

Praying for the world in this time of political uncertainty

10 Minutes of Prayer

Via Phone or Zoom

Wednesdays

7:30 am (EST)

<https://zoom.us/j/504489625>

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Meeting ID: 504 489 625

*For toll-free or International Calling Options please email
rector@stmarymagdalene-md.org*

This booklet contains five outlines that will be used.

At the start of each prayer time, the leader will announce which liturgy will be used for that day.

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This service is put together by St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, Silver Spring, MD, a multicultural parish in the USA adapting materials from the following sources.

Church of England:	Common Worship (2000) ¹ New Patterns of Worship (2002) ²
The Episcopal Church:	The Book of Common Prayer (1979) ³
The Iona Community:	Iona Abbey Worship Book (2018) ⁴ Beyond Brexit (2019) ⁵ For an International Situation (2019) ⁶
Bibles:	NRSV ⁷ and ECV ⁸

For Elected Leaders

Opening Acclamation⁴

Leader Just and merciful God, you speak through the prophets, challenging us to seek peace rooted in justice.

All **Help us to hear your urgent call.**

Leader Loving God, in Jesus you change our lives for good, challenging us to work for reconciliation.

All **Help us to see your way of truth and love.**

Leader With-us God, your Holy Spirit moves us to action, challenging us to live the Good News.

All **Help us to respond wholeheartedly, here and now – to say yes. Amen.**

Collect³

Leader O God, you have bound us together in a common life. Help us, in the midst of our struggles for justice and truth, to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Confession²

Leader Lord God, our maker and our redeemer, this is your world and we are your people: come among us and save us. We have willfully misused your gifts of creation; Lord, be merciful:

All **forgive us our sin.**

Leader We have seen the ill-treatment of others and have not gone to their aid; Lord, be merciful:

All **forgive us our sin.**

Leader We have condoned evil and dishonesty and failed to strive for justice; Lord, be merciful:

All **forgive us our sin.**

Leader We have heard the good news of Christ, but have failed to share it with others; Lord, be merciful:

All **forgive us our sin.**

Leader We have not loved you with all our heart, nor our neighbors as ourselves; Lord, be merciful:

All **forgive us our sin.**

Leader May God who loved the world so much that he sent his Son to be our Savior forgive us our sins and make us holy to serve him in the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Scripture⁷

Mark 9:33-37

Reader Jesus said, 'What were you arguing about on the way?' But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, 'Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.'

Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, 'Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.'

Prayers^{5&3}

Leader Lord our God, you called the walls of Jericho to tumble down; you called the water to move so the people of Israel could walk free from bondage; you let Jacob cross the river to join his brother.

Bridge-God, Freedom-God, Unifier-God, we pray in a time where rulers build new walls to separate people, where people are held in prison solely for their views, where a continent's great unification is risked through politics based on lies:

Make us bridge-builders, make us peacemakers, make us unifiers of people. When politics lead into disappointment, enable us to live and share the hope of your kingdom to come, like Noah's dove with the olive branch, like the mustard seed becoming a great tree, like Jesus, who crossed the border to the Samaritans. Amen.

Stephan Arras, Dublin, 16 February, 2019

Leader O God our Governor, bless the leaders this country of the United States of America, and the leaders of the countries around the world, that we may be a people at peace among ourselves and a blessing to other nations of the earth. To the President, members of Congress, to elected officials of Towns and Cities, and to all in administrative authority, grant wisdom and grace in the exercise of their duties.

All **Give grace to your servants, O Lord.**

Leader To the Representatives, and those who make our laws in this country and those in positions around the world, give courage, wisdom, and foresight to provide for the needs of all our people, and to fulfill our obligations in the community of nations.

All **Give grace to your servants, O Lord.**

Leader To the Judges and officers of our Courts give understanding and integrity, that human rights may be safeguarded and justice served.

All **Give grace to your servants, O Lord.**

Leader And finally, teach all people to rely on your strength and to accept their responsibilities to their fellow citizens, that they may elect trustworthy leaders and make wise decisions for the well-being of our society; that we may serve you faithfully in our generation and honor your holy Name.

All **For yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all. Amen.**

Blessing²

Leader God grant to the living, grace; to the departed, rest; to the Church, the President, Congress, and all humankind, peace and concord; and to us and all God's servants, life everlasting; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you now and always.

