

PARISH PRAYER

“If you press on, then you keep on walking. So sing Hallelujah and keep on walking” (Augustine)

AUGUSTINE

Today the Church commemorates the life of Augustine of Hippo (354-430) — the influential Christian bishop, theologian, philosopher and teacher.

Famous for sayings such as:

“You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you.”

“Give me chastity and continence, but not yet.”

“Seek not to understand that you may believe, but believe that you may understand.”

Augustine’s desire for God is evident throughout his work. Here’s another quote:

“The life of a Christian is an experience of an ever-deepening desire for God. What you desire you cannot, as yet, see; but the desire gives you the capacity, so that, when you eventually see, you are satisfied. So let us desire...for we are to be filled.”

PSALM 98

Sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvellous things;

**his right hand and his holy arm
have worked salvation for him.**

The Lord has made his salvation known
and revealed his righteousness to the nations.



Some of our prayers from last month...

Those undergoing surgery; others in care homes. Ann T, Michael C

Those suffering from dementia; others waiting for medical tests

Donna

Edna

Anne & parents

School children on holiday, those waiting on exam results

Thanks for Olympic athletes

Climate crisis

Chris & Sam holiday; clergy, + Jonathan;

Our choir

Local URC churches; Elaine at E Croydon on 8 August

**He has remembered his love
and his faithfulness to Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.**

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth,
burst into jubilant song with music;

**make music to the Lord with the harp,
with the harp and the sound of singing,**

with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn—
shout for joy before the Lord, the King.

**Let the sea resound, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it.**

Let the rivers clap their hands,
let the mountains sing together for joy;
let them sing before the Lord,
for he comes to judge the earth.

**He will judge the world in righteousness
and the peoples with equity.**



Mark 8:1-10

During those days another large crowd gathered. Since they had nothing to eat, Jesus called his disciples to him and said, “I have compassion for these people; they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat. If I send them home hungry, they will collapse on the way, because some of them have come a long distance.”

His disciples answered, “But where in this remote place can anyone get enough bread to feed them?” “How many loaves do you have?” Jesus asked. “Seven,” they replied.

He told the crowd to sit down on the ground. When he had taken the seven loaves and given thanks, he broke them and gave them to his disciples to distribute to the people, and they did so. They had a few small fish as well; he gave thanks for them also and told the disciples to distribute them. The people ate and were satisfied. Afterward the disciples picked up seven basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. About four thousand were present. After he had sent them away, he got into the boat with his disciples and went to the region of Dalmanutha.

Pray for Afghanistan

O God of mercy and of peace,

We hold before you the peoples of Afghanistan.

Be living bread to those who are hungry each day

Be healing and wholeness to those who have no access to health care amidst the ravages of pandemic

Be their true home to all who have been displaced

Be open arms of loving acceptance to those who fear because of their gender, ethnicity, religious or political views

Be peace to those engaged in armed conflict and those who live within its shadow.

Turn our hearts and minds to your ways of just and gentle peace,

Open our eyes to see you in all acts of compassionate care

Strengthen our hearts to step out in solidarity with your suffering people and

Hold us all in your unfailing love.

We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who emptied himself of all but love in order to bring life in all its fullness.

Amen

This prayer was written by Ramani Leathard, Christian Aid's Head of Region for South East Asia and Afghanistan.

OUR PARISH PRAYER

God of hope and love,

You have called us to proclaim the saving power of the name of Jesus Christ throughout our neighbourhood, sharing the Good News of his love which changes our lives.

We offer ourselves in service to you and seek your guidance.

**As we worship, learn, tell and serve,
may we know the power of your Spirit among us;
may our homes and our churches be places of welcome and safety;
may many come to know the forgiveness and peace that are found in Jesus alone.**

**May we find joy as we follow him day by day,
with courage to speak out against injustice,
a willing spirit to reach out and care for one another and for our community,
and a new respect for the beautiful world in which you have placed us.**

May your kingdom come, your will be done and your love be known by all.

In Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

CONCLUSION:

Let us go into the day knowing our lives have been touched by the triune God

We are cleansed by the mercy of God

We are surrounded by the love of Christ

We are filled with the power of the Spirit, AMEN