



New Creation Churches

April 2021

Prayer Diary

"He is not here, He is risen."

Luke 24:6

Easter

Easter 2020 will seem a little different to what we are used to. We are still in a Lockdown, gatherings are limited and church services remain mainly online. There is even talk of discouraging shops from selling easter eggs because they aren't classed as essential items, try telling that to us chocoholics. The displays i've seen imply they are still very much available. So it's always nice then to take a reassuring view of what hasn't changed, and that is a truth unaltered through the ages. Jesus is risen from the grave to walk again among us and on Easter Sunday we celebrate his resurrection, an event that sets Christianity apart, gives it its truth and impact, the story is complete and has its purpose and direction.

Easter is a beautiful time of year, all seems new and fresh, winter has been put into hibernation, new blooms appear and days become longer and lighter. Jesus' story was planned and foretold to end on earth at Easter, the culmination of his divine mission of sacrifice for us all, like spring to give us the hope of renewal. John's Gospel tells us there is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends, Jesus gave us salvation through selflessness, and even on the cross, his main concern was for his mother and friends watching him slowly dying. Jesus' story gives us hope, hope that we will one day be with him, that he will carry us in our struggles and that we will finish the race and wear the eternal crown of righteousness. This easter, when all seems different and uncertain, hold onto what never changes and never fails, the love of Jesus given to all of us.

As they wept at the resurrection, so many will have wept during the pandemic, but there is hope of joy in new beginnings. Differing emotions and feelings are all part of the cycles of life, but Jesus is always there with us, fulfilling his promise never to leave or forsake us to the very end of time. Amen.

Bible Verses

"He is not here, he is risen." Luke 24:6

"You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead.
We are witnesses of this."
Acts 3:15

"Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die." John 11:25.

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 April 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.*