

## Collect for Today

Almighty God,  
you have created the heavens and the earth  
and made us in your own image:  
teach us to discern your hand in all your works  
and your likeness in all your children;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns  
supreme over all things,  
now and for ever.

**Amen.**

## Readings for This Week

Proverbs 8.1, 22-31  
(Psalm 104.26-37)  
Colossians 1.15-20  
John 1.1-14

## Readings for Next Week

2 Kings 2.1-12  
(Psalm 50.1-6)  
2 Corinthians 4.3-6  
Mark 9.2-9

## Verse for the Week

“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; <sup>16</sup>for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him.”

**Colossians 1:15-16**

## Prayer & Reading Diary

### Monday

**Read:** 2 Kings 2.1-12

**Prayer:** God of love and hope you made the world and care for all creation, but the world feels strange right now. The news is full of stories about Coronavirus. May your love that never fails strengthen the weak encourage the fearful calm the anxious heal the sick through your church – your washed hands and feet on earth – distant but still present virtual but still connected apart but still helping.

**Amen**

### Tuesday

**Read:** Psalm 50.1-6

**Prayer:** God of all hope even in the darkest moments, love gives hope. Love compels us to come alongside our sisters and brothers. Love compels us to stand together in prayer with our neighbours near and far. Love compels us to give and act as one. As we pray in our individual homes – around the nation and around the world – we are united as one family as we lift up our hearts together in prayer.

**Amen**

### Wednesday

**Read:** 2 Corinthians 4.3-6

**Prayer:** God of compassion, keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy in this time of uncertainty and distress. Be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation. In their loneliness, be their consolation; in their anxiety, be their hope; for those who grieve in their darkness, be their light; Sustain and lift up all who are brought low; that we may rejoice in your comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love.

**Amen**

## Prayer & Reading Diary

### Thursday

**Read:** Mark 9.2-9

**Prayer:** Dear Lord thank you that you are with us as we pray. Lord as we come into your quiet place of being this day help us to bring ourselves fully into your presence, not expecting anything, only coming to give of ourselves and our time freely and allow us to simply be with the One who loves us. Let our spirit roam where it is guided by you.

**Amen**

### Friday

**Read:** 1 Kings 19.1-16  
2 Peter 1.16-21

**Prayer:** Loving God instil in our shaken souls the belief and hope that all things are possible with your creative love for strangers to become friends, for science to source solutions, for resources to be generously shared so everyone, everywhere, may have what they need for your perfect love that knows no borders may cast out any fear and selfishness that divides. May your love that never ends be our comfort, strength and guide for the wellbeing of all and the glory of God.

**Amen**

### Saturday

**Read:** 2 Peter 1.16-21

**Prayer:** Father, as we seek Your wisdom daily, be with and guide those people making decisions that affect the lives and futures of our families, communities, countries, and the wider world. We pray that they communicate clearly, truthfully, and calmly — with each other and with the public — and that their messages are received and heeded. May truth and empathy be the touchstones of people setting policies for our protection.

**Amen**

## Notices:



• Live streaming the service from All Saints wasn't a great success this week: we had trouble with the sound and the internet dropped briefly. However, as the scientists say, you learn most from your mistakes and we press on with more tweaking and experimenting this week because if we can crack it then it will be a great asset. If you find it frustrating, as some do, then we suggest you just watch the recorded service for a week or two until we have smoothed things out. Otherwise be patient and remember the old cinema experience when you never knew if the reel would break. Sorry we can't offer free popcorn.

• Alternatively you could come to church for the live experience! Churches across the team are making careful decisions about whether they can open safely. Where they are open you will find everything has been done to keep you safe.

• We are planning Lent groups and details will be announced soon. They will have to be on line, so one of your pre lent resolutions might be to conquer Zoom if you have not already done so. There is an excellent video here with a nice American lady who will calmly talk you through step by step everything you have to do: it is dead simple.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9isp3qPeQ0E>

• Christians Together in Okehampton meet every Thursday for 20 minutes of prayer: It is proving to be a special time. If you would like to be on the list to receive the link please email Alan Patridge: [patridge.1946@btinternet.com](mailto:patridge.1946@btinternet.com)

• "I would like to thank all of you who have thought of me and prayed for us during my recent illness. I'm out of bed now, slowly wandering around the hose, getting in Doreen's way. Once again thank you all so very much, may the Good Lord bless you all."

John Hayes

## Church Services:



### Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> February:

9:30am

Sourton – Holy Communion

Belstone – Holy Communion

Inwardleigh – Morning Prayer

11:00am

Okehampton – Morning Prayer

Lydford – Holy Communion

11:15am

Germansweek – Holy Communion

**Services are subject to last minute changes at the moment, so if there are any alterations to this list, updates will be published in the email that comes out later in the week.**

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# Grapevine

Northmoor Churches Weekly News

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Lent

7<sup>th</sup> Feb 2021



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[www.northmoorteam.org.uk](http://www.northmoorteam.org.uk)

A friend of mine, who had a great influence on my life, has recently died. He was the vicar who married us and who was partly responsible for me being ordained. He once told me that when people said they didn't believe in God he would ask "What kind of God don't you believe in?" Quite often when they told him he was able to say "I don't believe in that God either."

Over the centuries people have used the idea of a god or of many gods to explain the unexplainable and to excuse the inexcusable. How did the world begin? God made it. Why is there a crop failure? The Gods are angry with us. Why should I be good? Because God will punish you if you are not. If you trace everything that happens back to some divine being then you end up with an understanding of a God who is capable of being generous but also of being vengeful, even spiteful.

Two of the readings set for today make an extraordinary claim about Jesus. "The Word became flesh" says John. "He is the visible image of the invisible God" says St Paul. That man who lived and walked among us, who was capable of being angry at injustice and hypocrisy, also taught us to call God "Father" and told the story of the prodigal son. Here is the absolute against which our wrong understanding of God can be measured and corrected. This is how we know what God we believe in.

*Stephen*