

St Giles with St Peter, Aintree



Parish Prayers

Welcome to Parish Prayers.

This is a short time of prayer to bring the prayers and concerns of our parish before God.

Some notes on leading these services:

- *You must have a Bible reading at a service.*
- *Take your time. Speak clearly.*
- *Announce which service you are using and announce the page numbers as you go.*
- *The list of sick, departed & year's mind is at the back of church by St Peter's Chapel. A copy is also in the intercessions book, usually kept on lectern at the front of church.*
- *The street list in the parish is in the prayer requests book.*
- *If the service is inside, light a candle (in box).*
- *If outside, light an electric candle (in box).*

“Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.”

(Philippians 4:6)

Contents

This order of service contains services for:

- Celtic Morning Prayer (**p. 2-7**).
- A suggested Order for a Prayer Walk (**p. 8-13**).
- Morning Prayer (BCP) (**p. 14-20**).
- You can also use the “Service of the Word” booklets for Friday Prayers (in the church office).
- A Silent Eucharist (**p. 21-28**).

Celtic Morning Prayer

Adapted from Morning Prayer from Northumbria Community's Celtic Daily Prayer published by Collins.

The Northumbria Community is a dispersed, worldwide, network Christian community, committed to a new way for living.

See this website for more information: www.northumbriacommunity.org

Introduction

A candle, or candles, are lit.

A quiet pause may be held or music may be played.

The service leader begins the service:

+ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Opening Sentences

The service leader begins:

One thing I have asked of the Lord, this is what I seek:
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life;

**All: to behold the beauty of the Lord
and to seek Him in His temple.**



Call and Response

Prayers between those gathered together.

The word “Amen” means “Let it be so” or “So be it”.

Who is it that you seek?

All: We seek the Lord our God.

Do you seek Him with all your heart?

All: Amen. Lord, have mercy.

Do you seek Him with all your soul?

All: Amen. Lord, have mercy.

Do you seek Him with all your mind?

All: Amen. Lord, have mercy.

Do you seek Him with all your strength?

All: Amen. Christ, have mercy.

Bible Reading

A psalm may be said here by call and response. After a psalm, this response is used:

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, who was in the beginning, is now, and shall be forever. Amen.

A reading from the New Testament or Gospels is read. This response is said before the reading.

All: To whom shall we go?

**You have the words of eternal life,
and we have believed and have come to know
that You are the Holy One of God. (John 6:68)**

At the end of the reading, we say:

**All: Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ,
King of eternal glory.**

Expression of Faith

This expression of faith is an expression of trust and hope in God, despite any current hardships we face.

All: Lord, You have always given bread for the coming day; and though I am poor, today I believe.

Lord, You have always given strength for the coming day; and though I am weak, today I believe.

Lord, You have always given peace for the coming day; and though of anxious heart, today I believe.

Lord, You have always kept me safe in trials; and now, tried as I am, today I believe.

Lord, You have always marked the road for the coming day; and though it may be hidden, today I believe.

Lord, You have always lightened the darkness of mine; and though the night is here, today I believe.

Lord, You have always spoken when the time was ripe; and though you may be silent now, today I believe.

Reflection

*A reflection on the reading or poem may be read;
or piece of music may be played here.*

Prayers

The service leader begins the prayers:

Christ, as a light illumine and guide me.

Christ, as a shield overshadow me.

Christ under me; Christ over me;

Christ beside me, on my left and my right.

This day be within and without me, lowly and meek, yet
all-powerful.

**All: Be in the heart of each to whom I speak;
in the mouth of each who speaks unto me.
This day be within and without me,
lowly and meek, yet all-powerful.
Christ as a light; Christ as a shield;
Christ beside me on my left and my right.**

*Prayers for the parish, the sick, dying and anniversaries
are to be prayed here.*

*A pause for any personal prayers, aloud or in private, is
held.*



Prayer Requests

The Lord's Prayer

The pause for prayer is concluded with:

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the Kingdom,
The power and the glory,
For ever and ever. Amen.**

Blessing

The service leader prays this final prayer.

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you,
wherever He may send you.

May He guide you through the wilderness,
and protect you through the storm.

May He bring you home rejoicing at the wonders He
has shown you.

May He bring you home rejoicing once again into our
doors.

**All: + In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen**

A Prayer Walk (suggested Order of Service)

If the weather is good, or folk fancy some fresh air, then use this order of service on a walk around the parish.

