



Nosh @ Home

Proper 15, Year A
16.8.20

West Dartmoor Mission Community

Welcome to ROOTS@HOME

Dear friends,

Welcome to ***Nosh@Home*** for Sunday 16th August.

We will be using the resources from *rootsontheweb* which follow the lectionary reading for this Sunday. We hope that these resources will give you the opportunity to celebrate together and to spend time delighting in God's grace.

You can visit *rootsontheweb* for free access to materials to use in August:

<https://www.rootsontheweb.com/i-am-looking-for/worship-and-learning-through-lockdown-and-beyond>

Introduction: *Listen and understand*

This week we hear from Matthew's Gospel of two tricky encounters that Jesus had, first with the Pharisees, then with a Canaanite woman; both seemed to be linked by food. The link, in fact, is deeper – faith and membership of God's people – and the outcome of the encounters is something of a surprise.

This week's resources explore: not being distracted by what doesn't matter; learning from the voice of the outsider.



Gathering prayer

We gather here, Lord,
ready to focus totally on you.
Help us to be brave enough, like Peter,
to ask the questions that we would like to ask,
and open enough to hear your answer.
In our worship today, speak to us, Lord.
We are listening. **Amen.**



***For those who have a
birthday in August...***

♪ *Happy birthday to you,*

♪ *To Jesus be true,*

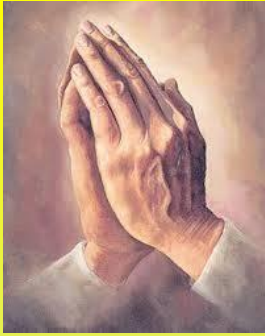
♪ *May God's richest blessings*

♪ *Pour down upon you.*



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vNCDAvLxy_Y

Time to say we are sorry:



Lord, sometimes we look as though we are listening to others.
We may even make all the right noises!
But we confess that our attention is often anywhere but
where it is supposed to be. **Forgive us, Lord, for missed opportunities.**

Sometimes we are too distracted by our own concerns.
We care only for ourselves,
and listen only to those who say what we want to hear. **Forgive us, Lord, for missed opportunities.**

Sometimes we don't listen to people
because we don't like them,
or because they are different from us.
Sometimes we have bad or unhelpful thoughts. **Forgive us, Lord, for missed opportunities.**

Sometimes we don't listen to you, Lord,
because we are too busy,
or a bit frightened about what you might say to us. **Forgive us, Lord, for missed opportunities. Amen.**

Read: Open the Bible at Matthew 15:(10-20),21-28

Jesus meets a woman with amazing faith, and heals her daughter despite what others might expect.

