



St Mark's
Time to
pray

**Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven.**

Join us in prayer in which we will seek God's guidance for our church, for the world and ourselves.

Our church needs us. Our congregation is small in numbers and getting smaller. If St Mark's is to survive to continue to serve the people of Longwood in the future, there must be change and growth, both spiritually and in numbers. So let us pray for these.

Please use the prayer for growth and the Lord's Prayer as often as you wish in addition to the daily suggestions.

Find a time which you can set aside each day – any time is fine. You may want to pray alone or with others who live with you. You may wish to agree with a friend that you will both pray separately but at the same time – whatever feels right for you.

You might want to light a candle, or have a crucifix or an icon near, or even a picture of something which reminds you of the wonders of creation.

There is a Bible reading for each day and some suggestions for informal talking to God about things – prayer is informal and formal and everything in between. The God who loves us wants to share our concerns, our wishes and our hopes. As our loving Father, God will guide and help us – but we have to play our part and spend time listening for His voice.

Monday

Opening Prayer

For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies, for the love which from our birth over and around us lies, Father unto Thee we raise, this our thankful hymn of praise.
Amen.

Bible Reading

Jesus said, 'The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.'

Mark 4.26-29

Thank God for the glory of creation and the beauty of the world.

Thank him for something created which means a lot to you – a tree in the park, flowers in your garden, your pet.

Ask God to bless those things.

Ask God to bless our church with growth spiritually and in numbers.

Ask God to guide you to be part of the solution.

Spend 2 minutes being still with God

Lord of creation,
whose glory is around and within us:
open our eyes to your wonders,
that we may serve you with reverence
and know your peace at our lives' end,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Almighty God who calls all creation to grow into Your loving kingdom; inspire us by Your Holy Spirit so we draw new people into St Mark's Church Longwood, grow closer to You, and increase our service to the world. Through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen

Closing Prayer

The grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. Amen.

Tuesday

Opening Prayer

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind: sight,
riches, healing of the mind, yea all I need, in
Thee to find, O Lamb of God I come. Amen.

Bible Reading

Jesus went about all the cities and villages,
teaching in their synagogues, and
proclaiming the good news of the kingdom,
and curing every disease and every sickness.

Matthew 9.35

Thank God for the gift of healing and for all
who work in the medical and healing
professions.

Thank him for a time when you or someone
you love has been healed in body, mind or
spirit.

Ask God to bless others and yourself with
good health.

Ask God to heal our church, to forgive us for
the times we have failed to reach out to
others and to heal all our relationships.

Ask God to guide you to be part of the solution.

Spend 2 minutes being still with God

Lord Jesus, who healed the sick and gave them new life,
be with all carers and health professionals,
as they act as agents of your healing touch.
In desperate times, keep them strong yet loving;
and when their work is done,
be with them in their weariness and in their tears.
Amen.

Almighty God who calls all creation to grow into Your loving kingdom; inspire us by Your Holy Spirit so we draw new people into St Mark's Church Longwood, grow closer to You, and increase our service to the world.
Through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen

Closing Prayer

The grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. Amen.

Wednesday

Opening Prayer

Thy hand, O God, has guided thy flock, from
age to age;
their wondrous tale is written, full clear, on
every page;
thy people owned thy goodness, and we their
deeds record;
and both of this bear witness; one Church,
one Faith, one Lord. Amen.

Bible Reading

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion
for them, because they were harassed and
helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then
he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is
plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore
ask the Lord of the harvest to send out
labourers into his harvest.'

Matthew 9.36 to end

Thank God for the worldwide Church and the
work done in His name to care for all.

Thank him for our own church here in
Longwood, for the beauty of our building and
the ministry carried out both by clergy and
lay people over many years to care for God's
people and for the building and the grounds.

Pray for the future of our church that it may always be here to take care of the people of Longwood.

Ask God to bless our church with growth spiritually and in numbers.

Ask God to guide you to be part of the solution.

Spend 2 minutes being still with God

Almighty God,
send down upon your Church
the riches of your Spirit,
and kindle in all who minister the gospel
your countless gifts of grace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Closing Prayer

The grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. Amen.

