



St. Mary's Knowsley Village

part of the 4Saints Team (Huyton Deanery)

**Worship and prayer resources to use at home
during the Covid-19 pandemic**



St Mary's Knowsley
an 'Open Door' sharing God's love for the world and
a community growing in the love of Jesus Christ

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Worship at home

The Archbishops of the Church of England have taken the step of suspending both public worship and private prayer until further notice owing to the Coronavirus pandemic.

As they wrote in their letter to the church on March 17th:

“We urge you sisters and brothers to become a different sort of church in these coming months: hopeful and rooted in the offering of prayer and praise and overflowing in service to the world.”

We want to ensure that prayer and worship continues, even though churches have had to suspend their services, gathered prayer times and activities.

Many of us already pray and study our Bibles at home, and many are following *New Daylight* and the Lent booklets, which is great. But it is not easy to maintain our walk with the Lord without meeting with other Christians – especially without Sunday worship. Let’s not pretend otherwise!

There are, however, many ways, in which we can continue to share in worship together, even if we are not in the same room.

This booklet contains a range of resources to help you pray and worship at home:

- Places to find worship and prayer while at home
- Prayers written especially for this outbreak
- Prayers for children
- Helpful Bible passages

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. You might want to light a candle to create a prayerful atmosphere and to use as a focus for your prayers.

St Mary’s has been setting aside the hour between 2-3pm on weekdays and will continue that pattern if you would like to join us at home. Knowing we are praying at the same time has two advantages – maintaining our sense of community and creating a rhythm which makes it easier to continue.

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

Places to find prayer and worship while at home

RADIO and TV

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

Premier Christian Radio broadcasts Bible studies through the day. At 12:00pm and 2.30pm they have “worship hours” which include worship songs, prayer and Bible readings.

BBC One broadcasts Songs of Praise every Sunday (different times). There is also a regular Sunday Service on BBC Radio Merseyside (95.8FM).

Online Services via Zoom!

If you have access to the internet, there are many churches that are broadcasting their services online – including our team!

St Luke’s streamed their first service on 22nd March, and we intend to follow on, using an App called ‘Zoom’. Instructions via email and the website.

Please bear with us as we learn and develop this resource – and please give us your honest feedback – thank you!

We have **our own Facebook page** which we are developing and hope to use more: <https://www.facebook.com/St-Marys-Knowsley-Community-Hub>

Also **Child Friendly Virtual Broadcasts:** ‘Worship for Everyone’ is All Age worship led by Nick and Becky Drake. Find Worship for Everyone on Facebook, broadcasting on Wednesdays and Saturdays at 4pm.

Online, there are many resources that provide **daily prayer & Bible readings**

C of E Daily Prayer: Available every day – morning, evening and night time, there are prayers and songs and scripture to read through as you begin your day or reflect on what has been. (<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer>) or you can download the app through App Store or Google Play

Time to Pray: This resource offers everything you need for Prayer during the Day, with variations according to the day of the week and the season of the Church’s year. Download the app through the App Store or Google Play

Lectio365: This is a daily prayer resource that is a really helpful way to start and frame each day as we seek to live as disciples of Jesus. Download the app

Prayers about the outbreak

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

Prayers of Intercession

Let us pray to God, who alone makes us dwell in safety:
For all who are affected by coronavirus, through illness or isolation or anxiety,
that they may find relief and recovery:
Lord, hear us, **Lord, graciously hear us.**

For those who are guiding our nation at this time, and shaping national policies,
that they may make wise decisions:
Lord, hear us, **Lord, graciously hear us.**

For doctors, nurses and medical researchers, that through their skill and insights
many will be restored to health:
Lord, hear us, **Lord, graciously hear us.**

For the vulnerable and the fearful, for the gravely ill and the dying,
that they may know your comfort and peace:
Lord, hear us, **Lord, graciously hear us.**

We commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray,
to the mercy and protection of God.
Merciful Father, accept these prayers...

