

St Christopher's City Beach



## PRAYERS AT HOME

When gathering for Sunday  
Worship is not possible

Dear Parishioners

In these extraordinary and challenging times when we cannot physically gather together for Sunday worship let us unite ourselves spiritually with other Christians in solidarity and prayer.

This can be done by accessing Worship Services broadcasted on the radio, or television, as well as the use of technology, such as social media and the internet. Alternatively you are invited to pray the following prayers at the normal time you would have been attending Sunday worship at St Christopher's or at any other suitable time. These prayers can be prayed alone or with your family.

If possible, prepare a suitable prayer space. You might also wish to light a candle and have some reflective music playing in the background.

## INTRODUCTION

"In truth I tell you once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I am there among them."

Mt: 18:19-20

*As you light the candle pray:*

Lord Jesus you came as a light that shines in darkness and a light that darkness cannot overpower (Jn: 1:5) - enlighten our hearts and minds to your presence in our midst.

## ACT OF CONFESSION

For the times when we have failed to love God and to love each other we ask for God's forgiveness.

God of all mercy,

we humbly admit that we need your help.

We have wandered from your way.

We have sinned in thought, word and deed,  
and have failed to do what is right.

You alone can save us, Have mercy on us,  
wipe out our sins and teach us to forgive others.

Bring forth in us the fruit of your Spirit  
that we may live the new life to your glory.

This we ask in the name of Jesus our Saviour. Amen

## LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD

The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.  
Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose.  
Near restful waters he leads me to revive my drooping spirit.  
He guides me along what he knows to be right.  
If I walk in the darkness, no evil would I fear.  
I know that he will be there, with his crook and with his staff.  
The Lord has prepared, such a banquet for me.  
Surely goodness and kindness shall follow after me.  
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell all the days of my life.  
(Psalm 23)

## A Reading from the Gospel According to Matthew

"At that time Jesus exclaimed, I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and of earth, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to little children. Yes, Father, for that is what it pleased you to do. Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, just as no one knows the Son except the Father, just as no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. 'Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest. Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light."

(Mt 11:26-29)

Thanks be to God

*You can replace the Scripture readings with the relevant Sunday readings from the lectionary which are available at the back of this pamphlet.*

## INTERCESSIONS

We bring our needs and prayers before God who alone makes us dwell in safety:

For our world at this time (Pause for silent prayer)

Lord grant healing and comfort to those who are afflicted by the Coronavirus.

For those who are guiding our nation at this time (Pause)

Lord inspire them to make wise decisions in these days.

For all health professionals, all who are working with those who are sick and medical researchers (Pause)

Lord guide their work that through their skills and insights many will be restored to health.

For the isolated and the housebound (Pause)

Lord that we may be alert to their needs, and care for them in their vulnerability.

For our families and friends (Pause)

Lord protect them and look after them.

For the fearful, for the gravely ill and the dying (Pause)

Lord may they know your comfort and peace.

We commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray,  
to the mercy and protection of God.

Merciful Father,

accept these prayers

for the sake of your Son,

our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour Christ has taught us , we are confident to pray,

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.

Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.

## CONCLUDING PRAYER

Eternal God and Father,  
by whose power we are created,  
and by whose love we are redeemed:  
Guide and strengthen us by your Spirit,  
that we may give ourselves to your service,  
and live this day in love to one another and to you;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

May the Lord bless us and keep us; the Lord make his face to  
shine upon us, and be gracious to us; the Lord lift up his  
countenance upon us, and give us peace. Amen

## SUNDAY LECTIONARY READINGS

### **FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT (MARCH 29)**

Ezekiel 37:1-14, Ps 130, Romans 8:6-11, John 11:1-45

### **SIXTH SUNDAY IN LENT - PALM SUNDAY (APRIL 5)**

Isaiah 50:4-9a, Ps 31:9-18, Philippians 2:5-11, Matthew 26:14-27:66 or  
Matthew 27:11-54

### **EASTER SUNDAY (APRIL 12)**

Acts 10:34-43, Ps 118:1-2, 14-24, Colossians 3:1-4, Matthew 28:1-10

### **SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (APRIL 19)**

Acts 2:14a, 22-32, Ps 16, 1 Peter 1:1-12, John 20:19-31

### **THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER (APRIL 26)**

Acts 2:14a, 36-41, Ps 116:1-4, 11-18, 1 Peter 1:13-25, Luke 24:13-35 or  
Matthew 28:8-15a

### **FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (MAY 3)**

Acts 2:42-47, Ps 23, 1 Peter 2:1-10, John 10:1-10

### **FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (MAY 10)**

Acts 7:55-60, Ps 31:1-5, 17-18, 1 Peter 2:11-25, John 14:1-14

### **SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (MAY 17)**

Acts 17:22-31, Ps 66:7-19, 1 Peter 3:8-22, John 14:15-21