

The Lord bless this house and all who dwell in it.

Gracious God, we thank you that you have brought us safely to the beginning of this day. Still our hearts and minds as we come to worship you in joy and in faith.

Forgive us as we acknowledge those things we have done which offend your heart of love.

Sustain us in our determination to love you and our neighbour as ourselves
Reassure us by your presence as we read your word and pray for your world.
We ask this in Jesus name. Amen

Psalm 86; 1-8

Incline your ear, O Lord, and answer me,
for I am poor and needy.

² Preserve my life, for I am devoted to you;
save your servant who trusts in you.

You are my God; ³ be gracious to me, O Lord,
for to you do I cry all day long.

⁴ Gladden the soul of your servant,
for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

⁵ For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving,
abounding in steadfast love to all who call on you.

⁶ Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer;
listen to my cry of supplication.

⁷ In the day of my trouble I call on you,
for you will answer me.

⁸ There is none like you among the gods, O Lord,
nor are there any works like yours.

David's prayer shows an immense faith in God and a very personal relationship. In some translations this psalm begins 'Bow down', not a phrase one would use if addressing a great King! It acknowledges his poverty of soul and rejoices in God's goodness and his steadfast love. It is the Psalm that would be used at Evensong today – a psalm that the writer of the following reflection would have known well and sung often.

Reflection on Choral Evensong

This is from the Facebook page of the Choral Evensong Appreciation Society and it posted by 'Katherine'. Adrienne Smith our organist sent it to me saying that so much of it applies to us at Creeksia. It reminds us that although our church may be closed to public worship now the memory of generations of worshippers fills it still – and our worship of God still continues though we may not be in our beautiful home.

Katherine's Post

The rhythm, structure and sound of our Choral Evensong has currently fallen silent. Yet the walls of our Cathedral continue to echo and hum with the notes of countless service, individuals' voices blending together, soaring upwards, amongst and between our arches, into the space where they rest in the air, circulate, live and resonate. The building is not silent. We have decorated it with song, clothed it in prayer and melody and blessed it. Its heart beats on. It is warm and glowing.

Before the closure of our Cathedral today, I stood in our empty building and reflected on what this means. I remembered walking out of what was, I was fairly sure, would be our last Choral Evensong for a while last Monday evening, only just over a week ago, one of our beautiful men's voices' services. It was peaceful, idyllic and prayerful. Our community gathered in both prayer and humility, offering what we could to God. As I walked out, I took note yet again of the words I have encountered now thousands of times here, words sculpted above the south transept doorway 'Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord' – those striking words from Psalm 150. These words gave me great comfort as they have always done – to give of myself in prayer and praise and to inspire others to do the same.

This beautiful structure of simple prayer we call Choral Evensong is such a multi-faceted thing, but it is always there for us. Strip away the layers, -- and there are many, children arriving from school whom you have rehearsed, needing refreshments, robing; choir men and women arriving from all points by all means of transport, delays, lateness, illness, safeguarding, missing music, people absent, hustle, bustle, rehearsal, line up – and finally the moment comes when as one, we move in procession into the space and offer ourselves.

We 'let everything that have breath praise the Lord'. It is achingly beautiful. A moment in time, held in time, held now inside our closed buildings, whose doors will open yet again and the internal song will once again be revealed to the world as it heals, overcomes and is filled with love and hope for the future.

Prayers

Lord, you have told us that when two or three are gathered together in your name, you are in the midst of us. Be with us this morning as we worship you, each in our own home in our own way. Hold all those we pray for in our loving care. Support and sustain all those who are frightened and vulnerable to disease and all those who care for them. Give strength and courage to nurses and doctors who are serving our communities with such dedication and commitment. May they know your presence in their darkest times and feel the love and prayer that surrounds them.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, we thank you for every moment of hope, every act of kindness, every thought and prayer for our comfort and peace. In this time of trouble and anxiety we are sustained by those who follow your law of love. May those who pray for us feel your closeness and know that you are with us all, always.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer

Gracious God, Hold us together as your community of All Saints, a community that stretches back through centuries, that has weathered storms and lived through times of great danger sustained by the knowledge that you are their guardian and their guide. Our prayers and theirs have echoed in the arches of the church, encircled its beams, live on in its walls, and in our worship are brought afresh to you as praise and thanksgiving for all that we have received. May we, through our witness of love and compassion, ensure that your worship and teaching continue into the future, generation by generation.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer

Please pray for our community using the prayer requested list

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters we do also for you, give us the will to be the servants of others, as you were the servant of all, and gave up your life and died for us, but are alive and reign, now and for ever, Amen.

The Collect for today, Passion Sunday, the 5th Sunday of Lent

Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ, delivered and saved the world, grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory, through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever. Amen

We pray the prayer that Jesus himself taught us.
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done
On earth as it is in heaven
Give us this day our daily bread
And forgive us our trespasses
As we forgive those who trespass against us
And lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from evil
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory
For ever and ever, Amen

Lord Jesus Christ
You are the peace of all things calm
You are the place to hide from harm
You are the light that shines in dark
You are the heart's eternal spark
You are the door that's open wide
You are the guest who waits inside
You are the stranger at the door
You are the calling of the poor
You are my Lord and with me still
You are my love, keep me from ill
You are the light, the truth, the way
You are my Saviour this very day. Amen

The Lord bless us and keep us
The Lord make his face to shine upon us
And give us his peace. Amen