

LORDSBRIDGE TEAM OF CHURCHES



Sixth Sunday of Easter – 16th May 2021
Read John 17.6-19

You may like to use this material as a basis for discussion in your family.

Today's reading from St John's gospel contains some of Jesus' last words to his disciples before his arrest and death. He prays for his friends, asking God to protect them in the uncertain times they will face. Many early Christians were persecuted for their faith in Jesus. Some were mocked and snubbed by other people, but others suffered even more; they were put in prison or executed for their beliefs. Jesus knew that they would face difficulties in the future and so he prayed for them. Some Christians still face persecution in other parts of the world nowadays.



There are lots of different ways to pray. You can use words, like the Lord's Prayer, or you can pray in silence. Some people like to pray with actions or go for a walk as they pray. Others use music or pictures to help them to think about God. Sometimes it is good to pray together with a group of other people, and at other times it is better to pray on your own. Have you tried to pray in different ways? What kind of prayer do you like best? How does prayer help you in uncertain times – when you are scared or worried?

The Church of England has a special programme of prayer at the moment called "Thy Kingdom Come". Jesus prayed for his disciples and, in the same way, we are being encouraged to pray for other people every day until Pentecost which is next Sunday, 23rd May. Can you find a way to pray every day during this next week? You could try a different form of prayer each day.

Activity

- Cut up words from newspapers or magazines and use them to make a prayer.
- Go for a prayer walk. As you walk around pray for the people you meet or for the people who live in the houses that you pass. If you walk past a shop pray for the people who work there; if you go past a school pray for the staff and pupils.
- Draw or paint a prayer – a picture that illustrates what you want to pray for and how you feel.
- Have fun with prayer! Buy some jelly beans and pray as you eat each colour, using the ideas on the next page.

Prayer

**Lord Jesus, as your disciples in the world today,
we thank you for your prayer for us and your love that protects and inspires us.
Help us to follow your example as we pray for others and serve our community. Amen.**



Jelly Bean Prayer

Church House Collection ©



Red is for the
blood He
gave.



Black is for
the sins we
made.



Green is for
the grass He
made.



White is for
the grace
He gave.



Yellow is for
the sun so
bright.



Purple is
for the hour
of sorrow.



Orange is for
the edge of
night.



Pink is for
our new
tomorrow.

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