

THOUGHTS FOR PRAYER AND REFLECTION

November 2022

Let love be genuine;
hate what is evil,
hold fast to what is good;
love one another with mutual affection;
outdo one another in showing honour.

Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit,
serve the Lord.

Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering,
persevere in prayer.

Contribute to the needs of the saints;
extend hospitality to strangers

Romans 12:9-13



1 st	All Saints: Give to everyone who begs from you, and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you. <i>Luke 6:30-31</i>
2 nd	All Souls: Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord! <i>Psalms 27:14</i>
3 rd	Richard Hooker, priest and teacher (d.1600): To be grateful is to recognise the Love of God in everything He has given us – and He has given us everything. Every breath we draw is a gift of His love, every moment of existence is a grace, for it brings with it immense graces from Him. Gratitude therefore takes nothing for granted, is never unresponsive, is constantly awakening to new wonder and to praise of the goodness of God. For the grateful person knows that God is good, not by hearsay but by experience. And that is what makes all the difference. <i>Thomas Merton (d.1968)</i>
4 th	Day for Anglicans and Roman Catholics to pray for one another (General Synod 2001): Lord Jesus, bind your people together in love, in the unity of spirit and the bond of peace. Guide us all into all truth, knowing that all who trust in Your sacrifice at Calvary are forgiven sinners, citizens of heaven and accepted by the Father. <i>Amen</i>
5 th	Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God. <i>Hebrews 12:1-2</i>
6 th	Twenty Second Sunday after Pentecost: Darkness deserves gratitude. It is the alleluia point at which we learn to understand that all growth does not take place in the sunlight. <i>Joan Chittister</i>
7 th	The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes. <i>Psalms 19:7-8</i>
8 th	Saints, martyrs, missionaries and teachers of the Anglican Communion: Vindicate me, O Lord, for I have walked in my integrity, and I have trusted in the Lord without wavering. Prove me, O Lord, and try me; test my heart and mind. For your steadfast love is before my eyes, and I walk in faithfulness to you. <i>Psalms 26:1-3</i>
9 th	Beware then of useless grumbling, and keep your tongue from slander because no secret word is without result, and a lying mouth destroys the soul. <i>Wisdom of Solomon 1:11</i>
10 th	Leo of Rome, bishop and teacher: When I am paid a compliment, I must compare myself with the little donkey that carried Christ on Palm Sunday. <i>Pope John Paul 1 (d. 1978)</i>
11 th	Martin, bishop of Tours (d.c.387): The Lord is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts; so I am helped, and my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him. <i>Psalms 28:7</i>
12 th	Charles Simeon, evangelist (d.1836): We shall do well ever to remember, that Christianity is not a mere speculative theory, that is to inform the mind; but a great practical lesson, to renew the heart, and to bring us back to the state from whence we are fallen. <i>Charles Simeon</i>
13 th	Twenty Third Sunday after Pentecost: Without Pentecost the Christ-event - the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus - remains imprisoned in history as something to remember, think about and reflect on. The Spirit of Jesus comes to dwell within us, so that we can become living Christs here and now. <i>Henri Nouwen</i>
14 th	By embracing the outcast, Jesus underscored the sinfulness of the persons and systems that cast them out. <i>Miroslav Volf; Exclusion and Embrace: A Theological Exploration of Identity, Otherness, and Reconciliation</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>Psalm 37:5-6</i>
16 th	Margaret of Scotland, queen, helper of the poor (d.1093): Overcoming poverty is not a gesture of charity. It is the protection of a fundamental human right, the right to dignity and a decent life. <i>Nelson Mandela, Former President of South Africa (d.2013)</i>
17 th	Hilda of Whitby, abbess (d.680); Hugh, bishop of Lincoln (d.1200): If God were small enough to be understood, He would not be big enough to be worshipped. <i>Evelyn Underhill</i>
18 th	In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptised by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." <i>Mark 1:9-11</i>
19 th	Elizabeth of Hungary, princess and philanthropist (d.1231): For wisdom is more mobile than any motion; because of her pureness she pervades and penetrates all things. For she is a breath of the power of God, and a pure emanation of the glory of the Almighty; therefore nothing defiled gains entrance into her. For she is a reflection of eternal light, a spotless mirror of the working of God, and an image of his goodness. <i>Wisdom of Solomon 7:24-26</i>
20 th	Christ the King/The Reign of Christ: When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." <i>Luke 23:33-34</i>
21 st	Maturity is the ability to joyfully live in an imperfect world. <i>Richard Rohr (b. 1943)</i>
22 nd	Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. <i>Psalm 51:1-2</i>
23 rd	Clement of Rome, bishop and martyr (d.c.100): Cast your burden on the Lord, and he will sustain you; he will never permit the righteous to be moved. <i>Psalm 55:23</i>
24 th	Of course, not everything that happens is the will of God; yet in the last resort nothing happens without his will. <i>Dietrich Bonhoeffer: Letters and Papers from Prison</i>
25 th	James Noble, first Indigenous Australian ordained (d.1941): May the God of creation warm your heart like the campfires of old. Bring wisdom and peace as shown to the first peoples of this land. Shake off the dust from the desert plains by the refreshing rains followed by the glow and warmth of the sun. Let the light of God show us the right path and stand tall like the big River gums drawing life from the ever flowing waters. <i>Uncle Vince Ross</i>
26 th	Ember Day: One sees great things from the valley, only small things from the peak. <i>G K Chesterton (1874-1936)</i>
27 th	First Sunday of Advent: Father, let your hope arise in our hearts. Lift our eyes up to see that you alone are where our hope comes from. Help us to shake off the anxiety, discouragements, and distractions that have filled this year. May we pause to remember that we have hope in you. <i>Amen</i>
28 th	Let us not tire of preaching love; it is the force that will overcome the world. Let us not tire of preaching love. Though we see that waves of violence succeed in drowning the fire of Christian love, love must win out; it is the only thing that can. <i>Oscar Romero (1917-1980)</i>
29 th	Bloom where you are planted.
30 th	Andrew, Apostle and Martyr: Praise the Lord! How good it is to sing praises to our God; for he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting. <i>Psalm 147:1</i>