All **Amen.**

For Peace

Opening Acclamation²

Leader We come from scattered lives to meet with God. Let us recognize God's presence with us. *Silence is kept.*

Leader As God's people we have gathered:

All **let us worship God together.**

Collect³

Leader Almighty God, you proclaim your truth in every age by many voices: Direct, in our time, we pray, those who speak where many listen and write what many read; that they may do their part in making the heart of this people wise, its mind sound, and its will righteous; to the honor of Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Confession²

Leader Jesus saw the city and wept over it, because it did not recognize the time of God's coming. We confess our part in the self-centredness, blindness and sin of the life of our world today, and especially in the situation around <_____> .

Leader You raise the dead to life in the Spirit. Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader You bring pardon and peace to the broken in heart. Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

Leader You make one by your Spirit the torn and divided. Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Absolution²

Leader The almighty Creator and Compassionate Redeemer, grant us pardon and forgiveness of all our sins; time for amendment of life, and the grace and strength of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen**

Scripture⁷

Mark 4: 35-41

Leader On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, 'Let us go across to the other side.' And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. A great gale arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, 'Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?' He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, 'Peace! Be still!' Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to them, 'Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?' And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, 'Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?'

Prayers^{5&6}

Leader We come here God, battered by the centuries of bloodshed on the continents of Europe, Africa, Asia, North and South America. Our landmass and islands, peninsulas and mountain ranges we place before you, together with

The yearning search for your goodness that has taken us beyond our pettiness, and yet has ripped us apart in the name of your love;

Our knowledge of medicine and technology that has done much to advance your world, yet has been used for evil in the killing fields in Europe and beyond;

The skills and science that have woven a web among us, and yet have exploited others beyond the shores;

The spirit of adventure and curiosity that has inspired us to greatness, yet has been used in cruelty;

The arts and music that have uplifted us, and yet have allowed us to demean others as less human and to see creation as ours for the taking.

We give thanks for the decades of peace within our borders. Forgive us for our failures on our doorsteps: in Central America and with those driven in desperation to the borders of the USA; for when we have not shared our wealth and knowledge. As the changing climate benefits us, but hinders others harshly, give us the strength to engage; help us to be a force for good in your world, not a center for selfishness. For all we have learnt in acting together, sharing together, we thank you. May we preserve common work of heart and mind and be ever active together in the search for peace.

All **Amen.** *Adapted Rosemary Power*

Leader Jesus says: 'Come unto me, all you who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.' Help us to live, as well as we can, to the model your psalm holds before us. And where we fail, may you take our place, enabling us to act beyond our strength, for your name's sake. We come to you with the wounds of our world. We name the dark places where evil roams, where your people suffer and cry aloud for mercy from the oppressor, for justice for their people, for bread for the next day. We are part of these wounds, Lord Jesus. We use the world's resources, sell arms to the oppressor, fail to share our technology, turn our eyes from the needs of the refugee, the stranger, the starving on our world's doorstep. We are the weapons that rip into flesh, that tear the parent from their child, that permit the rape of your people. Free us, Lord, from the burden of ourselves and our lifestyle, from the fear that keeps us silent, from the greed that hides us from the needs of others. Give us the courage to challenge, inform and engage those who walk in the corridors of power, in our land and the lands for which we pray. We are Your temple not made with hands. We are Your body. If every wall should crumble, and every church decay, we are Your habitation. Nearer are You than breathing, closer than hands and feet. Ours are the eyes with which You, in the mystery, look out in compassion on the world. So we bless You for this place. For Your directing of us, Your redeeming of us, and Your indwelling. Take us 'outside the camp', Lord. Outside holiness. Out to where soldiers gamble, and thieves curse, and nations clash at the crossroads of the world.

George F. MacLeod (1895-1991)

Blessing₃

Leader Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor everyone; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you now and always.

All **Amen.**

For Justice

Opening Acclamation⁴

Leader The World belongs to God
All **The earth and all its people**
Leader How good and how lovely it is
All **To live together in unity**
Leader Love and faith come together
All **Justice and peace join hands**
Leader If Christ's disciples keep silent
All **These stones will shout aloud**

Collect³

Leader Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart and especially the hearts of the people of this country, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
All **Amen.**