Wear appropriate footwear, clothing, and be aware of your surroundings.

Opening Response

We greet each other as we gather. When all are present, we pray the following together:

As we gather in this place,

All: God is here.

Praise him in this outdoor space,

All: God is here.

Walking, running, standing still,

All: God is here.

Down the valleys, up the hills,

All: God is here.

Praise him all you flying birds,

All: God is here.

Praise him all you digging worms

All: God is here.

Praise him all you lofty trees,

All: God is here.

Praise him beetles, bugs and bees,

All: God is here.

Praise him clouds, and sun, and rain,

All: God is here.

Praise him people on your way,

All: God is here.

Say it to each other now,

All: God is here.

Say it to the world around,

All: God is here.

All creation sings God's praise,

All: God is here.

We join in that praise and say,

All: God is here.

Amen!

Prayer of Preparation

God, have mercy on our tired land,
and prosper even the work of our soiled hands.
God, forgive our delusions of self-sufficiency.
May we praise your provision and goodness.
All: Amen.

Or

With this news, strengthen those who have tired hands,
and encourage those who have weak knees.
Say to those with fearful hearts, “Be strong, and do not
fear, for your God is coming... He is coming to save
you.”

(Isaiah 35: 3-4)

First Walk - Journey

The service leader reads before we walk:

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy.
I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

(John 10:10)

*Walking to the next stop, think and, if you are
comfortable, share with someone you walk with:*

*Are there times in your past when God has led you
down a fulfilling road without your understanding it?*

*Do you know where you're heading? Are you concerned
about what might happen? Where do you think this fear
is coming from?*

Pray for the people and houses you pass; that they may be led into the life in all it's fullness that Jesus promises.

The service leader gathers everyone together, and after a pause, prays:

Lord, for all in cities, towns, ports and villages, that their well-being may be guarded and their lives flourish, and for the people and creatures we have passed:

Lord, in your love,

All: Hear this prayer.

Second Walk – Pilgrim's Progress

The service leader reads before we walk:

Just then a person came up to Jesus and asked, "Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?" "Why do you ask me about what is good?" Jesus replied... If you want to enter life, keep the commandments". "Which ones?" the person inquired. Jesus replied with the ten commandments. "All these I have kept," the person said. "What do I still lack?" Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

(Matthew 19: 16-21)

Walking to the next stop, think and, if you are comfortable, share with someone you walk with:

How do I feel at the moment? Ask God to show you something about how he made you and the way he is equipping you for where you are.

Is there anything that is getting in the way of my relationship with God or stopping me grow in my faith? What is it and how might I remove it?

What is something I can give away today?

Pray for the people and houses you pass; that they may have courage to grow in love, faith and goodness.

Lord, we pray for the lives around us; for local trade and commerce, the service industries providing our daily needs: for the unemployed and for those who struggle: for school leavers and all seeking employment: for all who work as volunteers: and for those whose labour is finished in retirement or by illness. Help us to draw close to you, and open our hands and hearts to those around us:

Lord, in your love:

All: Hear this prayer.



Third Walk – Destination

The service leader reads before we walk:

“Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.”

(Romans 5: 1-5)

Walking to the next stop, think and, if you are comfortable, share with someone you walk with:

Where do I honestly think the world is going?

What do I hope to see transformed?

How can I do something, even in a small way, to make this happen? Ask God for inspiration and eyes to see where God is working already.

What difference does it make to you that you do not walk alone?

Pray for the people and houses you pass; that their experiences, good and bad, may produce the desire to see the world transformed for our common good.

May God, the Father of Jesus Christ, source of all goodness and growth, pour his blessing upon all things created, and upon us, his children, that we may use our gifts to his glory and the welfare of this world.

Lord, in your love:

All: Hear this prayer.

At the end of the route, or returning to where the service began, this reflection on prophet Micah 6:8 is said:

Show love, act justly, walk humbly with God:

Enough challenge and adventure;

Enough wonder and creativity;

Enough tears and laughter;

Enough task for a lifetime;

Enough company and direction;

To see us safe home.

(Ruth Burgess, *Acorns & Archangels*, 2009)

Ending Prayer

Adapted quote of philosopher Henri-Frédéric Amiel.

Our lives are short and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who walk this way with us. So, be swift to love, make haste to be kind, and go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: Amen!

Hand your service books back to the leader before all disperse. Thank you!

Morning Prayer (Book of Common Prayer)

A candle, or candles, are lit.

