

Join us for a



**National Day of Reflection**

**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March**

**a time of prayer**

*We are invited to put a lit candle (safely) in a window of our home at 8pm. These prayers can be used at that time, or at any other time that feels appropriate.*



***Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2021 marks the anniversary  
of the beginning of the first national lockdown***

*A candle may be lit.*

Lord God, the maker and redeemer of all,  
as we come before you in thanksgiving  
for the gift of health and life,  
we grieve for the thousands who have died:  
comfort us with your presence,  
sustain us with the hope of your kingdom,  
and give us grace to live our lives well;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

*One or more of the following Scripture passages is read.*

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd;  
therefore can I lack nothing.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures  
and leads me beside still waters.
- 3 He shall refresh my soul  
and guide me in the paths of righteousness  
for his name's sake.
- 4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil;  
for you are with me; your rod and your staff,  
they comfort me.
- 5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those  
who trouble me;  
you have anointed my head with oil and my cup shall be full.
- 6 Surely goodness and loving mercy shall follow me all the  
days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

*Psalm 23*

‘Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.’

*Matthew 11.28-30*

I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*Romans 8.38-39*

Cast all your anxieties upon God, for God cares for you.

*1 Peter 5.7*

*Reflection and prayer may follow.*

*You may wish to:*

- *share thoughts about the last year;*
- *remember those who have died;*
- *pray for those who care for others;*
- *pray for all who are in need;*
- *share hopes for the future.*

*A prayer of **Reflection**.*

Loving God, you hold all our times in your hands, our past, our present, our future. Be close to us now as we remember all the difficulties and disappointments of the past year. Be especially close to all of us who are thinking of someone we loved and knew, but see no longer, whether family, friend, colleague or neighbour. Help us to trust that they are at peace with you, and comfort us with your presence.

*A prayer for all who mourn.*

Gracious God,  
as we remember before you the thousands who have died,  
surround us and all who mourn with your strong compassion.  
Be gentle with us in our grief,  
protect us from despair,  
and give us grace to persevere  
and face the future with hope  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

*A prayer for all those affected by coronavirus*

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 Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

*A prayer of **Connection**.*

Loving God, you place us in families and communities, and we give you thanks for all those around us who serve us and help us in so many ways. Give wisdom to community leaders, to our schools, hospitals, care homes and other agencies who make a difference to our lives. Help each of us to have the courage to reach out with thanks and kindness to those around us and to speak words of faith as we share the good news of your love

*A prayer of **Hope**.*

Loving God, as we journey towards Easter, help us to live as people of hope, knowing that beyond the pain of the cross lies the joy of resurrection. Inspire us in our worship, through our churches and in our homes, that we may bring glory to you and joy to others. Be with those who are struggling in mind, body or spirit, and give courage to those who are facing uncertainty and change ahead. Help each of us to keep our eyes fixed on you, that we may reflect your light to all whom we meet.

God of Love,  
as we think about all that has changed this year,  
help us to trust that you are always with us.  
As we remember those who have died,  
help us to trust they are at peace with you.  
As we reach out to others with kindness and care,  
may hope shine out in every heart and home.  
Amen.

*The Lord's Prayer*

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.

*A prayer of blessing*

Christ the Good Shepherd  
enfold us with love,  
fill us with peace,  
and lead us in hope,  
to the end of our days;  
and the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be among us and remain with us always.  
Amen.

*If a candle has been lit, someone might place it on a windowsill or another place which would make it visible from outside.*