

# PRAYER IN THE HOME

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY: 15 NOVEMBER 2020

## GATHERING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let everything be said and done in the name of the Lord Jesus,  
giving thanks to God through Jesus Christ.

Let us bring our gifts to the Lord  
that they may be used for his glory.

May the Spirit of God fill our hearts  
as we come to meet him in this place

## PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

**COLLECT** for the Second Sunday before Advent

Heavenly Lord,  
you long for the world's salvation:  
stir us from apathy,  
restrain us from excess  
and revive in us new hope  
that all creation will one day be healed  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

## PSALM 145.1-9

<sup>1</sup> I will exalt you, my God the King;  
I will praise your name for ever and ever.

<sup>2</sup> **Every day I will praise you  
and extol your name for ever and ever.**

<sup>3</sup> Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise;  
his greatness no one can fathom.

<sup>4</sup> **One generation commends your works to another;  
they tell of your mighty acts.**

<sup>5</sup> They speak of the glorious splendour of your majesty—  
and I will meditate on your wonderful works.

<sup>6</sup> **They tell of the power of your awesome works—  
and I will proclaim your great deeds.**

<sup>7</sup> They celebrate your abundant goodness  
and joyfully sing of your righteousness.

<sup>8</sup> **The Lord is gracious and compassionate,  
slow to anger and rich in love.**

<sup>9</sup> The Lord is good to all;  
he has compassion on all he has made.

## BIBLE READING Philippians 4:10-19

<sup>10</sup> I rejoice in the Lord greatly that now at last you have revived your concern for me; indeed, you were concerned for me, but had no opportunity to show it. <sup>11</sup> Not that I am referring to being in need; for I have learned to be content with whatever I have. <sup>12</sup> I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. <sup>13</sup> I can do all things through him who strengthens me. <sup>14</sup> In any case, it was kind of you to share my distress.

<sup>15</sup> You Philippians indeed know that in the early days of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you alone. <sup>16</sup> For even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me help for my needs more than once. <sup>17</sup> Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the profit that accumulates to your account. <sup>18</sup> I have been paid in

full and have more than enough; I am fully satisfied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. <sup>19</sup>And my God will fully satisfy every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

### **QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION:**

- *What words in that reading do I particularly remember and why?*
- *Who or where in the world does this reading remind me of?*
- *Was the reading intended to have an effect on what I think, what I do or what I believe?*

**SERMON** Rev Richard Taylor: <https://stbcc.co.uk/sermons>

### **A LITANY OF GENEROSITY**

Let us give thanks to God  
for his gifts so generous given to us,  
and for the blessings we are called to share.

For recognising that all things come from you,  
for remembering that we are stewards of your gifts,  
for wisely using the resources entrusted to us.

**We offer ourselves to you, O God.**

For rejoicing in the beauty of creation,  
for the care of your world,  
for sharing the fruits of creation equally among all people.

**We offer ourselves to you, O God.**

For encountering the joy of giving,  
for humility in putting others' needs before our own,  
for embracing the privilege of sharing in the ministry to the saints.

**We offer ourselves to you, O God.**

For courage in offering sacrificial generosity,  
for giving to be an act of worship,  
for grace in offering our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice.

**We offer ourselves to you, O God.**

For all financial gifts offered to your Church,  
for freely giving as we have received,  
for giving and not counting the cost.

**We offer ourselves to you, O God.**

For releasing our hold on material possessions,  
for contentment in what we have,  
for trust in letting go.

**We offer ourselves to you, O God.**

For generosity in love, encouragement and hope,  
for openness in invitation and hospitality,  
for wisdom in the gift of friendship.

**We offer ourselves to you, O God.**

For being a blessing through the blessings we receive,  
for generosity which enables mission,  
for sharing abundantly in every good work.

**We offer ourselves to you, O God.**

For living a generous life,  
for our actions to point beyond themselves,  
for our generosity to be an expression of love and gratitude.

**We offer ourselves to you, O God.**

Grateful for the generosity of God,  
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**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.**

The God of hope fill us with every blessing,  
that we may share in every good work.  
**Amen.**