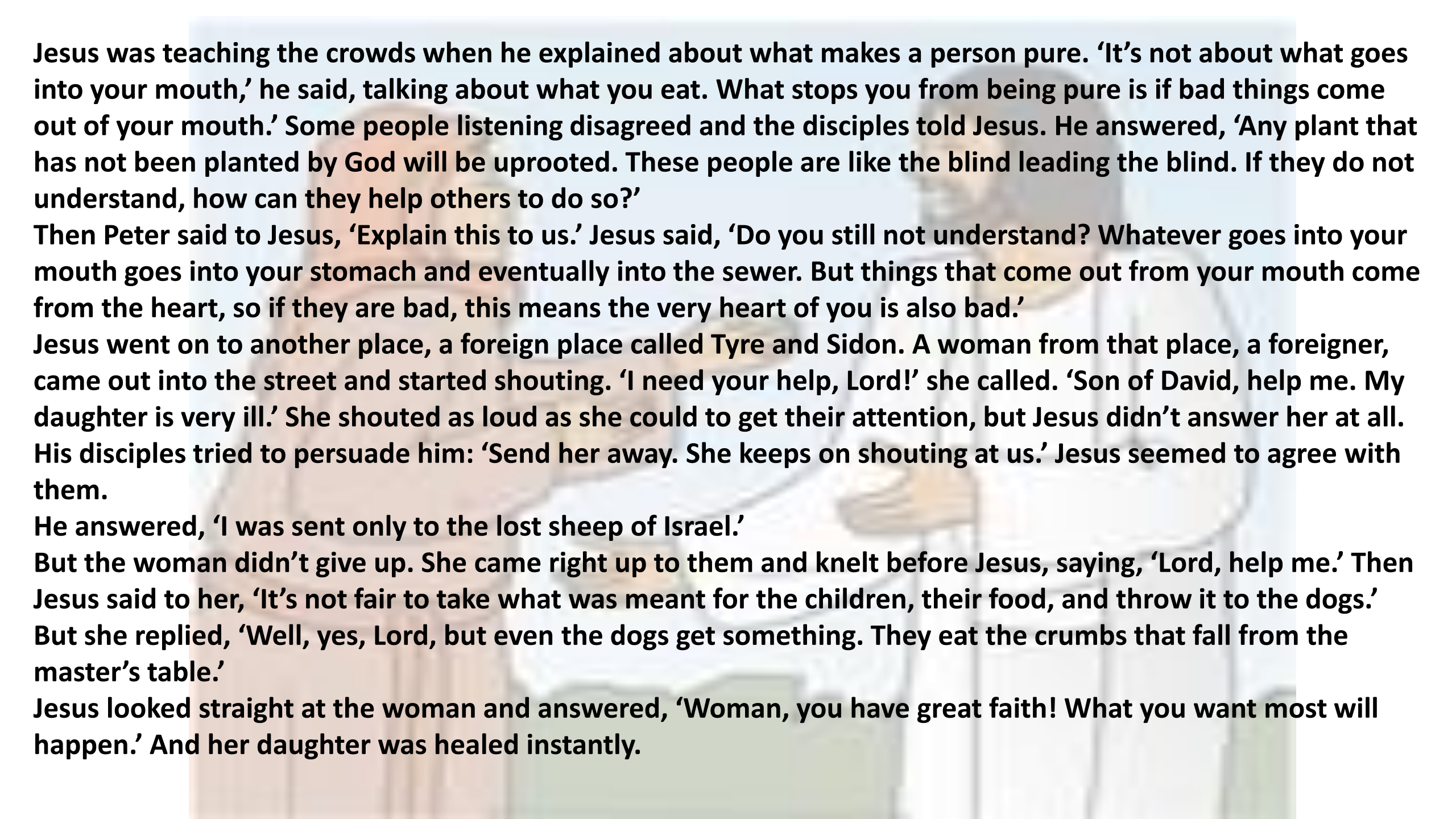
You may like to choose from either of these two ways of telling the story, followed by ideas for discussion time:

Distract

Ask a child who is a strong reader to read out the story while the rest of the group make as much noise as they can (perhaps have musical instruments to help). Ask the children how clearly they were able to hear the reader with so much distraction. Ask the same child to read the passage again, this time without distraction, and discuss how that felt.

Picture perfect

Display flash cards that correspond to words in the passage. Ask the children to choose the right picture when they hear the words. For example, in the first part of the story: mouth, plant, stomach, heart; for the second part: Jesus, disciples, sheep, dogs.



Jesus was teaching the crowds when he explained about what makes a person pure. 'It's not about what goes into your mouth,' he said, talking about what you eat. What stops you from being pure is if bad things come out of your mouth.' Some people listening disagreed and the disciples told Jesus. He answered, 'Any plant that has not been planted by God will be uprooted. These people are like the blind leading the blind. If they do not understand, how can they help others to do so?'

Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Explain this to us.' Jesus said, 'Do you still not understand? Whatever goes into your mouth goes into your stomach and eventually into the sewer. But things that come out from your mouth come from the heart, so if they are bad, this means the very heart of you is also bad.'

Jesus went on to another place, a foreign place called Tyre and Sidon. A woman from that place, a foreigner, came out into the street and started shouting. 'I need your help, Lord!' she called. 'Son of David, help me. My daughter is very ill.' She shouted as loud as she could to get their attention, but Jesus didn't answer her at all. His disciples tried to persuade him: 'Send her away. She keeps on shouting at us.' Jesus seemed to agree with them.

He answered, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel.'

But the woman didn't give up. She came right up to them and knelt before Jesus, saying, 'Lord, help me.' Then Jesus said to her, 'It's not fair to take what was meant for the children, their food, and throw it to the dogs.' But she replied, 'Well, yes, Lord, but even the dogs get something. They eat the crumbs that fall from the master's table.'

Jesus looked straight at the woman and answered, 'Woman, you have great faith! What you want most will happen.' And her daughter was healed instantly.

A time for quiet reflection

Talk together

- What's the kindest thing someone has said to you recently?
- How important are the words we use, and why?
- Who are 'outsiders' today, and how can we include them more?

Picture pointers: 'How can we be better at listening to those who are 'outsiders'?'



- When have you ever experienced life from the viewpoint of an outsider?
- How can we be better at listening to those who are 'outsiders'?
- What new understandings might we gain from listening to them?

A few Active Worship Ideas (visit www.rootsontheweb.com for more ideas)

Secret envelope

Write a reminder to be kind

You will need: pens, paper and envelopes, one of each per child.

