

Shared Ministry in Exning and
North Newmarket
Words and Prayers for



January 27th 2021

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Greeting & Welcome

Preparation

The Lord almighty grant us a quiet night and a perfect end.

All Amen.

Our help is in the name of the Lord

All who made heaven and earth.



A short period of silence for reflection on the past day



All Most merciful God,
we confess to you,
before the whole company of heaven and one another,
that we have sinned in thought, word and deed
and in what we have failed to do.
Forgive us our sins,
heal us by your Spirit
and raise us to new life in Christ. Amen.

O God, make speed to save us.

All O Lord, make haste to help us.

All Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.

Opening words (from Council of Christian and Jews)

God of light and life, we gather to remember

We gather to stand against hate

We gather to say, never again

We gather to work for the flourishing of all

God of light and life, shine among us as we gather.



A short time of silence is observed



A prayer of confession

We are called to walk in the light. (John 8:12 and 12:35)

Forgive the times we have followed ways of our own choosing.

Set us in paths of righteousness, for your name's sake. (Ps 23:3)

We are called to consider whether the light in us is not darkness. (Luke 11:35)

Forgive the times we have failed to share your light.

Give us courage to share your light, together.



Silence



We are called to consider whether the light in us is not darkness. (Luke 11:35)

Forgive the times we have failed to share your light.

Give us courage to share your light, together



Silence



Friends, the prophets denounced those who 'who call evil good and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness'. (Is 5:20)

Forgive our cynicism that costs others so dearly.

Sustain us as we seek the light of your life in the world.



Silence

God brings even deep darkness to light. (Job 12:22)

Let your light shine on us, O God, that we might live. (Is9:2)

Open our eyes and renew us, for in your light we see light (Ps 36:9)

The Word of God Psalm 43

¹ Vindicate me, O God, and defend my cause
against an ungodly people;
from those who are deceitful and unjust
deliver me!

² *For you are the God in whom I take refuge;
why have you cast me off?*
Why must I walk about mournfully
because of the oppression of the enemy?

³ O send out your light and your truth;
let them lead me;
let them bring me to your holy hill
and to your dwelling.

⁴ *Then I will go to the altar of God,
to God my exceeding joy;
and I will praise you with the harp,
O God, my God.*

⁵ Why are you cast down, O my soul,
and why are you disquieted within me?
Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,
my help and my God.

**All Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Scripture Reading James 1:17 & 22-27

¹⁷ Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change

²² But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. ²³ For if you are hearers of the word and

not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; 24 for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. 25 But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

26 If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. 27 Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Matthew 5:15-16

15 No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.



A Talk or Reflection



Called to be a light: A litany

When faced with religious discrimination,

Jesus calls us to be a light shining in the darkness.

When faced with a global pandemic that threatens our wellbeing,

Jesus calls us to be a light shining in the darkness.

When faced with the darkness of shame and rejection,

Jesus calls us to be a light shining in the darkness.

When faced with human beings not being treated in a dignified manner,

Jesus calls us to be a light shining in the darkness.

When faced with discrimination for 'being different',

Jesus calls us to be a light shining in the darkness.

When faced with injustices caused in the name of religion,

Jesus calls us to be a light shining in the darkness.

When faced with people who are unable to live in their own countries and homelands,

Jesus calls us to be a light shining in the darkness.

When faced with a lack of generosity towards refugees and migrants,

Jesus calls us to be a light shining in the darkness.

When faced with genocide,

Jesus calls us to be a light shining in the darkness.

When faced with denial of the Holocaust,

Jesus calls us to be a light shining in the darkness.

We look to the light of Jesus, so that as we reflect his light in the world, it is filled with the harvest of his good works. Amen

The following responsorial is said

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

All Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

For you have redeemed me, Lord God of truth.

All I commend my spirit.

Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit.

All Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

Gospel Cantic

The Nunc dimittis (The Song of Simeon) is said or sung

All Save us, O Lord, while waking,

and guard us while sleeping,

that awake we may watch with Christ

and asleep may rest in peace.

1 Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace: ♦
your word has been fulfilled.

2 My own eyes have seen the salvation ♦
which you have prepared in the sight of every people;

3 A light to reveal you to the nations ♦
and the glory of your people Israel.

Luke 2.29-32

***All* Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

***All* Save us, O Lord, while waking,
and guard us while sleeping,
that awake we may watch with Christ
and asleep may rest in peace.**

Prayers

*Intercessions and thanksgivings. The Prayers end with
.....Merciful Father accept these prayers*

Poem by Pastor Martin Niemoller

First they came for the Communists
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a Communist
Then they came for the Socialists
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a Socialist
Then they came for the trade unionists
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a trade unionist
Then they came for the Jews
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a Jew
Then they came for me

And there was no one left

To speak out for me.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer .

Our Father who art in Heaven.....

The Conclusion

As we go from this place of prayer into a world of challenge and change,

We remember the pain of the past.

As we follow God's command to let to our light shine,

We recognise the opportunity of the here and now.

As we seek the truth and glimpse God's light in all people and places,

We commit ourselves to sharing God's light through hope and love.

In peace we will lie down and sleep;

for you alone, Lord, make us dwell in safety.

Abide with us, Lord Jesus,

for the night is at hand and the day is now past.

As the night watch looks for the morning,

so do we look for you, O Christ.

A shared benediction

May the light of God shine on us,

transform our lives,

and brighten the world.

Amen.

The Lord bless us and watch over us;

the Lord make his face shine upon us and be gracious to us;

the Lord look kindly on us and give us peace.

All Amen.