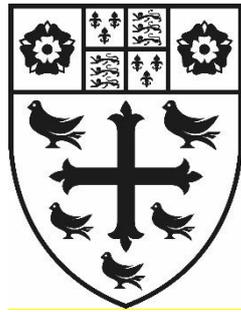


St Margaret's Church
Westminster Abbey



Annual Day of Prayer

Finding God in Isolation

with

His Eminence Archbishop Nikitas
of Thyateira and Great Britain

Saturday 23rd January 2021

10.00 am – 2.45 pm

His Eminence Nikitas (Lulias) is the Greek Orthodox Archbishop of Thyateira and Great Britain (under the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople). Archbishop Nikitas was born and raised in Florida before taking his Masters degree at the Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology. He subsequently studied in both Greece, at the University of Thessaloniki, and Russia, at the St Petersburg Theological Academy, as well as lecturing at Loyola University, Chicago. After ordination he served parishes in the USA before being elected as the Metropolitan of Hong Kong and South East Asia in 1996. In 2007 he became the Bishop of the Dardanelles and Director of the Patriarch Athenagoras Orthodox Institute in Berkeley, California where he served until taking up his current role in July 2019. Archbishop Nikitas is noted for his involvement in education, community service, interfaith relations and social justice issues – spearheading the Ecumenical Patriarchate's Committee on Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery.

This Annual Day of Prayer, on the theme **Finding God in Isolation**, is held within the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Archbishop Nikitas draws on some of the riches of Orthodox spirituality as he explores the themes of three addresses, offering insights for private prayer and touching on how, through it, we might promote Christian unity. The Day of Prayer is transmitted in real time at <https://youtu.be/D3n5a7Qlrx4>.

The day will consist of the three addresses given by Archbishop Nikitas, each preceded by a Gathering Prayer and followed by silent periods for private prayer. An outline with approximate timings is given below. The transmission reproduces as closely as possible the interaction that would have taken place in the church, including the short liturgies before each address and the opportunities for private prayer and reflection.

This booklet contains the text for the three Gathering Prayers, which will also be appear in the video. The worship is led in real time on the day and you are invited to say the responses aloud or silently alongside all those taking part, so being drawn together in offering our corporate worship within the one Body of Christ.

Participants can join or leave at any time throughout the day. During the times set aside for private prayer an image will be shown on screen that may be used as a focus. This is also an opportunity to spend some time away from the screen – just as there would have been the chance to pray in different parts of the Abbey precincts for participants at St Margaret's.

Archbishop Nikitas has provided a booklist with suggestions for further reading which can be accessed in advance and during the day on the Abbey website at <https://www.westminster-abbey.org/abbey-events/theology/2021/january/day-of-prayer>

Outline of the Day

- 10.00 am** **WELCOME and GATHERING PRAYER**
- ADDRESS 1:**
SILENCE IN THE PATRISTIC TRADITION
- 10.45 am** **PRIVATE PRAYER & REFLECTION**
- 11.30 am** **GATHERING PRAYER**
- ADDRESS 2:**
THE JESUS PRAYER
- Noon** **PRIVATE PRAYER & REFLECTION**
- 12.30 pm** **LUNCH BREAK**
- 1.15 pm** **GATHERING PRAYER**
- ADDRESS 3:**
ICONS AND HYMNS FOR PRIVATE PRAYER
- 2.00 pm** **PRAYER & REFLECTION**
- 2.45 pm** **CONCLUSION**

The Welcome

The Reverend Anthony Ball, *Rector of St Margaret's*

Gathering Prayer (at 10.00 am)

THE PREPARATION

Seek the Lord while he may be found,
call upon him while he is near.

Let the wicked abandon their ways
and the unrighteous their thoughts.

Turn back to the Lord, who will have mercy;
to our God who will richly pardon.

cf Isaiah 55

A time of silence and self-examination is kept.

Lord God,
we have sinned against you;
we have done evil in your sight.
We are sorry and repent.
Have mercy on us according to your love.
Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin.
Renew a right spirit within us
and restore us to the joy of your salvation,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

cf Psalm 51

May the Father of all mercies
cleanse us from our sins,
and restore us in his image
to the praise and glory of his name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Blessed be the Lord,
who has heard the voice of our prayer.

Therefore shall our hearts dance for joy
and in our song will we praise our God.

Psalm 28: 7, 9

THE READING – Megan Huntly

God said, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.' Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?'

1 Kings 19: 11–13

THE PSALM

- 1 God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble;
- 2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,
and though the mountains tremble in the heart of the sea;
- 3 Though the waters rage and swell,
and though the mountains quake at the towering seas.
- 4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy place of the dwelling of the Most High.
- 5 God is in the midst of her; therefore shall she not be removed;
God shall help her at the break of day.
- 6 The nations are in uproar and the kingdoms are shaken,
but God utters his voice and the earth shall melt away.
- 7 The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
- 8 Come and behold the works of the Lord,
what destruction he has wrought upon the earth.
- 9 He makes wars to cease in all the world;
**he shatters the bow and snaps the spear
and burns the chariots in the fire.**
- 10 'Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.'
- 11 The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Psalm 46

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit
As it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.

