

St.Mary's Church, Eastham



Morning Prayer

(based on Daily Prayer from the Corrymeela Community)

We begin our day alone,
honouring this life, with all its potentials and possibilities.

We begin our day with trust,
knowing we are created for loving encounter.

We begin our day with hope,
**knowing the day can hold
love, kindness,
forgiveness and justice.**

Opening Prayer

We break from the doings of our day
and make space to notice you.
You are always with us
in surprising guises.

Jesus of the flesh, we meet you in
worker and friend,
Stranger and pilgrim,
the needy and the needed,
the questioner and the questioned.

So when we meet you,
may we deepen trust,
deepen life, deepen justice,
and deepen joy.

And when you meet us,
help us approach our activities
with presence and power,
with love and humility,
with courage and dignity.

Amen.

We recall our day yesterday.

**May we learn, may we love,
may we live on.**

We make room for the unexpected.

**May we find wisdom and life
in the unexpected.**

Help us to embrace possibility,
respond graciously to disappointment
and hold tenderly those we encounter.

Help us to be fully present to the day.

A reading from the Old Testament: Proverbs 11:24-25

²⁴Some give freely, yet grow all the richer;
others withhold what is due, and only suffer want.

²⁵A generous person will be enriched,
and one who gives water will get water.

(A short time of silence)

A reading from the New Testament: 1 John 3:16-19

¹⁶This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. ¹⁷If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? ¹⁸Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

A reading from the Gospel of John: John 6:3-11

³ Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. ⁴ Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. ⁵ When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?" ⁶ He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. ⁷ Philip answered him, "Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." ⁸ One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, ⁹ "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?" ¹⁰ Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. ¹¹ Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted.

A SHORT REFLECTION

Time of Prayer

Short intercessory prayer followed by a time of silence during which we lift to God our own prayers.

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

We resolve to live life in its fullness:

**We will welcome the people who'll be part of this day.
We will greet God in ordinary and hidden moments.
We will live the life we are living.**

May we find the wisdom we need.
God be with us.

May we hear the needs of those we meet.
God be with us.

May we love the life that we are given.
God be with us.

Prayer for Courage

**Courage comes from the heart
and we are always welcomed by God,
the heart of all being.**

**We bear witness to our faith,
Knowing that we are called
To live lives of courage,
Love and reconciliation
In the ordinary and extraordinary
Moments of each day.**

**We bear witness, too, to our failures
and our complicity in the fractures of our world.**

**May we be courageous today.
May we learn to day.
May we love today.
Amen.**

AMEN.

