

Subject: Daily Prayer 22nd April 2020 - with reflection by Canon Simon Stephens

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Good morning everyone

(Apologies for the incorrect date on the prayers yesterday - they were for the 21st NOT 14th)

Let's begin with a few moments of silence.....

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.

John 3:16-21

'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.'

Reflection from Canon Simon Stephens

Jesus continues to teach Nicodemus

We return this morning to the amazing meeting between Jesus and Nicodemus. Perhaps Jesus recognised Nicodemus's real quest for the truth ; but he also ascertained that hardness of his rabbinical heart, denied Nicodemus the opportunity to be born again, enabling him to accept the man standing before him as Lord and Saviour! Throughout the Gospel according to John, the writer develops the theme of the presence of light and darkness in our lives. "Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil"v19. I often wonder what were the expressions on Nicodemus face, during this discussion. As a scholar, he would have understood interlectually what the Man from Galilee was saying, but just perhaps Nicodemus feared, his heart feared the personal cost of rebirth and change. What was more important his reputation before the Rabbinical Council or accepting Christ as Lord ? Certainly during these Pandemic days, all our lives have changed - for better or for worse - and we have had to learn to live with the changes and to grow with them! Sadly, we do not know what became of Nicodemus, but it is our hope and prayer that he exchanged the darkness of his life - for that light which only comes from Christ.

Let us pray

We pray for [Personal Relationships]
the home, and family life ...
children deprived of home ...
friends, relations and neighbours ...
relationships in daily life and work ...
those who are estranged ...
those who feel unloved ...
all ministries of care ...

O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everliving God, we give you thanks for bringing us safely to this day: Keep us from falling into sin or running into danger, and in all things guide us to know and do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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.

The grace

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