Invite the children to think about people they could be nicer to, or make an effort to include more, then write their names on pieces of paper.

Explain that they don't need to show anybody.

Ask the children to seal the names in their envelopes and write their own names on the front.

They can take the envelopes home and either keep them sealed or open and read them again, and pray over the names, and think how they might make an effort to be kinder.

Make

Heart and mouth pinwheels

Think about what comes from your heart

You will need: [template](#) printed onto card, scissors, split pins, felt tip pens.

Using the template, help the children to cut away the window from the top circle, and fit the top circle on top of the bottom circle. Then help them to make a small hole in the centre (as marked) and put a split pin through.

Encourage everyone to decorate both their circles and personalise them using felt tip pens.

When everyone has finished, they can spin their wheels to reveal the images and read the verse aloud together.

Kindness jars

Use words to build others up

You will need: glass jars or equivalent containers (one per child), stickers/glass pens to decorate, sticky labels, felt tip pens, wooden lolly sticks.

Give each child a container to decorate with stickers and glass pens.

Invite them to attach a label saying 'My kindness jar' and decorate it using felt tip pens.

Then ask the children to write on lolly sticks the kindest things they can think of to say to others, and 'thank you' prayers to God for other people. Invite the children to place the lolly sticks in their container and take it home to use as they pray. (You could provide a few extra lolly sticks for them to keep blank and use at home as they think of more ideas.)

More Active Worship Ideas (visit www.rootsontheweb.com for more ideas)

Pray

Meditate on words

Reflect about the words we use

You will need: equipment to play music/video, pens, paper.

Use the link to play the song '[May the words of my mouth](#)' by Tim Hughes.

Listen to the words together and encourage everyone to think about them carefully.

Invite the children to talk about any words or lines that made them think differently or had an impact on them. Provide pens and paper if they want to write or draw any responses to the song.





Reflection: (by *Brenda Vance, a URC elder and retired university teacher.*)

Relax! God is good!

The Canaanite woman's mention of the scavenging dogs may refer to a theme in God's relationship with the Jews: alongside the injunction to enjoy and be thankful for God's bounty, there was always a command to leave something for the marginalised. Nothing, neither the grain in your fields, nor the olives on your trees (see Leviticus 19.9; Deuteronomy 24.20), was yours unconditionally.

Good husbandry with a controlled surplus resembles what we have noticed this spring and summer in lockdown. Our over-tended environment needed to get back into balance with nature for the sake of the climate and the eco-systems that sustain it. We Covid-19 garden enthusiasts were enjoined to leave briars alone to provide food and habitat for insects, birds and other creatures. Hedgerows have bloomed with native wildflowers where mowing and hedge-cutting have just not happened. Beds in parks and public gardens where formal carpet bedding was the norm have been sown with wild-flower seeds to the delight of bees and butterflies. The environment thrives on benign neglect!

But in our communities, it seems, increased controls, necessary in an epidemic, have produced increased tensions. As we reach mid-August, UK schools start to return, Scotland first. [Debates over the relative merits of centralised efficiency and localised pragmatism](#) flare up and turn to fierce arguments. [There is distressing turmoil around the 'exam' results](#) which will determine the futures of this year's school-leavers. Some localism has entered the government public health agenda, although, as local bodies take on more contact tracing, [ministers still seem to deny that central control is reduced](#). It can appear that governments' demands for centralised systems are driven by a self-regarding thirst for control and conformity, often followed by a laissez-faire panic. Concern to look good, comparable with the Pharisees' concern with externals, is followed by a hasty retreat from adverse consequences.

Reflection continued:

In the story of Jairus' daughter (Mark 5.35-43) we find a circumspect healing, carefully choreographed to respect the child's privacy. Here (Matt 15.28), it seems Jesus simply releases his healing, declaring a new perspective. With anxiety levels so high, can his sensitive choices point us to the same thoughtful adjustments in human affairs, as in our relations with nature? Benign neglect won't help here. We need to replace self-regarding controls with outwardly focused care. BAME people, so disproportionately affected by Covid-19, are fearful, as are the unemployed. Many disadvantaged students, penalised by carefully constructed algorithms, are perplexed and angry. Many local public health officers, teachers and head-teachers, are frustrated. How can we restore calm, and a sense of proportion, and bring healing to our communities?

Perhaps we need to accept, for ourselves, as the New Testament Jews did, that it is not good to try to control every aspect of life. Then we wait, patiently, for better aspects of 'new normal' to emerge, like those flowers!