Opening Sentences

These may be said together or read by the leader.

“O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; let the whole earth stand in awe of him” (Psalm 96.9)

“God is Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth” (John 4. 24)

Penitential Sentences

“Rend your heart and not your garments, and turn unto the Lord your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil” (Joel 2.13)

Prayers of Penitence

The service leader says:

Beloved, we are come together in the presence of almighty God, and of the whole company of heaven, to offer unto him through our Lord Jesus Christ our worship, praise and thanksgiving; to make confession of our sins; to pray, as well for others as for ourselves, that we may know more truly the greatness of God’s love and show forth in our lives the fruits of his grace; and to ask on behalf of all people such things as their well-being doth require.

Wherefore, let us sit or kneel in silence, and remember God’s presence with us now.

All say together:

All: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts.

We have offended against thy holy laws.

We have left undone those things which we ought to have done;

and we have done those things which we ought not to have done, and there is no health in us.

But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders.

Spare thou them, O God, which confess their faults.

Restore thou them that are penitent;

according to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord.

And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,

That we may hereafter live a godly, righteous and sober life, to the glory of thy name.

Amen.

The service leader prays:

Grant, we beseech thee merciful Lord, to thy faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins, and serve thee with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Greeting

The service leader says:

O Lord, open thou our lips.

All: And our mouths shall show forth thy praise.

O God, make speed to save us.

All: O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

All: As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Praise ye the Lord.

All: The Lord's name be praised.

Bible Readings

A psalm may be read, or listened to, here.

At the end of the psalm, all say:

All: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

A reading from the Old Testament is to be read here.

Psalm 95 (Venite, exultemus Domino) is said together:

All: O come, let us sing unto the Lord :

let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving: and shew ourselves glad in him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God: and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are all the corners of the earth: and the strength of the hills is his also.

The sea is his, and he made it: and his hands prepared the dry land.

O come, let us worship, and fall down: and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For he is the Lord our God: and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

A reading from the New Testament is to be read here.

Jubilate Deo

Psalm 100 (Jubilate Deo) is said using the words below:

All: O be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands: serve the Lord with gladness, and come before his presence with a song.

Be ye sure that the Lord, he is God; it is he that that made us, and not we ourselves;

we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

O go your way with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful to him, and speak good of His name.

For the Lord is gracious, his mercy everlasting: and his truth endureth from generation to generation.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

Prayers

The service leader leads us in prayer.

The Lord be with you.

All: And with thy Spirit.

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

All: Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

All pray together:

**All: Our Father, which art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive
them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us
from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the
glory, now and forever. Amen.**

The Responses

O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.

All: and grant us thy salvation.

O Lord, save the King.

All: and mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Endue thy ministers with righteousness.

All: and make thy chosen people joyful.

O Lord, save thy people.

All: and bless thine inheritance.

Give peace in our time, O Lord.

All: because there is none other that fightest for us, but only thou, O God.

O God, make clean our hearts within us.

All: And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

Prayers for the parish and people are offered here.

A time of silence may also be held.

A poem, reflection, or piece of music may be played.

The Collects

The collect from Sunday's bulletin is prayed.

The Collect for Grace

The service leader prays:

O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us safely to the beginning of this day: Defend us by your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin nor run into any danger; and that guided by your Spirit, we may do what is righteous in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Collect for Peace

All pray this collect together:

**All: O God, the author of peace and lover of concord,
to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom:
Defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies;
that we, surely trusting in your defence, may not fear the power of any adversaries,
through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Conclusion

The service leader says:

May the Lord be with you.

All: And with thy Spirit.

The grace is prayed together:

All: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.



A Silent Eucharist *(Adapted from the Diocese of St Alban's)*

Notes for the leaders:

There must be a priest to consecrate the bread & wine.

Complete silence can be difficult. You may want to select some music to be played during the service.

There are fewer words, some spoken in silence, so this service is shorter than usual Holy Communion.

A service leader will need:

A large cross either on the ground or against a wall.

A pile of stones (preferably about fist-size),

A large bowl of water on a small table,

A bell or similar.

A table suitably prepared for Holy Communion.

Notes for the congregation:

This service uses as few words as possible.

The service will follow the order on this service sheet. Follow along and be guided by the actions of the priest and the ringing of the bell.

It is hoped that in the silence of this service you will meet with God in stillness and the signs of his death and resurrection that Christ gave to us.



