

PARISH PRAYER

"Lord in your mercy, hear the prayers of your people."

Allelujah...

Responsorial Psalm

1 Alleluia.

How good it is to make music for our God, •

how joyful to honour him with praise.

2 The Lord builds up Jerusalem •

and gathers together the outcasts of Israel.

3 He heals the brokenhearted •

and binds up all their wounds.

4 He counts the number of the stars •

and calls them all by their names.

5 Great is our Lord and mighty in power; •

his wisdom is beyond all telling.

16 He sends forth his command to the earth •

and his word runs very swiftly.

17 He gives snow like wool •

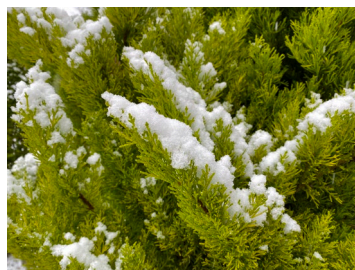
and scatters the hoarfrost like ashes.

18 He casts down his hailstones like morsels of bread; •

who can endure his frost?

19 He sends forth his word and melts them; •

he blows with his wind and the waters flow. **Alleluia!**



Some of our prayers from last month...

- ADVENTure - that we may have opportunities to interact with many, telling the real story of Christmas
- Elaine Leck recording service for SURC
- More listeners to support the work at Riddlesdown
- Healing re St Edmunds
- Betty, Peter, David
- Those with mental health problems, feeling overwhelmed
- The Homeless
- Families living in flats
- Peter Hall
- Family of Paul McCombie
- Croydon Council - consequences of bankruptcy, local Councillors Yvette, Lynne, Tim. SNC funding.

Luke 2:22-40

Jesus Presented in the Temple

When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord”), and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: “a pair of doves or two young pigeons.”

Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

“Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,
you may now dismiss your servant in peace.
For my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:
a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and the glory of your people Israel.”

The child’s father and mother marvelled at what was said about him.

Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: “This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. ³⁸ Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem. When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

Collect

God of all mercy

your Son proclaimed good news to the poor,

release to the captives,

and freedom to the oppressed:

anoint us with your Holy Spirit

and set all your people free

to praise you in Christ our Lord

Amen

A prayer during the pandemic

We pray for your protection and mercy at this time, as our country is ravaged by pandemic and fear.

Ever present God,

be with us in our isolation,

be close to us in our distancing,

be healing in our sickness,

be joy in our sadness,

be light in our darkness,

be wisdom in our confusion.

As we pray that the fury of this virus may be quelled, and its boundaries of infection made to recede, we pray for all those who are administering the vaccine may be given the energy they need to speed up their work, and we pray that it may prove effective so that healing is quickly brought about. We look forward to the day when our doors can reopen.

Prepare us to be a beacon in this community

so that, filled with your grace, we may speak of your goodness in a new and changed world.

Lord in your mercy



Hear our prayer

Courtesy of Rosanne Morris

Conclusion

Leader: Loving God, we thank you for hearing our prayers, feeding us with your word, and encouraging us in our meeting together.

All: Take us and use us, to love and serve you, and all people, in the power of your Spirit and in the name of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen