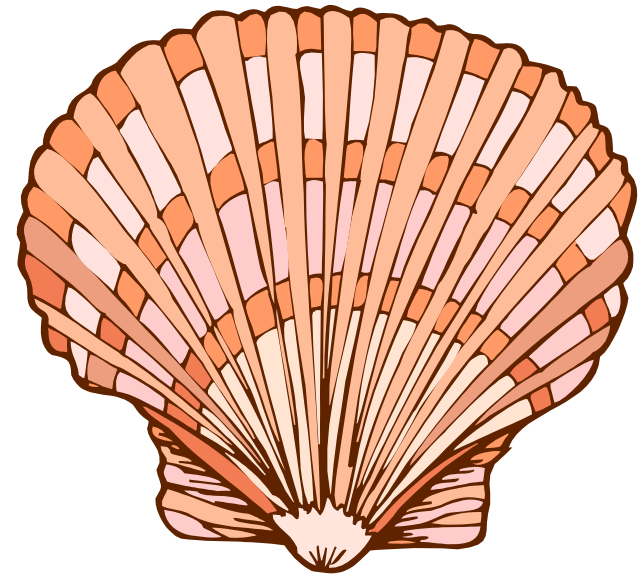


An Act of Worship

For those occasions when it is not possible to attend church.



*This booklet may be used at any time of the day
and on any day of the week.*

*However, it is especially recommended for use on a Sunday
to help you join with the congregation in our joy of worshipping God
and our calling to become more like Jesus Christ.*

As you prepare to worship, ensure you are comfortable and that anyone present who is not joining you for prayer understands that you need quiet and stillness in which to worship. Now, perhaps light a candle or burn some incense then, for a minute or two, sit in silence.

Welcome and Introduction

In the Name of the Father
and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

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.

Confession and Forgiveness

*Here, pause for a few moments, remembering your sins,
then collect your thoughts ready for confession.*

We ask your forgiveness, Lord, for our sins,
we will try to be more worthy of your love. Amen.

Jesus said, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life".

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR PERSONAL PRAYER AND WORSHIP

FROM ST JAMES' CHURCH

Daily Bible reading notes may be ordered from Edna South

Any member of the clergy will also be very happy to help you.

IN PRINT

Common Worship : Daily Prayer for the Church of England
ISBN 0715120735

Your local Christian bookshop, e.g. St Andrew's on Castle Street, would be pleased to help you find resources.

ON THE INTERNET

Church of England Morning Prayer

http://daily.commonworship.com/daily.cgi?today_mp=1

Church of England Evening Prayer

http://daily.commonworship.com/daily.cgi?today_ep=1

www.rejesus.co.uk

A respected website where visitors can find out more about Jesus, learn to pray and even light a candle.

The Gloria

May the God of all grace,
who called me
to his eternal glory in Christ Jesus,
establish, strengthen
and settle me in the faith;
and may the blessing of God almighty:
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
be upon me and remain with me always.
Amen.

Lord Jesus, may I abide in peace
to your praise and glory.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

All of us at St James' Church look forward to seeing you back among us very soon. However, if there is a particular reason why you are unwilling or unable to attend public worship on a regular basis, the clergy are available to help and support you.

Please remember that weekday worship is available at many churches in the local area.

If, at any point in your life, you cannot obtain an assurance of forgiveness of sins from the normal method of confession, a priest will be very happy to offer you private confession.

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand
of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

The Bible Readings

Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills;
from where is my help to come?
My help comes from the Lord,
the maker of heaven and earth.
He will not suffer your foot to stumble;
he who watches over you will not sleep.
Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel
shall neither slumber nor sleep.
The Lord himself watches over you;
the Lord is your shade at your right hand,

(cont'd...)

The Prayers

So that the sun shall not strike you by day,
neither the moon by night.
The Lord shall keep you from all evil;
it is he who shall keep your soul.
The Lord shall keep watch
over your going out and your coming in,
from this time forth for evermore.

Next, read the appropriate readings for the season we are in.

Advent	Romans 13:12
Christmas	Luke 2:10,11
Epiphany	Malachi 1:11
Lent	Psalms 51:17
Passiontide	Lamentations 1:12
Good Friday	Romans 5:8
Easter Eve	Psalms 37:7,4
Easter	1 Peter 1:3
Ascension	Hebrews 4:14,16
Pentecost	Romans 5:5
Trinity	1 John 4:16
Harvest	Psalms 24:1
All Saints	Hebrews 12:1,2
Saints' Days	Psalms 112:6; Proverbs 10:7
Any other	John 4:24

Here, spend a while thinking about the Bible reading(s).

If you were preaching to the congregation on this passage, what would you want to say to them?

What do you feel God is saying to you through this passage?

As you pray, include the following subjects. Remember you not alone but joined with Christians locally and all over the world.

- *The local and national Church*
- *Those in authority*
- *The local community and the wider world*
- *Those who suffer*
- *Those who have died*
- *Your own needs*

The prayers may end as follows,

Lord, help me to build my faith on the solid ground that is in Christ and not rely on the shifting sands of this world.

Merciful Father,
accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

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.