Confession²

Leader We confess our sin, and the sins of our society, our nation, in the misuse of God's creation. God our Creator, we are sorry for the times when we have used your gifts carelessly, and acted ungratefully. Hear our prayer, and in your mercy:
All **forgive us and help us.**
Leader We enjoy the fruits of the harvest, but sometimes forget that you have given them to us. God, in your mercy:
All **forgive us and help us.**
Leader We belong to a people who are full and satisfied, but ignore the cry of the hungry. God, in your mercy:
All **forgive us and help us.**
Leader We are thoughtless, and do not care enough for the world you have made. God, in your mercy:
All **forgive us and help us.**
Leader We store up goods for ourselves alone, as if there were no God and no heaven. God, in your mercy:
All **forgive us and help us.**

Absolution

Leader May God enrich you with God's grace, and nourish you with God's blessing; May God defend you in trouble and keep you from all evil; May God accept your prayers, and absolve you from your offences, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior.
All **Amen.**

Scriptures

Micah 6:8

Reader God has told you, human one, what is good and what the Lord requires from you: to do justice, embrace faithful love, and walk humbly with your God.

Prayers⁵

Leader Jesus the carpenter, local tradesman, social activist, man of prayer, who received from women of prayer and gave to all people bread for the journey and wine for rejoicing; be with us in our work and rest.

May we meet the goodness of God in our labor, and rejoice for work done well. Preserve us from exploitation, that we may not injure others nor benefit from goods tainted with the damaged lives of neighbors near or far. May each have a just reward for labor, that those who work the vineyard may rest in its shade, that those who till the land may eat of its produce, that those who turn the potter's wheel may receive honor for their skills.

Preserve our own rights, that each may receive a due recompense for their work, that they may provide for their families and their own needs; that they be respected in work and find value in it. Ensure that the passing laborer in the seasonal fields may be treated as the guest at the table. We thank you for the labor laws we have gained over the last century. As Jesus received from the water-drawing Samaritan woman; as Jesus received from the wisdom of the Syrian woman; as Jesus received from the prophetic Mary of Bethany, may we too continue to receive in graciousness and gratitude, from those outside our nation and from those undervalued within it.

Rosemary Power

Leader Spirit of God, unseen but with us, help us at this time of uncertainty to make wise choices. Jesus, our wisdom, in times of turbulence, days of uncertainty, when we are tempted to make economics our driver instead of our supporter, to use our resources to divide, to value differently our fellow creatures, to make decisions based on money, not respect, strengthen us.

You have told us never to serve two masters, or put money before morals or the economy before the purpose of living; help us to know the true value of labor, to use money wisely throughout our society, to see what our neighbors need, and not be driven by the pursuit of greed.

Creator God, who brought us all into life, help us as our certainties rock to recall that our wealth is for housekeeping our nation, not for selfish pursuit, for sharing where there is need.

Give us all enough to live on without anxiety, enough to support our commerce and our recreation.

Draw us onwards to put first those living in fear of job loss, medicine shortage, pressures that break the poor; save us from the dreariness, emptiness, hopelessness that come with lack of wealth; keep us away from all harm to our neighbor. Like Joseph's barns in Egypt, may our barns be full for all who need bread. In your name we pray.

Rosemary Power

Blessing⁴

Leader May God, who gives patience and encouragement, give you a spirit of unity to live in harmony as you follow Jesus Christ, so that with one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you now and always.

All **Amen.**

For Healing

Opening Acclamation⁴

Leader We meet in the presence of God

All **who knows our needs, hears our cries, feels our pain, and heals our wounds.**

Collect³

Leader Almighty God our heavenly Creator, send down upon those who hold office the spirit of wisdom, charity, and justice; that with steadfast purpose they may faithfully serve in their offices to promote the well-being of all people; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen**

Confession²

Leader Lord God, you hold both heaven and earth in a single peace. Let the design of your great love shine on the waste of our anger and sorrow, and give peace to your Church, peace among nations, peace in our homes, and peace in our hearts, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Leader Lord Jesus, you wept over the sins of your city.

On our city: Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader Lord Jesus, you heal the wounds of sin and division, jealousy and bitterness. On us: Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

Leader Lord Jesus, you bring pardon and peace to the sinner.

Grant us peace: Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Absolution²

Leader The almighty Creator and Compassionate Redeemer, grant us pardon and forgiveness of all our sins; time for amendment of life, and the grace and strength of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen**

Scripture⁷

Luke 11:33-36

Reader Jesus said, 'No one after lighting a lamp puts it in a cellar but on the lampstand so that those who enter may see the light. Your eye is the lamp of your body. If your eye is healthy, your whole body is full of light; but if it is not healthy, your body is full of darkness. Therefore consider whether the light in you is not darkness. If then your whole body is full of light, with no part of it in darkness, it will be as full of light as when a lamp gives you light with its rays.'

