



New Creation Churches

October 2020

Prayer Diary

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

1 Peter 2:9

A Prayer For All Seasons

Let's face it, there are times when we all find it hard to pray. We're human after all. Well, I am anyway. And there are times when we struggle to find the right words to talk to our Father. Perhaps we're worn down by all of life's troubles. Perhaps the issues are so complex we really don't know what to pray; some of our friends might suggest praying in tongues at such a time, but we're not confident enough to try. Perhaps we're mad at God right now because he didn't answer our heartfelt prayers the way we wanted him to. Or perhaps . . . looking at the state of the world right now . . . we're just plain overwhelmed.

There is something we can do at these times to not only keep but strengthen our connection to the God we love, and more importantly the God who loves us, and that is to pray the prayer of praise. To put aside for the moment the needs we have, the needs we see others have, even the needs of the world, and give ourselves completely to a time of just praising and thanking God for all that he is, all that he has done, and all that he has promised he will be and do for us, down through eternity.

Think of all that God has made. Set aside for a moment the mess that we as humans have made of the world and concentrate on the beauty and delicate inter-dependence that God made. If you're artistic, or even if you're not, take the time to wonder at the transient glory of a sunrise or sunset. It is possible to reduce music to mathematical ratios, but that would be to strip it of its glory and deny it the power to move us. There is so much that God has created that is fully and truly worthy of our open-mouthed wonder. Doesn't that deserve praise?

God is creator. He is source and sustainer of life. He is faithful. He is trustworthy. He is true. He is the rock we can always run to from the storms of life. He is our shelter. He is our hope. He is our future. And he is here right now, right here, with us every moment, whether we feel his presence or not. He has promised to never leave us or forsake us. In fact, the Bible is full of promises – thousands of them! And we can rely on them because we can rely on the God who made them. God is always worthy of our praise, no matter what happens . . . and no matter how we feel.

The prayer of praise is truly a prayer for all seasons. If you're going through a difficult season right now, or even if you're not, why not start a new season with the prayer of praise?

Bible Verses

Psalm 103:1-5 Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits—who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.

ANSWERS TO PRAYER FROM PREVIOUS MONTH'S DIARIES:

- Sue Hoskins was able to be ordained last month, all be it with only a few guests.

A reminder of what the Prayer Diary is about:

The prayer diary reminds us to pray each day for a person in the church, a street or organisation, and a diary event, and informs and directs our prayers, underpinning and supporting the day-to-day work of the churches in Banwell and Congresbury. The Diary is circulated to St Andrew's electoral roll in both Anglican churches and Congresbury Methodist members.

Please keep it in a handy place to use each day - it is designed to stick on the fridge with a magnet, or to fold to go in a book or bag etc.

The aim is that once every five months every person in the churches, each village & church organisation / group & each village street will be prayed for. **If you have not yet been included (and wish to be) please contact Congresbury Church Office (01934 833126).**

YOUR FEEDBACK IS WANTED

We would welcome any feedback and news of prayer answers / requests. Please contact the Congresbury Church Office (01934 833126) with your suggestions, answers to prayer, and any specific prayer requests. *Please could you get these to the Church Office by 20th October. Thank you.*

Current Prayer Diary Editorial team: David Ashton-Hilton, Mo Barber, Avril Chadwick, Liz Cran, Grace Isaac, Sonya Stocker and Ian Stocker, Rosemary West

New Creation churches -Prayer During the Day

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

This is the day that the Lord has made

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

(Psalm 51.15, Ps 118.24)

As we recall God's faithfulness we pray:

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. *(Lam 3:22-23)*

The Word of God

the **psalm for today** is in this month's Prayer Diary.

The **Bible readings for today** are in this month's Prayer Diary.

Response *silence and a time for individual reflection*

Prayers

please use today's entry in the prayer diary to guide your intercessions

The New Creation Prayer:

Loving God, you are one-

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, united in peace.

Unite our two traditions and village communities into one body- your body, and sustain our rich diversity we pray.

We give you thanks for your commitment to your people of every age and place.

We ask for your help to fulfil our commitment to you and each other.

Grant us your peace, that we might grow in patience and humility,

and help us to leave behind all that might hinder our unity as we walk with you.

Enable us, by your Spirit, to work together in peace in a new way,

to love our neighbours as ourselves and to honour Christ as Lord. **Amen**

The Lord's Prayer *is said*

The Conclusion

Bind unto yourself the name, the strong name of the Trinity;

by invocation of the same,

the Three in One and One in Three.

Of whom all nature hath creation,

Eternal Father, Spirit, Word:

praise the Lord of your salvation,

salvation is of Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

(St Patricks breastplate prayer)

If you would like to join with others in saying daily prayer, please see Pew News for details for the coming month.