

# Easter Night Vigil

Welcome to the prayer room.

For this evening's prayer slot's we'd like to invite you to join in a vigil, waiting for Easter Sunday and anticipating the remembrance of the resurrection of Jesus.

Here's a brief explanation:

- \* For each hour there is a sheet with readings and prayers for you to use. You might want to set aside a short time of your hour to use these materials or meditate on them for the full hour.
- \* If you are praying with someone else, we'd encourage you to read the readings and prayers out loud.
- \* Each sheet also has suggestions of activities around the prayer room which might help.

Our vigil begins with an altogether prayer time from 8pm till 9pm.

From 9pm to 7am, we'd like to dedicate each hour to a different reading. So just find your hour, then go for it.

**HOUR 1 9pm - 10pm - Genesis 1-2 : The Creation**

**HOUR 2 10pm - 11pm - Genesis 3: The Fall**

**HOUR 3 11pm-12md - Genesis 7,8,9: The Flood**

**HOUR 4 12md - 1am - Exodus 3: Moses and the Burning Bush**

**HOUR 5 1am - 2am - Exodus 14: Crossing the Red Sea**

**HOUR 6 2am - 3am - Ezekiel 37: The Valley of Dry Bones**

**HOUR 7 3am - 4am - Daniel 3: The young men in the furnace**

**HOUR 8 4am - 5am - Daniel 6: Daniel in the Lion's Den**

**HOUR 9 5am - 6am - Isaiah 54: I will save you from your afflictions**

**HOUR 10 6am - 7am - Isaiah 55: Let us return to the Lord who saves us**

## Hour 1 9pm -10pm

### Genesis 1–2: The Creation

#### **Readings:**

Genesis 1.1–2.4a

Psalm 104:1-7

Psalm response:

**All: Send forth your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.**

Silence is kept.

#### **Prayer ideas:**

Look at the world map, consider God's creation.

Use the Book 'Earth from the Air' and the images within it to help your meditation.

Pray into issues of the Environment and for those most affected by climate change.

Check out the person prayer requests.

Pray for people remembering each is made in the image of God.

#### **Prayer**

Let us pray that we may see God's image restored.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation.

Your love cannot be contained and over flows in the wonder of creation.

You formed the universe out of nothing  
and moulded us from the clay of the earth.

All you have made sings of your marvellous deeds,

O Lord, our maker and redeemer.

**All Amen.**

## Hour 2 - 10pm - 11pm

### Genesis 3: The Fall

#### **Readings:**

Genesis 3

Psalm 51:1-7

Psalm response:

**All Have mercy on me, O God.**

Silence is kept.

#### **Prayer ideas:**

Spend some time in front of the cross in the covered area.

Write your confessions and prayer them in the wire mesh on the cross.

Spend some time in front of the world map or Reading map.

What areas of sin affect the world or our town?

How can we join in repentance and what change needs to take place ?

#### **Prayer**

Let us pray that our merciful God will show compassion  
on all who fall victim to the power of sin.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation.

The sin which we dare not confront breaks your heart  
and nothing can be concealed from your sight,  
yet you showed mercy to our ancestors.

Show mercy today to all who fall prey to sin's lure, and shatter the power of evil,  
O Lord, our maker and redeemer.

**All Amen.**

## Hour 3 - 11pm - 12midnight

### Genesis 7,8,9: Noah and the flood

#### **Readings:**

Genesis 7.1-5,11-18;8.6-19;9.8-13

Psalm 36

Psalm response:

**All The Lord makes my darkness to be bright.**

Silence is kept.

#### **Prayer ideas:**

Take up on the icons or find a picture of Jesus in the prayer room.

Reflect on his beauty

Pray for the persecuted church, light a candle with a nation's name on it and pray for Christians facing opposition just as Noah did

#### **Prayer:**

Let us pray that God will wash away all that corrupts his work  
and restore in us the beauty for which we were made.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation.

In your perfect justice you hate the world's sin.