Prayers^{5 & 3}

Leader Ancient God, you commanded your chosen people Israel to welcome the stranger among them like one of their own, and reminded them that once, they themselves were strangers in a foreign land:

Teach us to be open to all who have come to live in our countries, that they may find a place where they can abide, feeling made welcome and safe. *Adapted from Heinz Toller, Iona Abbey*

Jesus, through your words and touch those who were distressed found peace, and those who were tormented found rest.

In the silence of our hearts we name before you those people who need our prayers today.

Silence

Jesus, you wept for the city you loved.

We pray for this nation and for <<_____>> and in the silence of our hearts we name before you those places that need our prayers today.

Silence

Jesus, in your words and actions, the oppressed found justice and angry found release. So in the silence of our hearts we name before you those who need our prayers today.

Silence

Leader Creator of all, Savior of all, Spirit in all, One God in perfect community,
All **stay with us now.**

Leader Where there is apathy,
All **kindle the flame of your love.**
Where there is deceit,
confront every lie with your truth.

Where there is hopelessness,
reveal deep wells of compassion.
Where there is joy,
let your kindly protection be known.

Where we hesitate to serve you,
make us restless until we change.
For yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory for ever.
Amen.

Blessings

Leader May the Light of God lead us,
The Power of God hold us,
The Joy of God heal us,
The Grace of God caress us,
And the Love of God bless us now and always
All **Amen.**

For Hope and Unity

Opening Acclamations

Leader Be with us, Spirit of God;

All **nothing can separate us from your love.**

Leader Breathe on us, breath of God;

All **fill us with your saving power.**

Leader Speak in us, wisdom of God;

All **bring strength, healing and peace.**

Silence is kept

Leader God is here.

All **God's Spirit is with us.**

Collect³

Leader Almighty God, you have given us the land for our heritage: We pray that we, and all people who call this country their home, may always prove ourselves mindful of your favor and glad to do your will. Bless the land with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save the nations from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought together from many kindreds and tongues. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace, and that, through obedience to all laws, we may show forth thy praise among the nations of the earth. In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in you to fail; all which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Confession²

Leader Lord Jesus, you wept over the sins of your city.

On our city, and on the nations of the world: Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader Lord Jesus, you heal the wounds of sin and division,
jealousy and bitterness.

On us: Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

Leader Lord Jesus, you bring pardon and peace to the sinner. Grant us peace: Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Absolution²

Leader May the God of love and power forgive us and free us from our sins, heal and strengthen us by his Spirit, and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Reader So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

Prayers5

Leader Christ of the roads, in towns and in the desert, you met your friends in loss and you took strangers by surprise: your faithful followers crossed land and sea to share a word, your word, O Word from the Beginning.

In times when we fear separation, keep the roads that saints have walked open for the traffic of our minds and all the trade of thought.

Wave upon wave, the ancestors crossed land and sea.

We give our thanks for those who bring us word across the seas and over borders, words of knowledge, insight, truth: translators who let us understand what we cannot understand, linguists who seek out the patterns of our tongues and the harmonies of speech, shapely and ordered.

We give our thanks for those who have taught us to speak as strangers speak – a foreign tongue – and by this struggling effort show us the world again – in other words, remade through other eyes.

Give us, God in all our languages, the courage to value these rich differences, again and again to see your Christ in the stranger's guise.

All **Amen.**

Tony Phelan

Leader We give thanks that in the darkest places of the earth there are sparks of light, that your love in the heart of your people is present, in a small good deed, in restraining the hand from doing evil, in helping those in need at cost to oneself, in sacrifice and respect for all life. We give thanks for the countless unknown witnesses who have served you in the darkest situations. We give thanks for those places where you have raised a champion with courage to challenge injustice. Enter each place with your healing touch, through the unsung heroism, the anonymous act, in the goodness of strangers.

All **Amen.**

Leader Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

All **Amen.**

Blessing²

Leader Now may the blessing of God the Father, who made from one every nation that occupies the earth; of God the Son who bought us for God from every tribe and language and people and nation; and of God the Spirit who brings us together in unity, be with us and remain with us always.

All **Amen.**

St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church
www.stmarymagdalene-md.org
Rector: The Rev. Sarah Lamming, D.Min.

The Iona Community
www.iona.org.uk

The Church of England
www.churchofengland.org

The Episcopal Church
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