



Martin Bird's Prayers for Monday 1st – Sunday 7th November 2021

Monday – All Saints Day

Reading – Revelation Chapter 21, verses 1 to 6a

Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End."

Lord Jesus, thank you for your revelation given to John. Thank you for the hope we have in what you promise is to come. Thank you that your Father's dwelling place will become among the people when the new heaven and new earth come. Thank you that their will be no more death or mourning or pain and that God promises to wipe away our every tear. Thank you Lord Jesus, our Saviour, our Alpha and Omega, our beginning and end.

Thank you Lord Jesus – you are our hope and our joy. Amen

Tuesday - All Souls Day

Reading – John Chapter 6, verses 37 to 40

All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day."

Lord Jesus, we believe in you. You are the Saviour of the World, the Messiah and the Son of God. You came to earth and died to save us from our sins, and you are risen to life.

Because of that we can know, for sure, that you are who you say you are. May we come to you in our lives, knowing that through our belief in you we know we will have the eternal life you promise. Help us too to bring more people to you so that they too can be saved, and receive that self-same eternal life. Amen

Wednesday

Reading – Psalm 111

Praise the LORD. I will extol the LORD with all my heart in the council of the upright and in the assembly.

*Great are the works of the LORD; they are pondered by all who delight in them.
Glorious and majestic are his deeds, and his righteousness endures forever.*

He has caused his wonders to be remembered; the LORD is gracious and compassionate.
He provides food for those who fear him; he remembers his covenant forever.
He has shown his people the power of his works, giving them the lands of other nations.
The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy.
They are established for ever and ever, enacted in faithfulness and uprightness.
He provided redemption for his people; he ordained his covenant forever - holy and
awesome is his name.
The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good
understanding. To him belongs eternal praise.

Lord God, we praise you in our hearts and with all we have. We praise you for all you have
done, and all you do. We praise you for who you are and how you act. We praise you for
the love you show to all, and for your unending faithfulness. We praise you for your mercy
in all you do. We praise you that the work our your hands are faithful and just. We praise
you because you sent Jesus to earth to redeem us. We praise because you are worthy of
all praise we can give you. Praise the Lord! Amen

Thursday

Reading – Matthew Chapter 3

*In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea and saying,
"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is he who was spoken of
through the prophet Isaiah:
"A voice of one calling in the wilderness,
'Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.'"*

*John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His
food was locusts and wild honey. People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea
and the whole region of the Jordan. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in
the Jordan River.*

*But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was
baptizing, he said to them: "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming
wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not think you can say to
yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' I tell you that out of these stones God can
raise up children for Abraham. The axe is already at the root of the trees, and every tree
that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.
"I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful
than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and
fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his
wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire."*

The Baptism of Jesus

*Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to
deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"
Jesus replied, "**Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfil all righteousness.**" Then
John consented.
As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was
opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a
voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."*

Lord God, as we head towards Advent, we remember today your servant John who
came to show the way to you through Jesus. Through him the way was shown to you
through Jesus, and he baptized Jesus too. Thank you that you love us so much that you
wanted us to be in no doubt of who Jesus was, and that at his baptism you told us "This is

my Son, whom I love, With him I am well pleased." . May we show in our lives our true love for Jesus, and may we too be well pleased knowing that Jesus is our Saviour. Help us to live as saved people and bring more people to you to be saved too.
Amen

Friday

Reading – Matthew Chapter 4, verses 1 to 11

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."

Jesus answered, "**It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'**"

Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written:

"He will command his angels concerning you,
and they will lift you up in their hands,

so that you will not strike your foot against a stone."

Jesus answered him, "**It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'**"

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."

Jesus said to him, "**Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'**"

Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

Lord Jesus, when we read how you dealt with temptation, it shows us how we should be too. Help us to remember your words here, and, when we are tempted, help us to banish the temptation just as you did. However, you know we are fallible, and we also ask for your forgiveness when we do give in to temptation and help us to forgive others in the same way. Your way of living is the only way of living – help us and your world to become more and more like you. Amen

Saturday

Reading – Matthew Chapter 4, verses 12 to 22

When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he withdrew to Galilee. Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali - to fulfil what was said through the prophet Isaiah:

"Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali,
the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan,

Galilee of the Gentiles—
the people living in darkness

have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of the shadow of death
a light has dawned."

From that time on Jesus began to preach, "**Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.**"

Jesus Calls His First Disciples

As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "**Come, follow me,**" Jesus said, "**and I will send you out to fish for people.**" At once they left their nets and followed him.

Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

Lord God, help us to be like the first disciples and follow you in all we do. Help us, when you are asking us to do something, to go forth and do it, following you because that is the only thing worth doing. Help us to continue to come to you in our lives with no hesitation, and to bring more people to you through how we live our lives. Help us to stand out for you, so that people will notice and want to ask us why we live the way we do. And when they do, help us to respond with our whole hearts – because that is what Jesus wants us to do. You are the way, the truth and the life. Help us to help others know that too. Amen

Sunday

Reading – Philippians Chapter 4, verses 6 to 9

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me - put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

Lord God, when we are feeling anxious it is so easy for us to try and deal with the anxiety in our own strength, and forget about you. Help us, during times of worry, come to you and your Father in prayer, knowing that you always listen to our prayers, and always answer them. In our times of nervousness, send your peace upon us so that our hearts and minds will be guarded as you promise. Help us to be your people, putting into practice all that you ask us to do, and helps us to know that, as we do so, you are always with us and that your peace can and does take away our anxiety and fearfulness. Amen