Noah and his family risked ridicule for your sake yet their obedience brought them blessing.

Flood our world with the tide of your love

and rid us of all that disfigures your glorious creation,

O Lord, our maker and redeemer.

**All Amen.**

## Hour 4 - 12midnight - 1am

### Exodus 3: Moses and the burning bush

#### **Readings:**

Exodus 3.1-6

Psalm 27

Psalm response:

#### **All Wait patiently for the Lord.**

Silence is kept.

#### **Prayer ideas:**

Use the art materials and paint or draw something to depict what God might be saying to you through the readings. Use the slowness of painting or drawing to slow your mind down and allow you to meditate and wait. Look at the other paintings displayed and ask what God might be saying to you.

Sit on the sofa, close your eyes and wait.

Ask God to come and meet with you and speak to you.

#### **Prayer:**

Let us pray for a renewed vision for the people of God  
and a new commitment to break the chains of oppression.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation.

You revealed yourself to your servant Moses in the awesome wonder of the burning bush  
and appointed him to lead your people to freedom in the promised land.

By the fire of your Spirit today reveal yourself afresh

and strengthen us to free the enslaved and break the bonds of the captive,  
that they may openly sing your praise,

O Lord, our maker and redeemer.

**All Amen.**

## Hour 5 - 1am - 2am

### Exodus 14: Crossing the Red Sea

#### **Readings:**

Exodus 14.10-end;15.1a

#### **Canticle:**

##### **The Song of Moses and Miriam**

Refrain: In your unfailing love, O Lord,\*  
you lead the people whom you have redeemed.

1 I will sing to the Lord, who has triumphed gloriously;\*  
the horse and his rider have been thrown into the sea.

2 The Lord is my strength and my song\*  
and has become my salvation.

3 This is my God whom I will praise\*  
the God of my forebears whom I will exalt.

4 The Lord fights for his people,\*  
the Lord is his name.

5 Your right hand, O Lord, is glorious in power:\*  
your right hand, O Lord, shatters the enemy.

6 At the blast of your nostrils, the sea covered them;\*  
they sank as lead in the mighty waters.

7 In your unfailing love, O Lord,\*  
you lead the people whom you have redeemed,

8 And by your invincible strength\*  
you will guide them to your holy dwelling.

9 You will bring them in and plant them, O Lord,\*  
in the sanctuary which your hands have established.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.**

**Amen**

Silence is kept.

#### **Prayer idea:**

Look at the world map and reflect on nations where people battle against slavery or oppression. Pray for them. What does slavery look like in the UK or in Reading ?

#### **Prayer:**

Let us pray that God will give freedom to his enslaved people.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation.

You heard the agony of your people as they cried out from their slavery, and you gave them Moses to lead them to a land flowing with milk and honey.

Hear the cry of the enslaved and the homeless today and lead us through the turbulent sea of life to our true home with you,

O Lord, our maker and redeemer.

**All Amen.**

## Hour 6 - 2am - 3am

### Ezekiel 37: The Valley of Dry Bones

#### **Readings:**

Ezekiel 37.1-14

Psalm 126

Psalm response:

**All The Lord has done great things for us.**

*Silence is kept.*

#### **Prayer ideas:**

Take the parcel tags in the covered area and write prayers that God would fill you with his Spirit, that he would fill his Church afresh and that he would 'breathe new life into his weary creation.' Sit, wait and ask the Spirit to fill you afresh.

#### **Prayer:**

Let us pray that God will breathe new life into his weary creation.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation. You bring life from the darkest valley of death.

When hope is lost and our dry bones are scattered in shame,  
speak your word to your broken people, that we may stand confidently before you,  
and breathe your Spirit into us that we might live,

O Lord, our maker and redeemer.

