

**Subject:** Daily Prayer 30th November 2020  
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Good morning

Let's be still and quiet before we begin.....

Today I am sharing the main context of a service which will be taking place later today, but which I thought that you would all enjoy.

A Poem from Christian Aid

From light comes life.  
Deep in expectant earth, a seed stretches.  
Through the fire-start of imagination, an idea takes root.  
In a passionate flash, love glows with infant intensity.  
Safe in the womb, a child senses its season turning and stirs.  
It is Advent, something coming, vulnerable in its unstoppable desire...  
God, unquenchable light, may they grow – the seed, the love, the idea, the child.

Opening Prayer

In the lonely places  
The wilderness  
Where we stand forlorn  
Windswept and alone  
Your voice calls out

**All**     **Prepare a way for the Lord**

In the dark places  
The shadows  
Where we hide our fears  
Embrace our tears  
Your voice calls out

**All**     **Prepare a way for the Lord**  
          *by John Birch*

*Silent Prayer, concluded with:*

Come, Lord Jesus;  
**All**     **forgive us and restore us.**

Come, Lord Jesus;  
**All**     **guide us and deliver us.**

Come, Lord Jesus;  
**All**     **teach us and renew us.**

**All**     **Amen, come, Lord Jesus.**

Gospel Reading- *Mark 1.1-21,*

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. <sup>2</sup> As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way;  
<sup>3</sup> the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
"Prepare the way of the Lord,

make his paths straight” ’.

<sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>He proclaimed, ‘The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.’

<sup>9</sup>In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>And immediately (‘straightway’) as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, ‘You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.’ <sup>12</sup>And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. <sup>13</sup>He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

<sup>14</sup>Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.’ <sup>16</sup>As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake—for they were fishermen. <sup>17</sup>And Jesus said to them, ‘Follow me and I will make you fish for people.’ <sup>18</sup>And immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>19</sup>As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. <sup>20</sup>Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him. <sup>21</sup>They went to Capernaum; and immediately on the sabbath, he entered the synagogue and taught...

*(NRSV translation, with a few adaptations to emphasise a key aspect of the Greek text of the Gospel of Mark)*

Prayer linked to Gospel reading

God of passion and power,  
Insistent, immediate,  
Challenging, compelling us with your story’s breathless beginning.  
Walk us into the wilderness  
To hear your voice where silence reigns.  
Give us insight, the vision beyond all seeing,  
So we may look upon heavens torn open  
And know that the time of good news for all creation  
Is always now.**Amen.**

Meditation

*Silence*

Prayers

Servant Christ  
Help us to follow you  
Deep into the waters of baptism  
To break the chain of past wrongs;  
To become fit to face your coming age.

*All* **Servant Christ, help us all to follow you.**

Help us to follow you into the desert,  
With you to fast, denying false luxury,  
Refusing the tempting ways of self-indulgence,  
The way of success at all costs,  
The way of coercive persuasion.

*All* **Servant Christ, help us all to follow you.**

Help us to follow you in untiring ministry

To town and village  
To heal and restore the broken body of humanity  
To cast out the demonic forces  
Of greed, resentment, communal hatred  
And self-destructive fears.

**All**     **Servant Christ, help us all to follow you.**

Help us to follow you into the place of quiet retreat  
To intercede for the confused, the despairing, the anxiety driven,  
To prepare ourselves for costly service.

**All**     **Servant Christ, help us all to follow you.**

Help us to follow you on the road to Jerusalem,  
To set our faces firmly against friendly suggestions  
To live a safe, expedient life;  
To embrace boldly the way of self-offering.

**All**     **Servant Christ, help us all to follow you.**

Help us to follow you even to the cross,  
To see our hope in your self-spending love;  
To die to all within us not born of your love.

**All**     **Servant Christ, help us all to follow you.**

Help us to follow you out of the dark tomb;  
To share fully in your resurrection life,  
To be renewed daily in your image of love  
To serve daily as your new body  
Being broken for your world.

**All**     **Servant Christ, help us all to follow you.**

*Litany of the Disciples of Christ the Servant, India*

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**All**     **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 for ever.Amen.**

**Blessings and prayers for a peaceful day**

**Vicky**