PRAAYER THOUGHTS

Sunday

This world and all within it is part of your glorious plan, devised and created in love for your people to enjoy. Such divine mystery; Such wonder; that you should consider humankind so precious and provide for our needs. God of all, our creator, our rock, our refuge, our confidence and hope, our rescuer and deliverer, in whom we can rely, we will praise your name today and all days. *Amen*

Monday

Gracious God, help us to listen for your voice in our everyday lives. Teach us to serve others through acts of kindness and love; following the example of Jesus, who sends us out to love and serve. *Amen*

Tuesday

We consecrate this day to your service, O Lord; may all our thoughts, words and actions be well pleasing to you and serve the good of our brothers and sisters, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen*

Wednesday

A prayer for Ukraine: God of peace and justice, we pray for the people of Ukraine today. We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons. We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow, that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them. We pray for those with power over war or peace, for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions. Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear, that you would hold and protect them. We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

We also recognise the suffering of Russian soldiers and citizens who have been drawn into a war not of their making. May they display courage in their convictions and calls for peace. May they look to you as a source of comfort in the face of tyranny and the hardships that will flow from the government's actions. *Amen*

Thursday

O Lord, who has loved us and saved us, come and dwell in our hearts. Give us love, the sweetest of all gifts, which knows no enemy. Implant in our hearts pure love, born of Your love for us, that we may love others as You love us. O most loving Father, from whom flows all love, let our hearts, cold to you and cold to others, be warmed by your divine fire. So help and bless us evermore. *St Anselm*

Friday

Out of the depths, I call Lord; in those depths let me meet you. *Amen*

Saturday

Christ our King, give us sensitive ears to hear your voice, tender hearts to respond in love, and ready minds, hands and feet to walk with you in service. *Amen*

Thoughts for Prayer & Reflection

for our *city on a hill...* and beyond.

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