All **Amen.**

## Hour 7 - 3am - 4am

### Daniel 3: The three young men in the furnace

Readings:

Daniel 3.1-28

Canticle:

1 Bless the Lord all you works of the Lord: •

sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

2 Bless the Lord you heavens: •

sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

3 Bless the Lord you angels of the Lord: •

sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

4 Bless the Lord all people on earth: •

sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

5 O people of God bless the Lord: •

sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

6 Bless the Lord you priests of the Lord: •

sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

7 Bless the Lord you servants of the Lord: •

sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

8 Bless the Lord all you of upright spirit: •

bless the Lord you that are holy and humble in heart.

**All Bless the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit: •  
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.**

Silence is kept.

#### **Prayer ideas:**

Take a piece of paper and list all the blessings God has given to you, from the simple to the deep and complex. Reflect on the list. If you feel able write a Psalm or Poem to express your thanks.

#### **Prayer:**

Let us pray for courage to remain faithful to Christ even through the fires of this life.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation.

You rewarded the faithfulness of the three young men  
with your protection against the blazing fire.

When the burning flames of life threaten to consume us,  
be faithful to us and transform our fear into your praise,

O Lord, our maker and redeemer.

**All Amen.**

*Hour 8 - 4am - 5am*  
*Daniel 6: Daniel in the lions' den*

**Readings:**

Daniel 6.1-24

Psalm 34.1-end

Psalm response:

**All I will bless the Lord at all times.**

Silence is kept.

**Prayer ideas:**

Look at the display about the Ten Commandments - Moses said, but I say to you.

Consider what we need to sustain us, that it more than bread alone.

Confess and pray that God will deepen your walk with him.

Look at the personal prayer request wall.

Pray for those for whom evil threatens to overcome them. Write prayers or pray for those who've already written prayers.

**Prayer:**

Let us pray that God will sustain us when evil threatens to overcome us.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation.

Your servant Daniel was devoted to you,  
even in the face of the death threats of his enemies.

As your angels kept shut the jaws of death,  
protect your people as they try to be faithful today  
and stir in us a trust in your unfailing love,

O Lord, our maker and redeemer.

**All Amen.**

*Hour 9 - 5am - 6am*

*Isaiah 54: I will save you from all your afflictions*

**Readings:**

**Isaiah 54.5-15**

**Psalm 30**

*Psalm response:*

*All I will exalt you, O Lord.*

*Silence is kept.*

**Prayer ideas:**

**Prayer:**

Let us pray that God will give hope to the grieving, the agonized and the dying.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation.

In your overwhelming compassion  
you gather the poor and brokenhearted.

As we journey through this storm-tossed life,  
comfort your people, wipe away our tears  
and establish us in the security of your love,  
O Lord, our maker and redeemer.

All **Amen.**

*Hour 10 - 6am - 7am*

*Isaiah 55: Let us return to the Lord who saves us*

**Readings:**

Isaiah 55.1-11

**Canticle:**

**Refrain: All the earth, shout and sing for joy,\*  
for great in your midst is the Holy One.**

1 'Behold, God is my salvation;\*

I will trust and will not be afraid;

2 'For the Lord God is my strength and my song,\*  
and has become my salvation.'

3 With joy you will draw water\*  
from the wells of salvation.

4 On that day you will say,\*

'Give thanks to the Lord, call upon his name;

5 'Make known his deeds among the nations,\*  
proclaim that his name is exalted.

6 'Sing God's praises, who has triumphed gloriously,\*  
let this be known in all the world.

7 'Shout and sing for joy, you that dwell in Zion,\*  
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.'

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Amen**

*Silence is kept.*

**Prayer ideas:**

This is the last hour of the watch. Read the story of Resurrection in John 20. Contemplate the incredible events of that first Easter Sunday and watch for the sun to come up.

**Prayer:**

Let us pray for peace and justice throughout our world.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation.

You quench the thirst of those who yearn for righteousness  
and satisfy the hunger of those who crave for justice.

Lead your longing people back to peace,  
that with the mountains and hills

we may burst into songs of joy,

O Lord, our maker and redeemer.

**All Amen.**