



New Creation Churches

January 2021 Prayer Diary

Your word is a lamp for my feet,
a light on my path.

Psalm 119:105

Walking In The Light

20/20 vision is probably something we've all heard, a phrase indicating perfect clarity of sight. During the year 2020, it may not have been always apparent. Circumstances have been far from normal, and there may have been times when we have felt that we were living through the perfect storm. So what do we need to be able to go boldly into 2021?

Firstly, in a world so seemingly full of chaos and confusion, we need to know where we stand. I'm reminded of Edward Mote's familiar words, "On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand." We have seen news headlines change from day to day, even from hour to hour, during the last year. We need an anchor point, a firm foundation for our lives to stand firm, and Jesus provides that for us. He is unshaken by the shenanigans we have seen in politics around the world. He is not fazed by fake news. He is not caught up by conspiracy theories. He does not cower before Covid-19 or any other variant virus that rears its ugly head in our world.

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life." He shows us the way to walk through life, even when the storm rages around us. He said the Holy Spirit would teach us the truth, so that "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free." He can inspire us to see through falsehood and avoid being bewitched by lies masquerading as truth. And he can share his perspective, so that at all times we can have wisdom and insight, and clearly see the way forward to enable us to take the next step.

Whatever 2021 brings, we need to have complete confidence in the God we worship. We need to stand together as God's people, supporting, encouraging and upholding one another in our faith. God knows what we will need, not just before we ask for it, but even before we have any idea that we will need it! The writer of Hebrews tells us to come boldly before the throne of grace so that we may receive all the help we need when we ask for it. Though it may seem at times we are living through dark days, by his word and his spirit God will light our path before us, so that we may walk confidently forward without fear of stumbling or going astray.

Bible Verses

"John 8:31-32 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, 'If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.'

John 16:13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.

Psalm 119:105 Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

Hebrews 4:16 Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

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 .

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 January Thank you.*

Current Prayer Diary Editorial team: David Ashton-Hilton, Mo Barber, Avril Chadwick, Liz Cran, Grace Isaac, 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.