



## **Martin Bird's Prayers for Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> – Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> May**

### **Monday**

**Reading – John Chapter 14, verses 21 to 27**

**Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.” Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, “But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?” Jesus replied, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me. “All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.**

Lord Jesus, we do love you – help us to obey your teaching. We know that your words came from your Father and that by obeying your teaching we can claim eternal life in heaven for ourselves. May we have your strength be in us at this difficult time so that we can continue to obey your teaching, and help us not to be troubled or afraid no matter what is happening in this world and help us to know that wonderful truth for us all – that no matter what is happening, you have given us your peace, because you have overcome the world. Thank you, Lord Jesus, our Saviour and our peace giver, Amen

### **Tuesday**

**Reading – John Chapter 12, verses 20 to 26**

**Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the festival. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. “Sir,” they said, “we would like to see Jesus.” Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus. Jesus replied, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honour the one who serves me.**

Lord Jesus, may we glorify your name in all we do, all we say and all we think. Help us to follow you and do your work and serve you through serving others. May we be so honoured by your Father and our heavenly Father and may we know that the only reason we have access to that honour is because you died for us on the cross. Be with us and help us to do your work in and with our lives, so more and more people may come to you. You are the Son of Man and the Son of God, and we glorify you for all you have done for your whole world. Thank you Jesus for everything. Amen

Wednesday

Reading – John Chapter 15, verses 1 to 8

**“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.**

Jesus Christ, our Messiah, help us to remain in you. Help us to be true branches for you, bearing much fruit, and bringing more and more people to you. Thank you for your promise that if we do remain in you, we can come to you in prayer, and know, for sure, that those prayers will be answered. Help us to keep close to you, and be your true disciples, and give the Father the glory in all we do and all we are. Amen

Thursday

Reading – John Chapter 15, verses 9 to 11

**“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.**

Lord Jesus, thank you for your amazing love that you have for us – help us to remain in that love by keeping your commands. May your joy truly be in us, and may our joy be truly complete in you. Amen

Friday

Reading – John Chapter 15, verses 12 to 17

**My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. This is my command: Love each other.**

Greater love has no one than this: to lay down his life for his friends. Lord Jesus, this is the love you showed us on the cross and we struggle to get our heads around it, because we, in our human frailties, cannot perceive such enormous love. You also call us friends, and we know we don’t deserve that. But we also know that you died on that cross so we can know that you are our friend – the best friend we could ask for. Help us to keep your command, and truly love each other, just as you love us, so that more and more people would come to know your love for themselves. Amen

## Saturday

### Reading – 1 Peter 3, verses 13 to the end

**Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. “Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened.” But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behaviour in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. For it is better, if it is God’s will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit. After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits - to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also - not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at God’s right hand - with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.**

Lord Jesus, thank you that through baptism, we have been cleansed and can come to you with a clear conscience. However, we also know that we fall short so many times. Because of that, we know that the only way for us to come to God is through you and your resurrection. Thank you that you are in heaven, interceding on our behalf – help us to live lives that show how grateful we are to you and to know that we are saved. Amen

## Sunday

### Reading – Acts Chapter 10, verses 44 to the end

**While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on Gentiles. For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God.**

**Then Peter said, “Surely no one can stand in the way of their being baptized with water. They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have.” So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days.**

Lord God, thank you for Peter and his amazing work he did for you. Thank you that because it was seen that the gift of the Holy Spirit came to the gentiles, your church was able to grow in a major way, and we can know that the Holy Spirit comes to use. May your Spirit pour into us now, and may we bring the truth of your Spirit to all we meet. Amen.