rule;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

A reading from John 14:27:

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

2. Now let us turn our attention to peace of a more domestic kind: for individuals who are struggling both at home or abroad (i.e NHS staff, the bereaved, the lonely)
Time for silent prayer

Lord, we pray for those who lack the reassurances of everything that would make them feel secure - homes, people who love them and purpose in life. We ask for your wonderful intervention that they may experience a measure of peace in their circumstances. Amen

O Lord our God,
source of all goodness and love,
accept the fervent prayers of your people;
in the multitude of your mercies look with compassion
upon all who turn to you for help;
for you are gracious, O lover of souls,
and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
now and for ever.
Amen.

Restless with grief and fear, the abandoned turn to you:
in every hour of trial, good Lord, deliver us,
O God most holy, God most strong,
whose wisdom is the cross of Christ.
Amen.

A reading from Jeremiah Ch 17 v 7-8

Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green, in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit.

3. Lastly, we pray for ourselves.

Take a moment to prayerfully reflect today on any areas of your life in which you feel insecure and lacking peace. Ask God to change either circumstances or yourself, that you may be able to rest in his peace which transcends all else.

Time for silent prayer

May the calming peace of Jesus gently wash your fears away. May the power of God's Spirit fill your life with love
And God's healing grace pour over you with blessings from above. Amen

Let us end this time of prayer with a Gaelic Blessing:

Deep peace of the running wave to you. Deep peace of the flowing air to you. Deep peace of the quiet earth to you. Deep peace of the shining stars to you. Deep peace of the infinite peace to you. Amen