Prayer

Loving and sustaining Lord, we thank you for the beauty and bounty of your world and its ability to feed our minds and souls as well as our bodies. Communities ravaged by the epidemic are sorely in need of your healing love. Certainties have been torn away, and attempts to replace them in a 'new normal' are proving difficult and often divisive. Give us strength, patience and perseverance. Give us generosity and imagination. Above all ground us in the certainty that your love is there for all, in the 'new normal' as to all eternity. **Amen**

Name

Activity time

Matthew 15.(10-20),21-28

Jesus meets a woman with amazing faith and heals her daughter, despite what others might expect.



Can you imagine how the woman was feeling in the story? What was wrong with her little girl? Draw their faces to show their emotions.



Family time

Talk How important is kindness in the world today, and why?

Do Watch a favourite film and write down all the words of kindness and affirmation you hear.

Pray Spell out the word PRAYER as an acrostic and write something next to each letter to pray for, e.g.

P – Peace in places where there is fighting.

R – Rest and relaxation over the summer.

A – Action for the climate crisis.

Y – Young people waiting for exam results.

E – Everyone I meet today.

R – Remembering people I miss a lot.



How many hidden hearts you can spot in this picture? Colour them in as you find them.



ROOTS Children's Sheet

16-22 August 2020



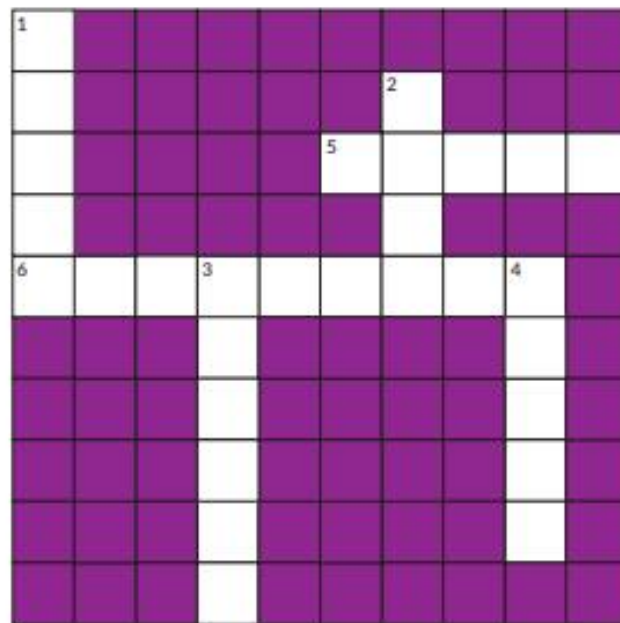
Solve the clues to work out which words you need to find in the crossword.

Down

1. The woman calls out 'Lord! Son of _____!'
2. The woman asked Jesus to _____ her daughter.
3. The dogs eat _____ under their masters table.
4. The story takes place in Tyre and _____.

Across

5. The hero of the story is _____.
6. Jesus' friends are called the _____.



Answer to wordsearch: Down: 1-David; 2-heal; 3-crumbs; 4-Sidon
Across: 5-Jesus; 6-disciples

Link to the children's sheet:

<https://www.rootsontheweb.com/media/20740/16-aug-2020-childrens-sheet.pdf>

Name

ROOTS Colouring Sheet

16-22 August 2020

Colouring time

The woman has such great faith that Jesus is impressed and heals her poorly child.



Link to the colouring sheet:

<https://www.rootsontheweb.com/media/20754/16-aug-2020-colouring-sheet.pdf>

Time to pray

The Canaanite woman sought your help. She loved her daughter so much, she was so desperately in need, that she wouldn't give up till she had her answer.

We pray in faith.

Hear us and answer our cry, blessed Lord.

Lord, may we learn from this woman, to wait on you expectantly, patiently, persistently, doggedly. Grant us the courage of our convictions when we truly believe we are doing your will.

We pray in faith.

Hear us and answer our cry, blessed Lord.

We pray today for those who feel excluded, whatever their situation, whatever the reason: for prisoners, refugees, the homeless; for the sick, the mentally unstable; for any who feel that they are outsiders.

We pray in faith.

Hear us and answer our cry, blessed Lord.

We pray for ourselves when our faith is weak, or we feel that we don't belong.

We pray in faith.

Hear us and answer our cry, blessed Lord.

Amen.



***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***



A prayer to end

God of all,
as we go out into the week ahead,
help us to keep our eyes on you
and the things you want us to do,
so that we do not become distracted
by the things that draw us away
from you.

Amen.

