

**Churches Together Earlsdon and Chapelfields**  
**Earlsdon Methodist Church**  
**Evening Meditation**  
**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2020**

**Prayer of Approach**

Come, this night to the Father,  
Come, this night to the Son,  
Come, to the Holy Spirit powerful  
Come, to this night to God.  
Come, this night to Christ,  
Come, with the spirit of kindness.  
We come to Thee, Jesus.  
Lord, Jesus Christ, shelter us we pray. **Amen.**



**Prayer of Adoration, Confession and Thanksgiving.**

Lord God, how awesome you are. Your voice is powerful and majestic. Once, the earth was without shape, dark and empty. Then you spoke, awesome God and light shone. You separated the light from the darkness and the whole world changed. You later sent your Son, Jesus to live and walk among us on the earth. His ministry heralded by John the Baptist who baptised Jesus in the Jordan and again the whole world changed.

The sky split open and your Holy Spirit came down like a dove. Then you spoke, awesome God and continue to speak today through your Holy Spirit.

**All Majestic, awesome, all-powerful God, we adore your holy name. Amen.**

Lord, when you came into the world, and you called us to follow you. When we came into a relationship with you, things changed. Life became filled with a new sense of purpose and peace. But, Lord, sometimes we let you down by doing wrong things or failing to do right things.

**We are sorry, Lord.**

Sometimes, Lord, through pride, stubbornness or fear we build barriers and keep others at arm's length – even you, Lord.

**We are sorry, Lord.**

At times we give in to our weaknesses and temptations, failing to draw on your strength. At times we are troubled by difficult situations and find it hard to trust you.

**We are sorry, Lord.**

Help us to turn such things around and turn to you. Help us to learn from the past and, drawing on your strength and peace, make a better future. **Amen.**

**P:** 'Behold, I am making all things new,' says the Lord.  
This is Christ's gracious word:  
'Your sins are forgiven.'

**All: Amen thanks be to God.**

### **Thanksgiving**

We thank you Dear Lord, for all that you have done through the changes you have made – and are still making – in our lives. We thank you for the gift of your Holy Spirit who gives us – your people – strength, and the blessing of peace. **Amen.**



### *Scriptures:*

#### *The Old Testament: Genesis 1:1-5*

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup>Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. <sup>3</sup>And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. <sup>4</sup>God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning-the first day.

**Reflection:** The revelation of God's creative glory and power that transcends at the beginning of creation and there - after - every new beginning. Therefore, as we are still in the early days of a new year – a new beginning – we are reminded that all power and glory concerning our lives and being and that of the whole of creation belongs to God Almighty our heavenly Father whose breath brought forth life in humanity, all of creation.

#### *Gospel Reading: Mark 1: 14-20*

<sup>14</sup>After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. <sup>15</sup>"The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!" <sup>16</sup>As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. <sup>17</sup>"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." <sup>18</sup>At once they left their nets and followed him. <sup>19</sup>When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. <sup>20</sup>Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

**Reflection:** Jesus calls us to leave our price possessions, people and places that we love to follow him. **Question:** What does it mean for us today to respond to God's call? What does it

feel like to go to people and places and be a stranger amongst them? One of the costs of true discipleship is to be sensitive to God's call. During this season of new beginning and God's revealing grace, let us renew our hearts and spirits to 'come and follow Christ' as he



Eternal God, you have called us to follow you and you give us opportunity of a new beginning. So, we pray now for those whose lives are in turmoil, those whose lives have been turned upside down, those who feel lost. May they feel supported, find fresh hope, **and be strengthened in Jesus' name.**

We pray for those for whom the lockdown has come as a relief, for those who now feel safer, but we pray too for those who now feel desperate, alone and worried about their jobs, their finances, their mental health. May they feel supported, find fresh hope: **and be strengthened in Jesus' name.**

We pray for children and young adults as their schooling is disrupted, and for those who feel vulnerable. We remember their parents and the parents of children with special needs, struggling to cope on their own and for teachers, administrative staff. calls us to follow him. **Amen.**

We pray for those in refugee camps, those who sleep rough, those who cannot afford to heat their homes. May they feel supported, find fresh hope: **and be strengthened in Jesus' name.**

We pray for one another, our families, our communities, our church fellowships. May we support those who are unwell or grieving. May we bring fresh hope to those who feel forgotten and are vulnerable and may we – both practically and prayerfully – share our faith in your Son Jesus in whose name we entrust these prayers to you. **Amen.**



### **Let Us Pray in the manner our Saviour 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**

## LITANY OF THE NIGHT

The night is the cover of your peace, O God,  
**The rhythm of your rest for all your people**

The darkness is the cloak of your gentleness, God,  
**The warmth of your hand around the earth**

In its darkness, is the sign of your eternity,  
**The never-ending living of your love**

In faith we go to sleep and leave our lives to you  
**In child-like trust we end our efforts of this day**  
**In our sleeping, be our company**  
**In our waking, be the gift of a new day.**



Go in peace and may God go with you  
Christ Jesus take you by the hand  
And the Spirit a cloud of grace around you. **Amen**