Thursday

Opening Prayer

Praise my soul the King of Heaven, to His feet thy tribute bring. Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, who like me His praise should sing? Alleluia, alleluia, praise the everlasting King. Amen.

Bible Reading

Now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, so that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father.

Ephesians 2.13-18

Thank God for the peoples of the world, for different cultures and customs and for the

way that every person is different and yet is made in God's image.

Thank him for other people who share your life or have been part of your life in the past.

Thank God for those who make you happy and for those who irritate you.

Ask God to bless them all.

Ask God to help us to remember all who have served our church faithfully in the past, and ask Him to help us to appreciate others whose views differ from our own.

Ask God to guide you to be part of the solution.

Spend 2 minutes being still with God

Creator God,
you made us all in your image:
may we discern you in all that we see,
and serve you in all that we do;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Closing Prayer

The grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. Amen.

Friday

Opening Prayer

When I survey the wondrous Cross, on which
the Prince of Glory died, my richest gain I
count but loss and pour contempt on all my
pride. Amen.

Bible Reading

Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me
with all your heart, with fasting, with
weeping, and with mourning rend your
hearts and not your clothing. Return to the
Lord, your God, for he is gracious and
merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in
steadfast love, and relents from punishing.
Who knows whether he will not turn and
relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a
grain-offering and a drink-offering for the
Lord, your God?

Joel 2.12-14

Bring before God the sins of humanity.

Be sorry for our misuse of the world's
resources and for our failure to treat all
people as being made in God's image.

Bring before God the times you have failed to serve Him and to keep His commandments. Be sorry for the times we have failed to value our church and to remember that it is God's house.

Ask God for His forgiveness and grace, that we may do better in future.

Ask God to guide you to be part of the solution.

Spend 2 minutes being still with God

Holy God, our lives are laid open before you: rescue us from the chaos of sin and through the death of your Son bring us healing and make us whole in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God who calls all creation to grow into Your loving kingdom; inspire us by Your Holy Spirit so we draw new people into St Mark's Church Longwood, grow closer to You, and increase our service to the world. Through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen

Closing Prayer

The grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. Amen.

Saturday

Opening Prayer

O God our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, be Thou our guard while troubles last and our eternal home. Amen.

Bible Reading

Jesus said to his disciples, 'Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them.'

Luke 12.35 - 37

Bring before God our concerns for the future. Pray for the world, that resources may be used for the benefit of all.

Pray for world peace, for an end to poverty, hunger and disease.

Pray that the world may acknowledge God's sovereignty.

Pray for the future of St Mark's.

Ask God to help our church to grow in numbers and in holiness.

Ask God to bring new people to our church and to help us to make them feel truly welcome among us.

Ask God to guide you to be part of the solution.

Spend 2 minutes being still with God

Almighty God,
as your kingdom dawns,
turn us from the darkness of sin to the
light of holiness,
that we may be ready to meet you
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Closing Prayer

The grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. Amen.

Sunday

Opening Prayer

No more we doubt Thee, glorious Prince of Life, life is nought without Thee, aid us in our strife. Make us more than conquerors through Thy deathless love, Bring us safe through Jordan to Thy home above. Amen.

Bible Reading

They were greatly astounded and said to one another, 'Then who can be saved?' Jesus looked at them and said, 'For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.'

Mark 10.26 - 27

Pray for faith in God's power to achieve all things.

Ask God to give us a deep joy in the power of the resurrection.

Ask God to guide you to be part of the solution.

Spend 2 minutes being still with God

Risen Lord Jesus Christ,
we believe you and all we have heard is true.
When you break bread,
may we recognise you as the fire that burns
within us,
that we may bring light to your world.
Amen.

Closing Prayer

The grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ and the
love of God and the fellowship of the Holy
Spirit be with us all evermore. Amen.

Jesus put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.'

Matthew 13.31-32

St Mark's Prayer for Growth

Almighty God who calls all creation to grow into Your loving kingdom; inspire us by Your Holy Spirit so we draw new people into our church of St Mark's Longwood, grow closer to You, and increase our service to the world. 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