**Service to use at home when you are unable to come to church.**

****

*God says: ‘I will never leave you or forsake you’*

Hebrews 13:5

**Opening prayers**

Peace to this house and to all who live in it.

One thing I have asked of the Lord,
this is what I seek:
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life;
to behold the beauty of the Lord
and to seek Him in His temple.

God of love,
turn our hearts to your ways;
and give us peace.
Amen.

*We will base our prayers through this service on the hand prayer, moving through the areas from left to right:*



**Praise:**

*If you have a worship CD or if you can access the internet, you might like to play a couple of songs or hymns now and sing along, praising God for who he is and for his sacrifice for us.*

*Or you could say aloud Psalm 103 which is a wonderful psalm of praise:*

Praise the Lord, my soul;
    all my inmost being, praise his holy name.
2Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits
3who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases,
4who redeems your life from the pit
    and crowns you with love and compassion,
5who satisfies your desires with good things
    so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.

6The Lord works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed.

7He made known his ways to Moses, his deeds to the people of Israel:
8The Lord is compassionate and gracious,
    slow to anger, abounding in love.
9He will not always accuse,  nor will he harbour his anger forever;
10he does not treat us as our sins deserve
    or repay us according to our iniquities.
11For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
    so great is his love for those who fear him;
12as far as the east is from the west,
    so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

13As a father has compassion on his children,
    so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him;

**Thanksgiving:**

*Now thank God for the blessings in your life, family, friends, your home, having food and shelter etc You might like to start a jar of Blessings and each day write down another blessing God has given you and add it to your jar. When you are feeling low you can take them out and remind yourself of them.*

**Confession:**

Lord God, I have sinned against you; I have done evil in your sight. I am sorry and repent. Have mercy on me according to your love. Wash away my wrongdoing and cleanse me from my sin. Renew a right spirit within me and restore me to the joy of your salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen *(based on* Psalm 51)

May the Father of all mercies cleanse me from my sins, and restore me in his image

to the praise and glory of his name,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

 Amen.

**Intercession**

*Use the prayer diary from recent service sheets or on our website to pray for situation in the world, the country and locally.*

**Petition**

*Talk to God about the things that are worrying you right now, pray for those closest to you.*

**Some prayers that might be helpful to use:**

Heavenly Father, I come before you today in need of hope.
There are times when I feel helpless, there are times when I feel weak. I pray for hope.
Some say that the sky is at it’s darkest just before the light.
I pray that this is true, for all seems dark.
I need your light, Lord, in every way. I pray to be filled with your light from head to toe. To bask in your glory.
To know that all is right in the world, as you have planned, and as you want it to be. Help me to walk in your light, and live my life in faith and glory. In your name I pray, Amen.

Father God thank you that you never abandon us, you walk with us even through the valley of the shadow of death. Please bring your comfort, strength, courage and peace to me and all who are in the dark places of fear, despair and loss right now. In Jesus name, Amen.

Dear Lord God, I ask that you would fill me with your Holy Spirit, that I may be aware of you throughout this day. Help me to bring your love and encouragement to others through my words and actions, and bring to mind those people who especially need my prayers today. Amen

**The Lord’s Prayer**

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.

**Listening**

*Read this psalm through twice, notice which verses jump out for you, then spend some time in quiet reflecting on that verse or those verses, see what God would say to you through them.*

**Psalm 27**

The Lord is my light and my salvation whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life  of whom shall I be afraid? When the wicked advance against me  to devour me,
it is my enemies and my foes who will stumble and fall.
Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear;
though war break out against me, even then I will be confident.

One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek:
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord  all the days of my life,
to gaze on the beauty of the Lord  and to seek him in his temple.
For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling;
he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent and set me high upon a rock.

Then my head will be exalted above the enemies who surround me; at his sacred tent I will sacrifice with shouts of joy;
I will sing and make music to the Lord. Hear my voice when I call, Lord;  be merciful to me and answer me.
My heart says of you, “Seek his face!”  Your face, Lord, I will seek. 9 Do not hide your face from me,  do not turn your servant away in anger;  you have been my helper.
Do not reject me or forsake me,  God my Saviour.
Though my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will receive me. Teach me your way, Lord; lead me in a straight path because of my oppressors.
Do not turn me over to the desire of my foes,  for false witnesses rise up against me, spouting malicious accusations. I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.
Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.

The Gospel: **John 14:26-27**

The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

*God has not left us on our own, he has left his Holy Spirit with us, here on earth, to guide and direct us and to help us through every situation we face. So even when we are facing the challenges of illness and isolation, he is with us and he understands. Spending time listening to worship music, reading your bible and praying can really help you to draw near to God, to experience his Holy Spirit with you and that peace he brings.*

**Canticle to finish:**

Christ, as a light illumine and guide me. Christ, as a shield overshadow me. Christ under me; Christ over me; Christ beside me on my left and my right. This day be within and without me, lowly and meek, yet all-powerful. Be in the heart of each to whom I speak; in the mouth of each who speaks unto me. This day be within and without me, lowly and meek, yet all-powerful. Christ as a light; Christ as a shield; Christ beside me on my left and my right.

*****Please be assured of our prayers at this time. If there is anything we can do to help, or you would like to talk with a member of our pastoral team, please ring or email:
Heather Graham 07876292288* *heather.graham@stjamesdownley.org.uk*

You can keep in touch with the church on our website www.stjamesdownley.org.uk