

# **The Community of St Stephen Walbrook**



## **Morning Prayer**

### ***The Book of Common Prayer***

**9 am Wednesday, 16th December 2020**

***Free dial-in on 0330 9981 320 - access code: 464351#.***

## ***Introduction***

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 and 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 shew forth in our lives the fruits of his grace; and to ask on behalf of all men such things as their well-being doth require. Wherefore let us sit in silence, and remember God's presence with us now.

**Almighty and most merciful 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 Jesu 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 holy Name. Amen.**

O Lord, open thou our lips.  
**And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.**

O God, make speed to save us.  
**O Lord, make haste to help us.**

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.**

Praise ye the Lord.  
**The Lord's Name be praised.**

## ***The Venite – Psalm 95***

**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 show 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.**

## Psalm 81 Verses 1-11

- 1 Sing we merrily unto God our strength \*  
make a cheerful noise unto the God of Jacob.
- 2 **Take the psalm, bring hither the tabret \*  
the merry harp with the lute.**
- 3 Blow up the trumpet in the new-moon \*  
even in the time appointed, and upon our solemn feast-day.
- 4 **For this was made a statute for Israel \*  
and a law of the God of Jacob.**
- 5 This he ordained in Joseph for a testimony \*  
when he came out of the land of Egypt, and had heard a strange language.
- 6 **I eased his shoulder from the burden \*  
and his hands were delivered from making the pots.**
- 7 Thou calledst upon me in troubles, and I delivered thee \*  
and heard thee what time as the storm fell upon thee.
- 8 **I proved thee also \*  
at the waters of strife.**
- 9 Hear, O my people, and I will assure thee, O Israel \*  
if thou wilt hearken unto me,
- 10 **There shall no strange god be in thee \*  
neither shalt thou worship any other god.**
- 11 I am the Lord thy God, who brought thee out of the land of Egypt \*  
open thy mouth wide, and I shall fill it.

**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.**

***First Reading: Isaiah 51.1-8***

Hearken to me, ye that follow after righteousness, ye that seek the Lord: look unto the rock whence ye are hewn, and to the hole of the pit whence ye are digged.

Look unto Abraham your father, and unto Sarah that bare you: for I called him alone, and blessed him, and increased him.

For the Lord shall comfort Zion: he will comfort all her waste places; and he will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody.

Hearken unto me, my people; and give ear unto me, O my nation: for a law shall proceed from me, and I will make my judgment to rest for a light of the people.

My righteousness is near; my salvation is gone forth, and mine arms shall judge the people; the isles shall wait upon me, and on mine arm shall they trust.

Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look upon the earth beneath: for the heavens shall vanish away like smoke, and the earth shall wax old like a garment, and they that dwell therein shall die in like manner: but my salvation shall be for ever, and my righteousness shall not be abolished.

Hearken unto me, ye that know righteousness, the people in whose heart is my law; fear ye not the reproach of men, neither be ye afraid of their revilings.

For the moth shall eat them up like a garment, and the worm shall eat them like wool: but my righteousness shall be for ever, and my salvation from generation to generation.

***Second reading: 2 Thessalonians 1***

Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth;

So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure:

Which is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer:

Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you;

And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,

In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.

Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power:

That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

***Benedictus***

**Blessed be the Lord God of Israel : for he hath visited and redeemed his people;  
And hath raised up a mighty salvation for us : in the house of his servant David;  
As he spake by the mouth of his holy Prophets : which have been since the world began;  
That we should be saved from our enemies : and from the hand of all that hate us.  
To perform the mercy promised to our forefathers : and to remember his holy Covenant;  
To perform the oath which he sware to our forefather Abraham : that he would give us;  
That we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies : might serve him without fear;  
In holiness and righteousness before him : all the days of our life.  
And thou, Child, shalt be called the Prophet of the Highest : for thou shalt go before the face of the  
Lord to prepare his ways;  
To give knowledge of salvation unto his people : for the remission of their sins,  
Through the tender mercy of our God : whereby the day-spring from on high hath visited us;  
To give light to them that sit in darkness, and in the shadow of death : and to guide our feet into the  
way of peace.**

**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.**

The Lord be with you.  
**And with thy spirit.**  
Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.  
**Christ, have mercy upon us.**  
Lord, have mercy upon us.

**Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, in  
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. Amen.**

O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.  
**And grant us thy salvation.**  
O Lord, save the Queen.  
**And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.**  
Endue thy Ministers with righteousness.  
**And make thy chosen people joyful.**  
O Lord, save thy people.  
**And bless thine inheritance.**  
Give peace in our time, O Lord.  
**Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.**  
O God, make clean our hearts within us.  
**And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.**

### ***The Collect of the day***

O Lord Jesu Christ, who at thy first coming didst send thy messenger to prepare thy way before thee; Grant that the ministers and stewards of thy mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready thy way, by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at thy second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in thy sight, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit ever, one God, world without end.

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, now and for ever.

***Amen***

### ***The Collect for Peace.***

O God, who art the author of peace and lover of concord, in knowledge of whom standeth our eternal life, whose service is perfect freedom: Defend us thy humble servants in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in thy defence, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### ***The Collect for Grace.***

O Lord, our heavenly Father, Almighty and everlasting God, who hast safely brought us to the beginning of this day: Defend us in the same with thy mighty power; and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger; but that all our doings may be ordered by thy governance, to do always that is righteous in thy sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### ***Prayers***

Let us pray. Lord help our love for one another to increase; to make us worthy of your call.

We pray for all whose lives have been impacted by the Coronavirus, those living under new restrictions from today; families who are unable to be together; all working in the hospitality sector.

Keep us, good Lord,  
under the shadow of your mercy  
in this time of uncertainty and distress.  
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,  
and lift up all who are brought low;  
that we may rejoice in your comfort  
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love.  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
Amen.

Lord, we remember those whose names are written on our hearts in particular need of your healing and comfort today:

God of compassion,  
be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation.  
In their loneliness, be their consolation;  
in their anxiety, be their hope;  
in their darkness, be their light;  
through him who suffered alone on the cross,  
but reigns with you in glory,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

Lord in our busyness at this time, help us to make space to celebrate your coming among us.

Lord Jesus,  
Master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.  
We who have so much to do and seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day,  
We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us.  
We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom.  
We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence.  
We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.  
To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!"  
Amen.

We draw our prayers together in the words of the Grace

***The Grace (2 Corinthians 13)***

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