

**ST PETER & ST PAUL'S
CHURCH, AYLESFORD**



Act of Prayer

23rd March 2021

Welcome

Candles are lit

Prayer

Lord God, the maker and redeemer of all, as we come before you in thanksgiving for the gift of health and life, we grieve for the thousands who have died: comfort us with your presence, sustain us with the hope of your kingdom, and give us grace to live our lives well; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Words of comfort from the Bible

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd; therefore can I lack nothing.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.
- 3 He shall refresh my soul and guide me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

- 4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- 5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; you have anointed my head with oil and my cup shall be full.
- 6 Surely goodness and loving mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Psalm 23

'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

I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8.38-39

Cast all your anxieties upon God, for God cares for you.

1 Peter 5.7

Hymn

O Christ, you wept when grief was raw,
and felt for those who mourned a friend;
come close to where we would not be
and hold us numb by this life's end

The well-loved voice is silent now
and we have much we meant to say;
collect our lost and wandering words
and keep them till the endless day.

We try to hold what is not here
and fear for what we do not know.
Oh, take our hands in yours, good Lord,
and free us to let our friend go.

In all our loneliness and doubt,
beyond what we can realise,
address us from your empty tomb
and tell us that life never ends.

The Iona Community

Sharing thoughts and memories

Prayers

Prayers to help us reflect, connect and
hope.

Ending with The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us so we pray

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the
glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

Hymn

Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your side;
bear patiently the cross of grief and pain;
leave to your God to order and provide;
in every change he faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul: your best, your heav'nly
friend,
through thorny ways, leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul: when dearest friends
depart
and all is darkened in the vale of tears.
Then you shall better know his love, his
heart,
who comes to soothe your sorrows and
your fears.

Be still, my soul: so Jesus can repay
from his own fullness all he takes away.

Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on
when we shall be for ever with the Lord,
when disappointment, grief and fear are
gone,
sorrow forgotten, love's pure joy restored.
Be still, my soul: when change and tears
are past
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.
Kathrina von Schlegel

Blessing

Christ the Good Shepherd
enfold us with love,
fill us with peace,
and lead us in hope,
to the end of our days;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among us and remain with us always.
Amen.

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