



**Service of recommitment and prayer
for all involved in ministry**

25 April 2020

The Gathering

The Bishop of Leicester says

My brothers and sisters,
God has called us into the fellowship of the universal Church.
As members of his body,
Christ calls us to minister together in his name
and, according to our gifts,
to be instruments of his love in the world.

There are varieties of gifts,
All but the same Spirit.
There are varieties of service,
All but the same Lord.
There are different kinds of working,
All but the same God is at work in all.

The Bishop says

God of mercy and love,
by one Spirit we have all been baptised into one body
and made to drink of the one Spirit;
we thank you for the gifts you have given to these your servants
for the building up of the body of Christ.
Grant that they may continue in the life of the Spirit
and walk in the light and obedience of Christ.
By the same Spirit, fill the whole Church with your overflowing love;
give us knowledge and discernment of your will,
and steadfastness in your service,
until we all come to the unity of the faith,
to the measure of the full stature of Christ,
through whom we make our prayer.

All Amen.

The Bishop says

The Collect

Almighty and everlasting God,
by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church
is governed and sanctified:
hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people,
that in their vocation and ministry
they may serve you in holiness and truth
to the glory of your name;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

The Old Testament Reading

read by The Revd Kim Ford, Warden of Pastoral Assistants

Isaiah 61: 1-3

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the broken-hearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
² to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
³ to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.

The New Testament Reading

read by Andy Smith, Warden of Readers

2 Corinthians 4: 5-10

⁵For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. ⁶For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness', who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

⁷ But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. ⁸We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; ⁹persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; ¹⁰always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies.

The Homily

The Bishop of Loughborough

The Commission

The Bishop of Leicester says

As disciples of Christ in the Diocese of Leicester,
we are called to be 'Shaped by God in our lives and communities'
and to seek the growth of the Kingdom
by increasing numbers of disciples;
deepening our own discipleship
and enabling others to grow in theirs;
and in loving service of the world.

Therefore I ask you, the people of God gathered today:

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

All **With the help of God, I will.**

Will you persevere in resisting evil,
and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

All **With the help of God, I will.**

Will you proclaim by word and example
the good news of God in Christ?

All **With the help of God, I will.**

Will you seek and serve Christ in all people,
loving your neighbour as yourself?

All **With the help of God, I will.**

Will you acknowledge Christ's authority over human society,
by prayer for the world and its leaders,
by defending the weak, and by seeking peace and justice?

All **With the help of God, I will.**

As ministers in God's church,
you are commissioned to serve others as Christ's ambassadors.
Will you continue to serve him faithfully and sacrificially?

All **With the help of God, I will.**

Will you work in partnership with the whole people of God,
in praying for and seeking God's Kingdom?

All **With the help of God, I will.**

Will you support each other as colleagues
and work in collaboration,
learning from the special skills of others
and being ready to share your own?

All **With the help of God, I will.**

May God who has called you to his service,
strengthen and equip you in every way,
that you may build up the body of Christ
and serve the world to the glory of God.

All Amen.

The Prayers

Led by Sharon and Stephen March, Pioneer Ministers

We pray for the flourishing of God's gifts to his Church, saying:
Lord of the Church,

All in your mercy hear us.

God our Father, you give us gifts that we may work together
in the service of your Son:

bless the leaders of your Church,

that they may be firm in faith, and humble before you...

Lord of the Church,

All in your mercy hear us.

Bless those who teach,

that they may increase our understanding,

and be open to your word for them...

Lord of the Church,

All in your mercy hear us.

Bless those who minister healing,

that they may bring wholeness to others,

yet know your healing in themselves...

Lord of the Church,

All in your mercy hear us.

Bless those through whom you speak,

that they may proclaim your word in power,

yet open their ears to your gentle whisper...

Lord of the Church,

All in your mercy hear us.

Bless those who work in your world today,
that in the complexity of their daily lives
they may live for you, fulfil your purposes,
and seek your kingdom first...

Lord of the Church,

All in your mercy hear us.

Bless those who are uncertain of their gifts
and those who are powerless in this world's eyes,
that they may be made strong in your gift of the Holy Spirit...

Lord of the Church,

**All hear our prayer,
and make us one in heart and mind
to serve you with joy for ever.**

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Being made one by the power of the Spirit,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Discussion and prayer

In Zoom 'break out rooms'

The Dismissal

The Bishop leads the recommitment

**Heavenly Father, in this time of enforced exile,
while so many in our world are suffering,
we recommit ourselves
to tend to the needs of those entrusted to our care,
and pray for those whose needs are known only to you.
Give us strength to live for you in every moment,
that our 'everyday faith' may rest secure
in your unchanging faithfulness and love.
We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ,
who suffered, died and rose again,
for us and all humanity.
Amen.**

The Blessing

The Bishop says

Almighty God, who for the salvation of the world
gives to his people many gifts and ministries
to the advancement of his glory,
stir up in you the gifts of his grace,
and sustain each one of you in your own ministry;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.
Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

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