



The Blyth Valley
Team Ministry

National Day of Reflection

Service to reflect
12.00 noon

23rd March 2021





The Gathering

A Candle is lit

Lord God, the maker and redeemer of all,
as we come before you in thanksgiving for the gift of
health and life,
we grieve for the thousands who have died:
comfort us with your presence,
sustain us with the hope of your kingdom,
and give us grace to live our lives well;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Music is played

Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'

Matthew 11.28-30

God of Love,

**As we think about all that has changed this year,
help us to trust that you are always with us.**

**As we remember those who have died,
help us to trust they are at peace with you.**

**As we reach out to others with kindness and care,
may hope shine out in every heart and home.**

Amen.

All the candles on the candle stand are lit

The Lord is my shepherd;
therefore can I lack nothing.

He makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.

He shall refresh my soul
and guide me in the paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.

Though I walk through
the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You spread a table before me
in the presence of those who trouble me;
you have anointed my head with oil
and my cup shall be full.

Surely goodness and loving mercy
shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Psalm 23

Time to reflect

Quietly in your hearts you may wish to:

- *think about the last year;*
- *remember those who have died;*
- *pray for those who care for others;*
- *pray for all who are in need;*
- *think about your hopes for the future.*

Our Prayers Break on God

Our prayers break on God like waves,
and he an endless shore,
and when the seas evaporate
and oceans are no more
and cries are carried in the wind
God hears and answers every sound
as he has done before.

Our troubles eat at God like nails.
He feels the gnawing pain
on souls and bodies. He never fails
but reassures he'll heal again,
again, again, again and yet again.

~ A poem by Luci Shaw

Music is played

I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels,
nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come,
Nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all
creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8.38-39

A reflection on Dame Julian of Norwich's text from *Revelations of Divine Love*:

'All shall be well. You shall see yourself that all things shall be well. That which is impossible for you is not impossible for me. I shall keep my word in all things and I shall make all things well.'

'All shall be well'...
She must have said that
Sometimes through gritted teeth.
Surely she knew the moments
When fear gnaws at trust,
The future loses shape,
Gethsemane?

The courage that says
'All shall be well'
Doesn't mean feeling no fear,
But facing it, trusting
God won't let go.

'All shall be well'
Doesn't deny present experience,
But roots it deep
In the faithfulness of god,
Whose will and gift is life.

Ann Lewin

PRAYERS

Loving God,
You hold all our times in your hands,
our past, our present, our future.
Be close to us now as we remember
all the difficulties and disappointments of the past year.
Be especially close to all of us
who are thinking of someone we loved and knew,
but see no longer,
whether family, friend, colleague or neighbour.
Help us to trust that they are at peace with you,
and comfort us with your presence. **Amen.**

A prayer for all who mourn

Gracious God,
as we remember before you
the thousands who have died,
surround us and all who mourn

with your strong compassion.
Be gentle with us in our grief,
protect us from despair,
and give us grace to persevere
and face the future with hope
in Jesus Christ our risen Lord.

Amen.

Loving God,
You place us in families and communities,
and we give you thanks for all those around us
who serve us and help us in so many ways.
Give wisdom to community leaders,
to our schools, hospitals, care homes and other agencies
who make a difference to our lives.
Help each of us to have the courage
to reach out with thanks and kindness to those around us
and to speak words of faith
as we share the good news of your love. **Amen.**

Loving God,
As we journey towards Easter, help us to live as people of hope,
knowing that beyond the pain of the cross
lies the joy of resurrection.
Inspire us in our worship,
through our churches and in our homes,
that we may bring glory to you and joy to others.
Be with those who are struggling in mind, body or spirit,
and give courage to those
who are facing uncertainty and change ahead.
Help each of us to keep our eyes fixed on you,
that we may reflect your light to all whom we meet. **Amen.**

Lord Jesus Christ,
when fear and anxiety besiege us
and hope is veiled in grief,
hold us in your wounded hands
and make your face shine on us again,
for you are our Lord and God.
All: **Amen.**

**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.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

Music plays

Christ the Good Shepherd
enfold us with love,
fill us with peace,
and lead us in hope,
to the end of our days;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among us and remain with us always
Amen.



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