

Transformation – NOW!
SAINTS ALIVE!

Opening Prayer

Blessed are the saints who trust in God's power and loving care,
for they are part of the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are the saints when they are sad because the world is so
unfair,

They have God's promise that justice will come.

Blessed are the nobodies who know they are nobodies and still do
God's work.

In God's world they are the leaders.

Blessed are the saints whose greatest wish is to do what God
desires.

God will give them what they want.

Blessed are the saints who treat other people gently,
God will treat them gently.

Blessed are the saints who get in trouble when they do what God
requires,

For they are surely among God's saints.

Carolyn Brown

Hymn: Father, hear the prayer we offer

sung by St Martin's Voices

Love Maria Willis (nee Whitcomb) (1824-1908)

Samuel Longfellow (1819-1892)

Father, hear the prayer we offer:
not for ease that prayer shall be,
but for strength that we may ever
live our lives courageously.

Not for ever in green pastures
do we ask our way to be;
but the steep and rugged pathway
may we tread rejoicingly.

Not for ever by still waters
would we idly rest and stay;
but would smite the living fountains
from the rocks along our way.

Be our strength in hours of weakness,
in our wanderings be our guide;
through endeavour, failure, danger,
Father, be thou at our side.

Bible reading: Hebrews 12: 1-4

from the Living Bible

Since we have such a huge crowd of men of faith watching us from the grandstands, let us strip off anything that slows us down or holds us back, and especially those sins that wrap themselves so tightly around our feet and trip us up; and let us run with patience the particular race that God has set before us.

Keep your eyes on Jesus, our leader and instructor. He was willing to die a shameful death on the cross because of the joy he knew would be his afterwards; and now he sits in the place of honour by the throne of God.

If you want to keep from becoming fainthearted and weary, think about his patience as sinful men did such terrible things to him. After all, you have never yet struggled against sin and temptation until you sweat great drops of blood.

Reflection: I'm not quite sure

Eddie Askew

I'm not quite sure if I should thank you, Lord
or register objection.

Turning the world upside down
is not the first thing on my list of things to do.

It comes a bit below
concern for health and safety,
time off, holidays.

It's not a popular thing.

People object.

They like things as they are.

And so do I.

I like my life to be a steady progress,
comfortable, the pace sedate.

Looking before each little step,
no thought of leaps.

And when I've done my quota for the day,

I like to shut up shop,

go home. Relax,

turn up the heating, switch the telly on,

ignore the phone

and hope the cry for help

was just another double-glazing salesman.

"I'm not available just now,

but if you leave your name and message

I'll get back to you as soon as it's convenient."

Convenient to me of course,

but that, just what you're not — convenient.

The least convenient God I could imagine.

Scrapping my carefully planned agenda.

Calling me to change the world.
To turn it upside down.

It seems too big a job for me, and so it is,
except I'm not alone.
I've got you in my life.
And if it still seems hard
to change the world.,
even with you,
perhaps together we can make a start
at changing me.

Hymn: Teach me my God and King
sung by Chet Valley Churches

Teach me, my God and king,
in all things Thee to see,
and what I do in anything
to do it as for Thee.

A man that looks on glass,
on it may stay his eye;
or if he pleaseth, through it pass,
and then the heaven espy.

All may of Thee partake;
nothing can be so mean,
which, with this tincture, for Thy sake,
will not grow bright and clean.

A servant with this clause,
makes drudgery divine;
who sweeps a room, as for thy laws,
makes that and the action fine.

This is the famous stone
that turneth all to gold;
for that which God doth touch and own
cannot for less be told.

George Herbert 1633

Tune: Sandys

Prayers: Be Children of God

by Ruth Burgess

Do justice
Be strong
Be generous
Don't ignore those who need you
Don't damage the earth
Love mercy
Be kind
Be forgiving
Don't bear grudges
Don't withhold love

Walk humbly with your God
Be attentive
Be obedient
Don't run away from wisdom
Don't wander off the road

Love God with all that you have —
your mind, your heart, your soul,
your dreams, your tears and laughter

And love your neighbour as you love yourself
Let your children play together; share your stories and your food

Be salt
Be light
Be leaven
Be happy
Be who you are
Be children of God

Manchester MU Diocesan Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we meet
as members of Mothers' Union in Manchester
may we know your presence and hear your word.
Teach us how best to serve you, seeing not just the needs of this
diocese but those of the wider world.
Help us at all times to trust in you and seek to do your will. Fill us with
your spirit, encourage us, use us and bless us, that we may have
strength to follow your way.
We pray in sure hope and the assurance of your power.
Amen.

Hymn: Thy hand, O God, has guided

Thy hand, O God, has guided
Thy flock from age to age;
The wondrous tale is written,
Full clear, on every page;
Thy people owned Thy goodness,
And we their deeds record;
And both of this bear witness,
"One Church, one Faith, one Lord."

Through many a day of darkness,
Through many a scene of strife,
The faithful few fought bravely,
To guard the nation's life,
Their Gospel of redemption,
Sin pardoned, man restored,
Was all in this enfolded,
"One Church, one Faith, one Lord."

Thy mercy will not fail us,
Nor leave Thy work undone;
With Thy right hand to help us,
The victory shall be won;
And then, by all creation,
Thy Name shall be adored,
And this shall be their anthem,
"One Church, one Faith, one Lord."

Sung by Huddersfield Choral Society

Author: E. H. Plumptre (1864)

Tune: Thornbury

Dismissal

For running away from your love, you forgive us.
For preferring the safe and familiar, you forgive us.
For refusing to believe in your power, you forgive us.

For not being prepared to transform ourselves
and reach the potential for which we were made, you forgive us.

And because from this moment we are new people,
born again and given yet another chance to live,
so with heaven and earth, and all creation
we praise and bless your holy name. Amen.

Material: as stated

Theme music: 'Overflowing grace' by Catherine Hilton

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**Prayers from next month will go live on
1st of each month**

1st October - CREATION