

Prayers during week commencing 6 September 2020

A Year of Prayer

The Conference has declared 2020/2021 a year of prayer so that our Church-wide commitments to evangelism, church growth, church at the margins, and pioneering and church planting will flow from a deep, contemplative orientation to God's grace and love.

Be part of this movement of prayer as we ask the Holy Spirit to help us be a growing, evangelistic, inclusive, justice-seeking Church of gospel people.

You can join the Weekly Online Prayer Meeting every Tuesday at 12.45pm – 1.00pm Details and information can be found on the Methodist Church Website [here](#).

What helps you to pray?

We have read and perhaps seen for ourselves how many people have turned to digital to worship during Lockdown. Will you continue to do this as our Churches gradually open up? Here are some prayer sites you might like to try:

[d-church](#) Methodist led and based here in the North East, join d-church every Tuesday evening at 8 O'clock. You can also follow them on [Instagram](#)

[An Ordinary Office](#) Join Dave Lucas with his dog Jarvis as he says the Office morning, lunchtime, evening and during the night (if you are awake!) You can also access a video, audio, large print and widget version of each prayer. You can also follow him on [Twitter](#).

[Churspacious](#) run by a couple of URC ministers it's a church space on Facebook where all are welcome!

[Get Roots resources free in September!](#) Helping churches plan worship, lead groups - and nurture adults, children and young people in faith.

SHARING IN PRAYER FOR OUR DISTRICT AND OUR WORLD

Week commencing 6th September; first Sunday in the new Connexional Year

Let your steadfast love come to me, O LORD,
your salvation according to your promise.
Then I shall have an answer for those who taunt me,
for I trust in your word.
Do not take the word of truth utterly out of my mouth,
for my hope is in your ordinances.

Psalm 119 42-43

This week as we pray for our circuits: For children and young people returning to school and for the staff in their preparations. For all families who may still feel anxious about the safety measures.

<u>Day</u>	<u>For our District</u>	<u>For our Wider World</u>
Sun 6 Sept Ps 119:33-48	Castle Eden Circuit	Headteachers and School staff preparing for the start of term
Mon 7 Sept Ps 119: 49-64	Stokesley Circuit	Children and young people in our District
Tues 8 Sept Ps 45	Cleveland and Danby Circuit	Youth, Children and Family Workers in our District
Wed 9 Sept Ps 119: 65-80	Bishop Auckland and Shildon Circuit	School and University Chaplains
Thurs 10 Sept Ps 119: 81-96	Durham and Deerness Valley Circuit	Those in fear of being made redundant
Fri 11 Sept Ps 119:97-112	West Durham Circuit	Those who are still shielding
Sat 12 Sept Ps 119:113-128	Barnard Castle and Teesdale Circuit	Places of war and conflict in the world

Lectio Divina during week beginning Sunday 6 September 2020

Matthew 18:15-20

Teaching About the Kingdom

¹⁵ “If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶ But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

LECTIO: READING

As you read the words again underline or highlight words which stand out for you. Notice and appreciate what is written.

MEDITATIO: MEDITATING

What does the passage mean for you today? [place yourself in the scene... Which words is Jesus speaking to you? adapt to the scripture]

ORATIO: PRAYER

Respond sharing all you have noticed with God. Listen for God to respond to you.

CONTEMPLATIO: CONTEMPLATION

Be still before God. Invite God to be with you. Give time for the words you have read and the meaning you have found to suggest action in your own discipleship. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you what God wants you to see and how to respond.

Other Lectionary readings

[Exodus 12:1-14](#) [Ezekiel 33:7-11](#) [Romans 13:8-14](#) [Psalm 149](#)

Finding a rhythm of prayer and reflection in daily life

How will you pray during this year of prayer? What helps you to pray?
Perhaps you might like to try some of these ways of praying

1. Pray while looking at images, photos, slides
2. Prayer Walk in your local area – look up, around -what do you notice?
3. Say Grace at meals
4. Make a prayer journal/ book
5. Say the [Jesus Prayer](#)
6. Use Silence
7. Body prayer – find a new posture
8. Listen to music
9. Pray with the news or a newspaper
10. Think of one characteristic of God
11. Read prayers written by others
12. Read the Psalms
13. Pray with objects – pick up things in your home
14. Use inspirational cards, poems
15. Make a prayer collage
16. Write a blessing
17. Bring to God your emotions of the day
18. Use a prayer like [The Examen](#)
19. Pray with Icons
20. Pray the [Centering Prayer](#)

If you find a way of praying that works for you, share it with your friends and family or in your church.