

THOUGHTS FOR PRAYER AND REFLECTION

May 2021

Oh, God, enlarge within us
the sense of fellowship
with all living things,
our brothers the animals
to whom Thou gavest
the earth in common with us.

We remember with shame
that in the past we have exercised
the high dominion of man
with ruthless cruelty
so that the voice of the earth,
which should have gone
up to Thee in song,
has been a groan of travail.

St Basil the Great
Circa AD 375



1 st	Philip and James, Apostles & Martyrs: Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him." <i>John 14:6-7</i>
2 nd	Fifth Sunday of Easter: Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. <i>1 John 4:11-12</i>
3 rd	"Those who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father and I will love them and reveal myself to them." <i>John 14:21</i>
4 th	He who trusts himself is lost. He who trusts in God can do all things. <i>Alphonsus Liguori (1696-1787)</i>
5 th	"I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing." <i>John 15:5</i>
6 th	John, Apostle and Evangelist: To be a good human being is to have a kind of openness to the world, an ability to trust uncertain things beyond your own control, that can lead you to be shattered in very extreme circumstances for which you were not to blame [...] more like a plant than like a jewel, something rather fragile, but whose very particular beauty is inseparable from that fragility. <i>Martha Nussbaum (b.1947)</i>
7 th	You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore. <i>Psalms 16:11</i>
8 th	Julian of Norwich, holy woman and mystic (d.1417): For we are so precious loved by God that we cannot even comprehend it. <i>Julian of Norwich</i>
9 th	Sixth Sunday of Easter: For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? <i>1 John 5:3-5</i>
10 th	Make me to know your ways, O Lord, teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long. <i>Psalms 25:4-5</i>
11 th	To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything and your heart will be wrung and possibly broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact you must give it to no one, not even an animal. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements. Lock it up safe in the casket or coffin of your selfishness. But in that casket, safe, dark, motionless, airless, it will change. It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable. To love is to be vulnerable. <i>C S Lewis: The Four Loves</i>
12 th	Someone who loves a neighbour allows him to be as he is, as he was, and as he will be. <i>Michel Quoist (1921-1997)</i>
13 th	Ascension Day: If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. <i>John 14:15-17</i>
14 th	Keep your tongue from evil, and your lips from speaking deceit. Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace and pursue it. <i>Psalms 34:13-14</i>
15 th	Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act. He will make your vindication shine like the light, and the justice of your cause like the noonday. <i>Psalms 47:5-6</i>

16 th	Seventh Sunday of Easter: May the light of Jesus shine continually to drive away all darkness. May Christ, the Morning Star who knows no setting, find his light ever burning in our hearts—he who gives his light to all creation, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. <i>Amen Adapted from the Book of Common Prayer -1979, the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America.</i>
17 th	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: . . . when we cannot do the good we would, we must be ready to do the good we can. <i>Matthew Henry (1662-1714)</i>
18 th	Happy are those who consider the poor; the Lord delivers them in the day of trouble. <i>Psalms 41:1</i>
19 th	Dunstan, archbishop of Canterbury (d.988): As a civilised society, we have a duty to support those among us who are vulnerable and in need. When times are hard, that duty should be felt more than ever, not disappear or diminish. <i>Justin Welby, archbishop of Canterbury.</i>
20 th	You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore. <i>Psalms 16:11</i>
21 st	Worship is the submission of all our nature to God. It is the quickening of conscience by His holiness, the nourishment of the mind with His truth, the purifying of the imagination of His beauty, the opening of the heart to His love, the surrender of the will to His purpose. <i>William Temple (1881-1944)</i>
22 nd	Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. <i>Psalms 51:10</i>
23 rd	Day of Pentecost: God of power, may the boldness of your Spirit transform us; may the gentleness of your Spirit lead us; may the gifts of your Spirit be our goal and our strength, now and always. <i>Amen. Presbyterian Book of Common Worship</i>
24 th	John (d.1791) and Charles (d.1788) Wesley, evangelists: How great is the mercy of the Lord, and his forgiveness for those who return to him. <i>Sirach 17:29</i>
25 th	Bede of Jarrow, priest and teacher (d.735): Be generous when you worship the Lord, and do not stint the first fruits of your hands. With every gift show a cheerful face, and dedicate your tithe with gladness. Give to the Most High as he has given to you, and as generously as you can afford. <i>Sirach 35:10-12</i>
26 th	Augustine of Canterbury, missionary and bishop (d.605): It is impossible to deny that Christians and Muslims have a common agenda here: both faiths have at their heart the living image of a community raised up by God's call to reveal to the world what God's purpose is for humanity. <i>Rowan Williams</i>
27 th	Ember Day/Week of Prayer for Reconciliation: May all that is unforgiven in you be released. May your fears yield their deepest tranquilities. May all that is un-lived in you blossom into the future, graced with love. <i>John O'Donohue: Come Home to Yourself</i>
28 th	Ember Day: "Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone; so that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses." <i>Mark 11:25</i>
29 th	"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." <i>John 3:16</i>
30 th	Trinity Sunday: Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name; worship the Lord in holy splendour. <i>Psalms 29:1-2</i>
31 st	The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth: "Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world." <i>Harriet Tubman (American abolitionist and political activist) (1822-1913)</i>

PRAYER THOUGHTS



- Sunday** Loving God, thank you for all the young women in the world. Give them dreams that are bigger than themselves so they will have to trust you to make their dream come true. Give them a will and heart to be all you created them to be. Enable them to be generous to those who are less fortunate. Give them hearts full of love and compassion.
- Give them the strength to say "no" to activities that they would later be remorseful about -that they would do what is right for them and for the world around them. Help them to be kind to others.
- Monday** All through this day, O Lord, by the power of your Spirit, let me touch the lives of others for good, whether through the word I speak, the prayer I speak, or the life I live. *Amen*
- Tuesday** May God bless us, that in us may be found love and humility, obedience and thanksgiving, discipline, gentleness and peace.
- Wednesday** Help me today, Lord, to make life better for those who suffer darkness in spirit or body; for those imprisoned in circumstances, in disability, or in their minds' chains.
- Thursday** Holy Spirit, bless me that I may be a blessing. Work through me, that I may be your love poured out upon the earth.
- Friday** Grant to us all the humility and trust that will allow you to do great things in us and through us. *Amen*
- Saturday** Lord, make my life a window for Your light to shine through and a mirror to reflect Your love to all I meet. *Amen*

*Thoughts for Prayer & Reflection
for our city on a hill.... and beyond.*

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At present our church is not open
for contemplation and prayer.