



Martin Bird's Prayers for Monday 12th to Sunday 18th October 2020

Monday (Wilfred)

Reading – Galatians Chapter 5, verse 1

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

Christ, our freedom giver, you died to set us free from the slavery of sin. Help us, every day, to come to you, to give the day to you, and ask you to help us stand firm, so that the freedom we have in you is not thrown back at you, but rather is cherished and loved, and is recognised for the amazing thing it is. Thank you Lord Jesus, our Saviour, from releasing us from sin's power – may our lives be lived to show others how wonderful that freedom that we have because of you is. May we live our lives for you, standing firm and knowing that you are our Messiah. Amen

Tuesday (Edward the Confessor)

Reading – Psalm 89, verses 1 to 18

Who is like you, LORD God Almighty? You, LORD, are mighty, and your faithfulness surrounds you. You rule over the surging sea; when its waves mount up, you still them. You crushed Rahab like one of the slain; with your strong arm you scattered your enemies. The heavens are yours, and yours also the earth; you founded the world and all that is in it. You created the north and the south; Tabor and Hermon sing for joy at your name. Your arm is endowed with power; your hand is strong, your right hand exalted. Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; love and faithfulness go before you. Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you, who walk in the light of your presence, LORD. They rejoice in your name all day long; they celebrate your righteousness. For you are their glory and strength, and by your favour you exalt our horn. Indeed, our shield belongs to the LORD, our king to the Holy One of Israel.

Lord God, help us to learn to acclaim you once more. So many in this world now dismiss you out of hand as an irrelevance or as if you don't exist at all. Help us, your children, to acclaim you all the louder, so that no one can be in any doubt as to how much you mean to us. May the whole world come to see that heavens and the earth are your creation, so wonderfully made for us all. You are a mighty God and you are faithful to us all. Help us and your whole world come back to you and be faithful to you, and may that faithfulness be seen in how we treat each other and how we treat your planet. May we do what you ask us to do – be stewards of your world, treating it well so it will still be there in all its wonder, for generations to come, and to truly love our neighbours as ourselves. If we do both of these things through you, your world will be the amazing, loving and peaceful place you created it to be.

Amen

Wednesday

Reading – Galatians Chapter 5, verses 18 to the end

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

Lord Jesus, at this time, when the world is as it is, the fruits of the Spirit are even more important for people to show. May there be a true outbreak of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control in this world and may the whole world live by the Spirit so that all of its wonderful fruits may be seen in all. May we all keep in step with the Spirit, being loving, warm and supportive to each other, rather than conceited, provoking or envious. May your Spirit be seen in action across this world, and may we, your followers, show how your Spirit is alive in us. Amen

Thursday (Teresa of St Avila)

Reading – Psalm 98

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music; make music to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the sound of singing, with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn - shout for joy before the LORD, the King. Let the sea resound, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it. Let the rivers clap their hands, let the mountains sing together for joy; let them sing before the LORD, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with equity.

Lord God, may we, in this strangest of times, not lose sight of the fact that you are in control. Also, knowing you are in control, may we, in the midst of all that is happening, shout for joy to you and because of you. May we see, in your creation, the very things you created being joyous for you – the sea, the rivers, the mountains, and all your animals big and small – and may we, in seeing that, not be able to do anything but join in with them. You will judge the world in righteousness and its people with equity – so let us all sing for joy and praise you for you are worthy of all the praise we can give you, and so much more. Amen

Friday (Ridley & Latimer)

Reading – Psalm 33

We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield. In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. May your unfailing love rest upon us, O Lord, even as we put our hope in you.

Lord God, let us echo in our prayers the words of the psalmist. We too are waiting in hope for you. You are our help and our shield. Our hearts rejoice in you, Lord God, and we, too, trust in your holy name. So Lord God, may your unfailing love rest upon us all as we put all our hope in you, the one true God. Amen

Saturday (Ignatius)

Reading – Ephesians Chapter 1, verses 15 to the end

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

Lord Jesus, you are head over us all. Your church is your body and we are all small but vital parts of that church. Every part of the body is as important as any other – a fact we all need to remember at a time when the world would have us believe that money, wealth, property and possessions can make us better and more important than others. May we, who know the truth, be showing the world that, through you and your saving grace, we are all as important as each other and none can be cast aside. Help us to be there for all people the world casts aside and bring them to you so that they too may be part of your glorious inheritance that is your holy people. May we all live your way and not the world's way, and may all people come to you – our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

Sunday (Luke)

Reading – Isaiah Chapter 55

Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon. “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD. “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands.

Lord God, may all people in this world strive to do things your way rather than their own way. May we all forsake our wicked ways and our unrighteous thoughts, and, in so doing, truly turn to you. Thank you Lord God, that we can know that by turning to you, you will have mercy on us and you will freely pardon. May your whole world come to know that wonderful fact for themselves and may we see everyone turning to you and away from darkness. May your whole world go out in joy and be led forth in peace. May your whole world join in the song of the mountain and the hills, and may your whole world join in and applaud along with the trees of the field. Thank you Lord God for everything – may we lift our voices of praise to you, now and forever. Amen