



*I lift my eyes to the hills;
from where is my help to come?
My help comes from the Lord
the maker of heaven and earth.*

Psalm 121

7 The nations make much ado, and the kingdoms are shaken; *
God has spoken, and the earth shall melt away.

8 The Lord of hosts is with us; *
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

9 Come now and look upon the works of the Lord, *
what awesome things he has done on earth.

10 It is he who makes war to cease in all the world; *
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear,
and burns the shields with fire.

11 “Be still, then, and know that I am God; *
I will be exalted among the nations;
I will be exalted in the earth.”

12 The Lord of hosts is with us; *
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

INVITATION TO COME TAKE STONE FROM WATER

Priest Joanne

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.

We depart in silence

Following the service you are invited to remain in the sanctuary for as long as you like. If you desire to talk about what you are experiencing, we will be gathering in Healy Hall for conversation and light refreshment. As you depart you are invited to take a stone with you to carry in the coming weeks.

You have before you a small bag with several items in it. As you desire, you are invited to offer your thoughts to God through words or picture using the crayon or pen and the note card. Later you will be invited to bring this forward. You are invited to hold the stone close to your heart during the service. Later we will bring these forward as well. In this time you are invited to bring to God all that you are experiencing: worries, questions, fears, doubts, anger, hurt, frustration, confusion, chaos, numbness. *We have childcare downstairs in the nursery for those who desire their children to be there.*

You are invited to remain seated throughout as you desire.

Opening sentence

Priest Joanne

If I say, “Surely the darkness will cover me, and the light around me turn to night,” darkness is not dark to you, O Lord; the night is as bright as the day; darkness and light to you are both alike. *Psalm 139:10, 11*

You are invited into a time of silence. During this time you may come forward and take a lighted candle and place it on the altar table.

Gathering prayer

Priest Joanne

In certainty or perhaps uncertainty that God is in our midst, let us pray to our Lord. God of strength and comfort, we gather to acknowledge our anguish and to support one another in our sorrow. We come before you with a multitude of feelings, at times jumbled and chaotic, at times intense. We come before you with pain, with numbness, disbelief, anger, fear.

This is a confusing time. At times we may even feel like we are standing on edge of emotional chaos. We ask you to be with us in this time. Guide our hearts, calm our fears, carry our worries. Comfort us and sustain us. For only you God, keep us from feeling like we are living on the edge all the time. Amen

Time for silent prayer

Reflection

Maureen Redmer, Parish Nurse

At some point, everyone who experiences a loss is likely to get angry about it, even if it doesn't 'make sense.' People who experience separation from a loved one, for example, may get intensely angry at that person for abandoning them, or causing them pain and difficulty. Some may get angry with themselves for 'allowing' something bad to happen, even when they had no control over it. This often helps us avoid being overwhelmed by the debilitating feelings like helplessness and powerlessness.

Time for silent prayer

Prayer for our brokenness

Priest Joanne

God of mercy, we come before you knowing we are a broken people and seeking your forgiveness

You are invited to kneel or remain seated as we pray together

God of mercy, long-suffering and of great goodness

I confess to you,

I confess with my whole heart

My neglect and forgetfulness of your commandments,

My wrong doing, wrong thinking and wrong speaking;

The hurts I have done to others,

And the good I have left undone.

O God, forgive me, for I have sinned against you;

Wash away my wrongdoing and cleanse me from my sin.

Renew a right spirit within me

and restore me to the joy of your salvation,

Through Jesus Christ my Lord. Amen

Adapted from the Common Worship, Church of England

You are invited to bring forward your card and stone, placing the card on the Altar table and the stone in the bowl of water. These cards will be burned as an offering, symbolizing our prayers going forth to God.

The washing of the stones

Priest Joanne

As God washes creation with the water of rain, as Christ washes us with the water of baptism, may this washing of these stones remind us we are made new people through God's love and that we are made strong to go forth into the world as Christ's light in the darkness. Ease our fears, Lord God and fill us with faith. When we are hopeless, give us confidence so that we will know the hope we have in the love of Christ

We pray together as we are sprinkled with the holy water that has washed our stones and as a reminder of God's presence with us through tears and through refreshing water

Psalm 46 We pray together

1 God is our refuge and strength, *

a very present help in trouble.

