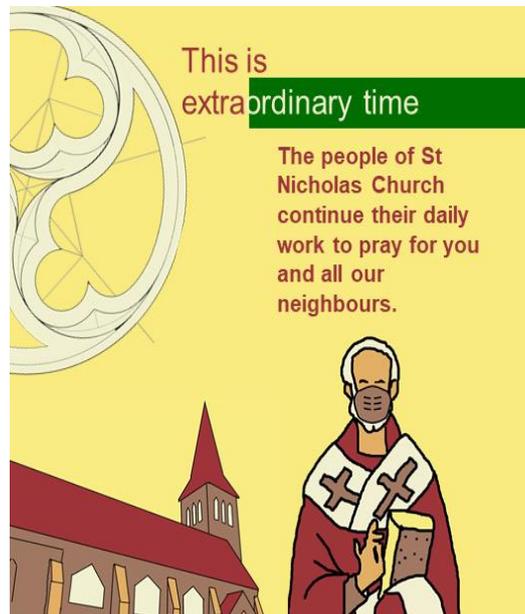


**Worship at St. Nicholas, Sutton
for Sunday next before Lent, 14 February 2021
Collect, hymns & readings**



Collect (prayer of the week)

Almighty Father,
whose Son was revealed in majesty
before he suffered death upon the cross:
give us grace to perceive his glory,
that we may be strengthened to suffer with him
and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Hymns

Opening *Lord, the light of your love*
Gradual *We hail thy presence glorious*

Readings

2 Kings 2.1-12 *Elijah Ascends to Heaven*

2Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. ²Elijah said to Elisha, 'Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel.' But Elisha said, 'As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So they went down to Bethel. ³The company of prophets* who were in Bethel

came out to Elisha, and said to him, 'Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?' And he said, 'Yes, I know; keep silent.'

4 Elijah said to him, 'Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho.' But he said, 'As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So they came to Jericho. ⁵The company of prophets* who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, 'Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?' And he answered, 'Yes, I know; be silent.'

6 Then Elijah said to him, 'Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan.' But he said, 'As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So the two of them went on. ⁷Fifty men of the company of prophets* also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. ⁸Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

9 When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, 'Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.' Elisha said, 'Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.' ¹⁰He responded, 'You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.' ¹¹As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. ¹²Elisha kept watching and crying out, 'Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!' But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

2 Corinthians 4.3-6 *Treasure in Clay Jars*

³And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing.

⁴In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. ⁶For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness', who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Mark 9.2-9 *The Transfiguration, The Coming of Elijah*

2 Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one* on earth could bleach them. ⁴And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. ⁵Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings,* one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' ⁶He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, 'This is my Son, the Beloved;* listen to him!' ⁸Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

9 As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

Praying as a milestone is passed

The UK tragically passed 100,000 COVID-19 deaths on Tuesday 26 January. Our hearts and prayers go out to all those affected and grieving.

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have issued an open letter to the nation. They are calling on the nation to come together to pray from **1 February at 6pm**. Here is a link to the statement: <https://www.churchofengland.org/news-and-media/news-and-statements/coronavirus-archbishops-invite-nation-pause-pray-and-remember>

The Dean of Southwark, the Very Revd Andrew Nunn has provided a prayer:

'Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?'
'These are they who have come out of the great ordeal.'
(Revelation 7.13, 14)

God of love,
who hold us in life as in death,
as we commend each one of those who have died
to your eternal and tender care
comfort all who grieve,
hold us in our sorrow
and give us that sense of hope
which brings us all
to resurrection life
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

I encourage you to make a habit of daily prayer, whether *A Way of Daily Prayer* (attached, or on website under Useful Information-Service Sheets); Common Worship *Daily Prayer* <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer>; or *Book of Common Prayer*.

Bible readings for Morning and Evening Prayer:

Sunday 14 February, Sunday next before Lent

MP Exodus 24.12-end, 2 Corinthians 3.12-end

EP 1 Kings 19.1-16, 2 Peter 1.16-end

Monday 15 February

MP Jeremiah 1, John 3.1-21

EP Genesis 37.1-11, Galatians 1

Tuesday 16 February

MP Jeremiah 2.1-13, John 3.22-end

EP Genesis 37.12-end, Galatians 2.1-10

Wednesday 17 February Ash Wednesday

MP Daniel 9.3-6, 17-19, 1 Timothy 6.6-19

EP Isaiah 1.10-18, Luke 15.11-end

Thursday 18 February

MP Jeremiah 2.14-32, John 4.1-26

EP Genesis 39, Galatians 2.11-end

Friday 19 February

MP Jeremiah 3.6-22, John 4.27-42

EP , Genesis 40, Galatians 3.1-14

Saturday 20 February

MP Jeremiah 4.1-18, John 4.43-end

EP Genesis 41.1-24, Galatians 3.15-22