Let us pray to the Lord, who is our refuge and stronghold.
For the health and well-being of our nation,
that all who are fearful and anxious
may be at peace and free from worry:
Lord, hear us, **Lord, graciously hear us.**

For the isolated and housebound, that we may be alert to their needs,
and care for them in their vulnerability:
Lord, hear us, **Lord, graciously hear us.**

For our homes and families, our schools and young people,
and all in any kind of need or distress:
Lord, hear us, **Lord, graciously hear us.**

For a blessing on our local community,
that our neighbourhoods may be places of trust and friendship,
where all are known and cared for:
Lord, hear us, **Lord, graciously hear us.**

We commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray,
to the mercy and protection of God.
Merciful Father, accept these prayers...

Prayers with Children

A prayer for when a friend is ill

Dear God, *(name of friend)* is ill.

They are not allowed to go to school or come over to play.

I'm sad because I miss them.

They must be feeling miserable and lonely as well. Please be close to them.

Please be with the people who are looking after them.

Please help them to get better and to know that you love them.

Amen.

A prayer for the world

God of love and hope, you made the world and care for all creation,
but the world feels strange right now.

The news is full of stories about Coronavirus.

Some people are worried that they might get ill.

Others are anxious for their family and friends.

Be with them and help them to find peace.

We pray for the doctors and nurses and scientists, and all who are working to discover the
right medicines to help those who are ill.

Thank you that even in these anxious times, you are with us.

Help us to put our trust in you and keep us safe.

Amen.

A prayer at bedtime

Before the ending of the day, Creator of the world, we pray

That you, with steadfast love, would keep Your watch around us while we sleep.

Tonight we pray especially for *(names family or friends who are affected by Coronavirus)* and
the people of *(country or place which is affected by Coronavirus)*.

Please give skill and wisdom to all who are caring for them.

Amen.

A prayer remembering God is with us

Lord God, you are always with me. You are with me in the day and in the night.

You are with me when I'm happy and when I'm sad.

You are with me when I'm healthy and when I am ill.

You are with me when I am peaceful and when I am worried.

Today I am feeling *(name how you are feeling)*

because *(reasons you are feeling this way)*.

Help me to remember that you love me and are with me in everything today.

Amen.

Bible Passages
(Extracts are given where readings are longer.)

Psalm 23

*“Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.”*
(Verse 4)

Psalm 91

“Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, ‘He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.’”
(Verses 1-2)

Psalm 139

“Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.”
(Verse 23)

Isaiah 41:10

“So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

John 14

“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.”
(Verse 27)

Luke 12:22-34

“Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life? Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?”
(Verses 25-26)

Philippians 4:4-9

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”
(Verses 6-7)

Other Prayers

May the peace of God give you renewed hope and wisdom,
May you find the strength you already carry within you to be enough,
May the grace of God be sufficient,
May you find a deep breath when the air around you is thin,
May you grow in compassion in these days,
May you love well, not in spite of these anxious times,
But because of them.

Sarah Bessey

God of love, Circle us with your grace and hope
Protect we pray all those who suffer
in body, mind or spirit.

Protect and strengthen all those working in our health services,
Planning in our local and national governments,
All local businesses and those with financial worries,
All those who are facing an increase in racism or other abuse
And all those who are isolated or alone.

Fill our parish, our diocese, our country and our world with your spirit of love and
compassion.

May the light of life burn brightly in our communities,
And may we know your peace that
passes all understanding. Amen

Adapted from a prayer by Miranda Threlfall-Holmes

Finally! Our aim is to keep sending resources from time to time to keep us
sustained in our spiritual journey with the Lord.
We trust that you have found this useful and please let us know if there are
other ways in which you might be encouraged.

As ever, please keep checking the website too!
Yours, in the name of the Faithful One – our Saviour Jesus Christ

Rev Hugh

www.knowsleychurch.co.uk