A minute of SILENT PRAYER & INTERCESSION ending with THE COLLECT

Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new: transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

THE CONCLUSION

May the light of Christ our Lord shine in all our hearts. **Amen.**

Gathering Prayer (at 11.30 am)

THE PREPARATION

O God, make speed to save us
O Lord, make haste to help us.

With you, O God, is the well of life
and in your light shall we see light.

THE READING – Celia Ball

Jesus said, “Whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.”

Matthew 6:5-8

THE PSALM

- 1 Hear my prayer, O Lord,
and in your faithfulness give ear to my supplications;
answer me in your righteousness.
- 2 Enter not into judgement with your servant,
for in your sight shall no one living be justified.

- 3 For the enemy has pursued me,
crushing my life to the ground,
making me sit in darkness like those long dead.
- 4 My spirit faints within me;
my heart within me is desolate.
- 5 I remember the time past; I muse upon all your deeds;
I consider the works of your hands.
- 6 I stretch out my hands to you;
my soul gasps for you like a thirsty land.
- 7 O Lord, make haste to answer me; my spirit fails me;
hide not your face from me
lest I be like those who go down to the Pit.
- 8 Let me hear of your loving-kindness in the morning,
for in you I put my trust;
show me the way I should walk in,
for I lift up my soul to you.

Psalm 143:1-8

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit
As it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.

THE INTERCESSIONS

We pray for the visible unity of Christians:
Holy Spirit, you create and re-create the Church in all places. Come
and whisper in our hearts the prayer which Jesus addressed to his
Father on the eve of his passion: "that they may all be one... so that
the world may believe".

Kyrie eleison

Lord Jesus, Prince of Peace, light the fire of your love in us so that suspicions and misunderstanding cease in the Church. May the walls that separate us fall.

Kyrie eleison

Holy Spirit, Consoler of all, open our hearts to forgiveness and reconciliation and bring us back to you when we lose our way.

Kyrie eleison

Lord Jesus, gentle and humble of heart, give us poverty of spirit so that we may be open to your grace.

Kyrie eleison

Holy Spirit, you never abandon the men, women and children who are persecuted for their faithfulness to the gospel. Give them strength and courage, and support those who help them.

Kyrie eleison

THE COLLECT

Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new: transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

THE CONCLUSION

May the light of Christ our Lord shine in all our hearts. **Amen.**

Gathering Prayer (at 1.15 pm)

THE PREPARATION

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and of great kindness.

He has not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.

For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is his mercy upon those who fear him.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy upon us.

As far as the east is from the west,
so far has he set our sins from us.

As a father has compassion on his children,
so is the Lord merciful towards those who fear him.

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me bless his holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits.

cf Psalm 103

THE READING – Janet Hoyle

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Philippians 4:4-9

THE PSALM

- 1 I will bless the Lord at all times;
his praise shall ever be in my mouth.
- 2 My soul shall glory in the Lord;
let the humble hear and be glad.
- 3 O magnify the Lord with me;
let us exalt his name together.
- 4 I sought the Lord and he answered me
and delivered me from all my fears.
- 5 Look upon him and be radiant
and your faces shall not be ashamed.
- 6 This poor soul cried, and the Lord heard me
and saved me from all my troubles.
- 7 The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him
and delivers them.

- 8 O taste and see that the Lord is gracious;
blessed is the one who trusts in him.
- 9 Fear the Lord, all you his holy ones,
for those who fear him lack nothing.
- 10 Lions may lack and suffer hunger,
but those who seek the Lord lack nothing that is good.
- 11 Come, my children, and listen to me;
I will teach you the fear of the Lord.
- 12 Who is there who delights in life
and longs for days to enjoy good things?
- 13 Keep your tongue from evil
and your lips from lying words.
- 14 Turn from evil and do good;
seek peace and pursue it.

Psalm 34:1-14

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit
As it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.

A minute of SILENT PRAYER & INTERCESSION ending with THE COLLECT

Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new: transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

THE CONCLUSION

May the light of Christ our Lord shine in all our hearts. **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Common Worship (Church House Publishing, 2000), material from which is included in these services, is copyright © The Archbishops' Council. Scripture Readings are from the New Revised Standard Version. The intercessions in the liturgy at 11.30 are based on resources provided by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland.

Additional Information

This is the Abbey's 32nd Annual Day of Prayer. **No charge is made but donations are most welcome.** Information on how to make these can be found on the Abbey's website by going to the "support us" tab (or using the "support us" button found near the end of the home page).

DAY OF PRAYER 2022 will be held in St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey, on **Saturday 22nd January 2022** - in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – and will be led by The Rev'd Dr Luigi Gioia.

MAILING LIST: If you are not already on our mailing list and would like to be kept informed of future Days of Prayer and other events at Westminster Abbey please use the "subscribe" button at the bottom of the home page of the Abbey's website.

This year's National Pilgrimage to the Shrine of St Edward the Confessor, when we celebrate the life and witness of our founder, is on **Saturday 16th October 2021.**

For more information visit:

www.westminster-abbey.org/worship/edwardtide

Thank you for your participation in this Day of Prayer.