



**A SERVICE FOR THE
NATIONAL DAY OF REFLECTION**

**Tuesday 23 March 2021
at 5.30pm**

Welcome

A warm welcome to York Minster and to this live-streamed service to mark the first Anniversary of the initial lock down in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. We hope that this simple service will allow space for personal reflection and recollection, particularly for those who have lost loved ones.

In this service there are words of scripture, spoken and sung, and we are given time and space to lose ourselves in prayer and come closer to God.

Order of Service

Welcome and Opening Prayer

The Dean introduces the service and welcomes those watching, and then says the opening prayer:

Most merciful God,
who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ
delivered and saved the world:
grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross
we may triumph in the power of his victory;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Psalm

The Lord is my shepherd ♦ therefore can I lack nothing.

He shall feed me in a green pasture ♦ and lead me forth beside the waters of
comfort.

He shall convert my soul ♦ and bring me forth in the paths of righteousness, for
his Name's sake.

Yea, thou I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil ♦
for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff comfort me.

Thou shalt prepare a table before me against them that trouble me ♦ thou hast
anointed my head with oil, and my cup shall be full.

But thy loving-kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life ♦ and I
will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son ♦ and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be ♦ world without end. Amen.

PSALM 23

Reading

‘Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.’

MATTHEW 11.28–30

Reflection

The Canon Pastor offers a short reflection, which ends with this prayer:

God of Love,
As we think about all that has changed this year,
help us to trust that you are always with us.
As we remember those who have died,
help us to trust they are at peace with you.
As we reach out to others with kindness and care,
may hope shine out in every heart and home.
Amen.

There is a time for reflection, during which the choir sings:

Anthem

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh even from the Lord, who hath made heaven and earth. He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: and he that keepeth thee will not sleep. Behold, he that keepeth Israel: shall neither slumber nor sleep.

Words Psalm 121. 1–4 ♦ *Music* Ernest Walker (1870–1949)

Prayers

Lord Jesus Christ,
when fear and anxiety besiege us
and hope is veiled in grief,
hold us in your wounded hands
and make your face shine on us again,
for you are our Lord and God.

Amen.

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us
from your love in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Gracious God,
as we remember before you
the thousands who have died,
surround us and all who mourn
with your strong compassion.
Be gentle with us in our grief,
protect us from despair,
and give us grace to persevere
and face the future with hope
in Jesus Christ our risen Lord.

Amen.

Lord of all, we praise you
for all whom we love but see no longer,
who have entered into their rest.
Give us grace to follow in their footsteps
as they followed in the way of your Son.
Thank you for the memory of those you have called to yourself:
by each memory, turn our hearts from things seen
to things unseen,
and lead us till we come to the eternal rest
you have prepared for your people,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has 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.**

The choir sings:

Anthem

God be in my head, and in my understanding;
God be in mine eyes, and in my looking;
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;
God be in my heart, and in my thinking;
God be at mine end, and at my departing.

Words Pynson's *Horae* (1514) ♦ *Music* Richard Lloyd (*b.* 1933)

The Blessing

The peace of God,
which passes all understanding
keep your hearts and minds
in the knowledge and love of God,
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.
And the blessing of God Almighty;
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

Voluntary

Solemn Melody

Henry Walford Davies

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