

Prayers during week commencing 23 August 2020

How long O Lord, how long? When will I be able to enter your gates with thanksgiving and sing my praises in the court that is your church?



[Psalm 100](#)

See my child, the whole world is my courtyard, the sky is the roof of my temple, the trees are my pillars and the grass my carpet. Come dance and sing under my ceiling, feel the cool balm of my carpet on your toes, throw away your inhibitions and see me all around.

I will indeed go out into the world and sing for joy. I will go enter your court as though going up to Jerusalem and I will shout my praise giving thanks to you my God and I will bless your name for you are not bound. Hallelujah!

Father God, I pray today for the work of All We Can and their partner in Lebanon. May the aid offered be a practical witness to your love and a sign of peace in a troubled time.

Spirit of God, fill me today with joy until I overflow. Embolden me today to speak your love to all I encounter by whatever means. Grant me wisdom to do only that which is to the glory of God. Amen

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SHARING IN PRAYER FOR OUR DISTRICT AND OUR WORLD

Thank you, Lord, thank you.

Praise you, Almighty Yahweh, praise your name.

You have always been there for me, through all the ups and downs of life.

You will be beside me forever, your love never ends, but is forever new.

May I praise your name forever.

Based on Psalm 138

This week as we pray for our Circuits: in this holiday season we pray for places (in each community) of rest, relaxation and recuperation.

Day	For our District	For our Wider World
Sun 23 August Ps 138	Cleveland & Danby Circuit	Those seeking to spread the love of God via new technologies.
Mon 24 August Ps 145	Bishop Auckland & Shildon Circuit	Leaders and decision makers across the world.
Tues 25 August Ps 112	Durham & Deerness Valley Circuit	Those in the tourism and hospitality industries.
Wed 26 August Ps 113	West Durham Circuit	People living with life limiting conditions.
Thurs 27 August Ps 114	Barnard Castle & Teesdale Circuit	Schools preparing for students to return.
Fri 28 August Ps 115	North Yorkshire Dales Circuit	Israel and Palestine and the tensions over land.
Sat 29 August Ps 126	Those with time off this bank holiday	Those providing essential services over the bank holiday.

Thank you, Lord, for those days when you lead me by still waters, when there is a cool refreshing breeze, a soft rain and space to just 'be'. Help me to rest here, to pause a while, not to rush back to 'busy'. Help me to notice you; to smile; to thank you for all you have given to me. Thank you, God. Amen

Lectio divina during week beginning Sunday 23 August 2020

Lectionary Reading: [Matthew 16: 13-20](#)

Peter's declaration about Jesus

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' ¹⁴And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' ¹⁵He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' ¹⁶Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.' ²⁰Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

If you would like to reflect on this passage using the lectio divina approach the four headings are given below as a guide for the steps. Take as much time as you need and jot down what you notice in the spaces provided.

LECTIO: READING

As you read the words again underline or highlight words which stand out for you. Notice and appreciate what is written.

MEDITATIO: MEDITATING

What does the passage mean for you today? Place yourself in the scene... what is your response to Jesus? Who do you say he is?

ORATIO: PRAYER

Respond sharing all you have noticed with God. Listen for God to respond to you.

CONTEMPLATIO: CONTEMPLATION

Be still before God. Invite God to be with you. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you what God wants you to see and how to respond.

Finding a rhythm of prayer and reflection in lockdown.

Using the other **lectionary readings** as prompts for our prayers for the world:

Exodus 1: 8 – 2: 10

As you read the passage from Exodus, how does it speak alongside the recent headlines about migrants seeking to enter the United Kingdom?

Psalm 124 offers hope in the face of trauma and disaster. How might this psalm speak into situations in the news today? Do you personally need to hear God's assurance today? Is there someone you know who particularly needs to know God's love at this time?

Romans 12: 1-8 Rest with this passage or use the lectio divina approach asking the Spirit to help you to discern God's will for you. What is the gift you are being called to use in the body of Christ as church and society face new opportunities and challenges after 5 months of restricted activity.

Praying for the needs of the world with the help of **music and image**. This video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NEs5DfZ7XVQ> set to the song Be Still by David Kauffman provides opportunity to rest in the presence of God and offer situations of great need to God in silent prayer as the words and images speak to or for us of the deep needs across God's world.