



New Creation Churches

March 2021

Prayer Diary

I delight greatly in the Lord; my soul rejoices in my God.

For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

(Isaiah 61:10)

Naked Love

We have been travelling through Lent, a period of the Church year when we seek as Christians to strip away the superficial layers and facades we “wear”, and seek to find in ourselves the real essential part of each one of us, with all its good parts and failings, and honestly offer that inner being to God for Him to mould and transform it into the image of Jesus. In the process, we often find areas where we are falling short of God’s perfect example, our Saviour Jesus. One of the questions we might each ask ourselves at this time is “How pure is my love?” We might well subscribe (at least mentally) to the truth that true love is sacrificial, forgetting self in the service of others, but how close do we get to living that ideal? Hopefully we don’t act like the Pharisees whom Jesus berated for their showy acts of pride and vanity when doing some good deed, but perhaps there’s still that feeling of “I’d better do this good deed or I’ll feel guilty” and an accompanying desire to be seen and recognised doing good. Rather than doing good to others purely for their sake, forgetting about ourselves, we put on the filthy rags of self-congratulation.

Jesus didn’t give himself a pat on the back for surrendering to his Father in the Garden of Gethsemane – rather, he submitted his back to the savage tearing lashes of a Roman soldier’s scourge. He laid down the glorious garments of the King of Heaven to hang on a cross, stripped of his clothes, his glory and his dignity, with his arms wide open in true, pure, naked love. And so . . . we ask ourselves “How pure is my love? Is it totally selfless, or is it tainted and dirty under the ragged clothes of pride, guilt, false motive or selfdeceit?” At this time of year especially, let’s take a good hard look at ourselves in the mirror of God’s Word, stripping off all the false layers, and then . . . wonder of wonders, God rushes to embrace us like the prodigal’s father, and puts His own robe on us, or as Isaiah puts it, He clothes us in the robes of His righteousness, the garments of true love. bank and

Bible Verses

“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

(Colossians 3:12-14)

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

(1 Corinthians 13:4-7)

ANSWERS TO PRAYER:

- Give thanks for ongoing generous donations to the Food bank.
- Give thanks for the vaccines and that so many people have been vaccinated.

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 March 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.