Gathering

The congregation sit in a round, or facing the altar. The priest rings a bell and makes the sign of the cross.

The congregation also makes the sign of the cross.

There follows a short time of silence.

Confession

A bell is rung.

The congregation move from their place to select one stone to represent all they wish to confess to God.

*Take your stone and place it at the foot of the cross.
Ask God to take away your sins and make you whole.*

As you return to your seat, consider washing your hands in the bowl of water as a sign of cleansing.

Absolution

An absolution is prayed aloud by the priest. We say 'Amen' out loud at the end.

May Almighty God have mercy on you,
Forgive you your sins,
And bring you to everlasting life.

All: Amen.

Gloria

A recorded Gloria or hymn of thanks for God's grace may be played. Alternatively, a bell is rung and all silently thank God for forgiveness.

Gospel Reading and Reflection

We reflect using the method of Lectio Divina.

*This requires the Gospel reading to be read three times.
This can be done by one, two or three readers.*

- *The Gospel reading is read for the first time.*

The congregation listen to note the events in the reading. Followed by one minute's silence.

- *The Gospel reading is read for a second time.*

The congregation listen for a word or verse that stands out for them. Followed by one minute's silence.

In the silence repeat in your heart the word or verse.

- *The Gospel reading is read for a third time.*

In the silence we consider the questions:

Where does the content of this reading speak to my life? What is God calling me to do?

Intercessions

A bell is rung.

In the quietness of your heart pray for:

- *Yourself.*
- *Others who you know.*
- *The church.*
- *The world.*

You may wish to light a candle for your prayers.

Invitation to Communion.

A bell is rung.

The priest reads aloud the introduction to Communion:

The table of bread and wine is now to be made ready.

It is the table of company with Jesus,
and all who love him.

It is the table of sharing with the poor of the world,
with whom Jesus identified himself.

It is the table of communion with creation,
in which Christ became incarnate.

So come to this table,
You who have much faith
and you who would like to have more.

You who have been here often,
and you who have not been here for a long time.

You who have tried to follow Jesus,
and you who have failed.

Come.

It is Christ who invites us to meet him here.



The Story of the Last Supper

We remember how the act of celebrating Communion began. The priest says the words in bold aloud.

The bell is rung.

We read and reflect, in silence, on the following words:

Blessed is Jesus,

Who walks with us on the road of our world's suffering,
And who is known to us in the breaking of bread.

On the night of his arrest Jesus took bread
and having blessed it

He broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, saying:
“This is my body given to you.”

A bell is rung three times.

In the same way he took wine

and having given thanks for it he poured it out
and gave the cup to his disciples, saying,

**“This cup is the new relationship with God,
Sealed with my blood.**

Take this and share it.

**I shall drink wine with you next in the coming
kingdom.”**

The bell is rung three times.

We pray out loud together:

**All: Loving God,
Through your goodness
we have this bread and wine to offer.
Which earth has given and human hands have
made,
May we know your presence in the sharing of this
bread.
We celebrate the life that Jesus has shared among
his community through the centuries,
and shares with us now.
Made one in Christ and one with each other,
We offer these gifts and with them ourselves,
to be a single, holy, living sacrifice.
Amen.**

The Sanctus

The bell is rung.

*A recorded Sanctus may be played, or in the silence of
our own hearts we pray:*

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory,
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord,
Hosanna in the highest!**

Prayer of Consecration

The bell is rung three times.

The priest makes the sign of the cross over the bread and wine.

We silently pray:

Hear us, O Christ

And breathe your Spirit upon us

And upon this bread and wine.

May they become for us your body,

Vibrant with your life,

Healing, renewing, and making us whole.

And as the bread and wine

which we now eat and drink are changed into us,

May we be changed again into you,

Bone of your bone,

Flesh of your flesh,

Loving and caring in the world.

The bell is rung and we say out loud together:

All: Amen

The Lord's Prayer

We pray together out loud:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come, your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

**Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

The bread is broken and elevated with the wine.

A bell rings three times.

Administration of Communion

The priest stands and welcomes the people to receive.

All baptised Christians are welcome to receive the bread and wine of Holy Communion.

*Please quietly ask for gluten free if needed,
or cross your arms across your chest for a blessing.*

We thank God for his sustenance in our discipleship.

Blessing

A bell is rung.

The priest makes the sign of the cross as a blessing to the people and they cross themselves.

Dismissal

We say our final response out loud:

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

All: In the name of Christ. Amen.