2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, *

and though the mountains be toppled into the depths of the sea;

3 Though its waters rage and foam, *

and though the mountains tremble at its tumult.

4 The Lord of hosts is with us; *

the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

5 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, *

the holy habitation of the Most High.

6 God is in the midst of her;

she shall not be overthrown; *

God shall help her at the break of day.

Prayer for wisdom *We pray together*

O God, we ask you to help us

Guard our tongues from gossip, from passing on stories,
for we are called to be a holy people, respecting the dignity of all people.

Guard our minds from the temptation to know details
for all we need to know is that we are called to bring Christ's presence
into the pain, confusion and suffering that is in our midst.

Guard our hearts from judgment,
let us remember we are all God's children.

Give our tongues words that will help heal the brokenness and pain.

Give our minds the wisdom to draw back from thoughts that cause us to
stray from your ways so that we will make room for you, your thoughts,
your hopes, your dreams for us and for all people.

Give our hearts compassion and mercy so we can be your presence in this
time. Amen.

Time for silent prayer

Priest Joanne

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

We pray together

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.*

Give us this day our daily bread.

*And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.*

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

*For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.*

Absolution

Priest Joanne

May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw you to close and cleanse
you from all your sins that you may behold the glory of his Son,
the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

From the Common Worship, Church of England

Psalm 13 *We pray together*

1 How long, O Lord? will you forget me for ever? *

how long will you hide your face from me?

2 How long shall I have perplexity in my mind,
and grief in my heart, day after day? *

how long shall my enemy triumph over me?

3 Look upon me and answer me, O Lord my God; *

give light to my eyes, lest I sleep in death;

4 Lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed over him," *

and my foes rejoice that I have fallen.

5 But I put my trust in your mercy; *

my heart is joyful because of your saving help.

6 I will sing to the Lord, for he has dealt with me richly; *

I will praise the Name of the Lord Most High.

Prayer for NN

Deacon Nancy

God of healing love, graciously comfort **NN** in his suffering. Strengthen
him to do what he has to do and bear what he has to bear. Be with all
who care for him, surgeons, nurses, and therapists. Let their healing gifts
be used wisely so that he may be restored and made well in body, mind
and spirit. Amen.

Time for silent prayer

Prayer for NN

Deacon Nancy

Forgiving God, we hold before you **NN**. Be with him in this time. Help him seek your forgiveness and healing. May he use this time to discover your forgiving love for him. Be with those who love him, wipe the tears from their eyes and carry them through this time.

Time for silent prayer

Prayer for NN

Deacon Nancy

God of compassion and mercy, be with **NN** in this time. Comfort her, guide her, and give her the courage and strength to face the days ahead. Wrap your loving arm around her and give her rest. May she know your love that knows no boundaries. Be with those who love her, family and friends. Wipe the tears from their eyes and carry them through this time.

Time for silent prayer

Prayer for NN

Deacon Nancy

We pray especially for **NN** this night. In this time of confusion and worry may they be comforted in the knowledge that you love them and are with them every step. Wipe their tears, hear their prayers, carry their hurts, hold their fears. As the days unfold, give them patience. Help each live through the coming time with the certainty they are loved. Be with those who are caring for these children. Give them wisdom and a willingness to set aside their own thoughts, judgments and feelings, so that they will seek only what is best for these children of God.

Time for silent prayer

Prayer for the end to violence

Birgit Moxon, Pastoral Care

Let us pray to God for an end to violence
God of peace, God of justice, hear our cry to you.
We are suffering due to the violence in the world, in our community, and in our lives. You do not desire us to be violent or to live with violence and yet it continues from generation to generation. Help us overcome the violence that is in our midst so that no one will again know the pain and suffering that comes from violence.

Time for silent prayer

Psalm 121 *We say together*

1 I lift up my eyes to the hills; *
from where is my help to come?
2 My help comes from the Lord, *
the maker of heaven and earth.
3 He will not let your foot be moved *
and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.
4 Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel *
shall neither slumber nor sleep;
5 The Lord himself watches over you; *
the Lord is your shade at your right hand,
6 So that the sun shall not strike you by day, *
nor the moon by night.
7 The Lord shall preserve you from all evil; *
it is he who shall keep you safe.
8 The Lord shall watch over your going out and
your coming in, *
from this time forth for evermore.