

Evening Prayer

We read:

This is what God says, God who builds a road right through the ocean, who carves a path through pounding waves. "Forget about what's happened; don't keep going over old history. Be alert, be present. I'm about to do something brand-new. It's bursting out! Don't you see it? There it is! I'm making a road through the desert, rivers in the badlands. Wild animals will say 'Thank you!' the coyotes and the buzzards - because I provided water in the desert, rivers through the sun-baked earth, drinking water for the people I chose, the people I made especially for myself. A people custom-made to praise me".

(Verses from Isaiah 43 v 16-21 The Message)

We reflect:

Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; but they were kept from recognizing him.

He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?" They stood still, their faces downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?"

"What things?" he asked. "About Jesus of Nazareth" they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. (Luke 24 v 13-19 NIV)

- Reflect on the events of your day,
- Notice the times you were not aware of Jesus accompanying your journey,
- Reflect on any 'stood still' moments,
- Notice the moments of disappointments and frustrations
- Notice the moments of revelation.

We release:

Lord, thank you for walking with me through this day. I am aware, like the two on the road to Emmaus, that there were times in the day I did not recognise your company on the path. Help me to notice your presence more tomorrow, as I continue to walk through this season of wilderness. Amen.

Now Lord, I release to you:

My wilderness journey of today....

The burdens I have carried this day....

My worries and fears for tomorrow....

My loved ones....

Myself....

Hold me and my loved ones, enfolded in the security of your love.

Amen

Collect for Night Prayer

Visit this place, O Lord, I pray, and drive far from it the snares of the enemy; may your holy Angels dwell with me and guard me in peace, and may your blessing be always upon me; through Jesus Christ my Lord.

Amen

churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/common-worship

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Walking the Wilderness in a Season of Exile

We begin:

The Lord Reigns.

In this season of exile, we are discovering new ways to live daily life. Our usual daily patterns have been set aside, and we are establishing a 'new normal', to see us through this time of exile. This third daily office from CCHC reflects on walking the wilderness as realisation dawns that we are likely to be in exile for some time yet. Wilderness experiences can vary for each one of us, and they can serve different purposes, at different times, in our lives. You are invited to use this daily office, or to continue to use a previous one; whichever serves you best. Feel free to use the daily office flexibly, and include it within your own daily readings if you wish, or to use different readings than the verses suggested here.

Whichever daily office you choose to do, we remain in community as daily we seek the Lords face. We are called to be light at this time of global, national and personal turmoil, and to point to Father, the source of all comfort and in whom we trust.

We continue to walk by faith through this season of exile, knowing that the Lord reigns, we walk with humility, seeking only to respond to His leading as we lean on the Holy Spirit, we walk in love, for the Lord and for each other, and we walk in gratitude, maintaining a heart of thankfulness in all we do.

The Lord Reigns.

Morning Prayer

We praise the Lord:

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

His love endures forever.

Give thanks to the God of gods.

His love endures forever.

Give thanks to the Lord of lords:

His love endures forever.

Give thanks to the God of heaven.

His love endures forever. (Psalm 136 v 1-3,26 NIV)

We read: (or use your own daily reading)

Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. Moses could not enter the tent of meeting because the cloud had settled on it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.

In all the travels of the Israelites, whenever the cloud lifted from above the tabernacle, they would set out; but if the cloud did not lift, they did not set out—until the day it lifted. So, the cloud of the Lord was over the tabernacle by day, and fire was in the cloud by night, in the sight of all the Israelites during all their travels.

(verses from Exodus 40 v 34-38 NIV)

We pray:

Father, thank you that in the wilderness you provided the pillar of cloud and the pillar of fire, and you continue to signpost the way ahead for each one of us today. We pray for the eyes and the heart to see and respond to your leading, even when we don't know where we are going or what lies ahead. Our trust is in you, Father. Amen.

We reflect on the possibility:

That we may be led into the wilderness not to be lost, but that we might be found.

Pause....

That the wilderness may be a place of preparation rather than a place of residence.

Pause.....

That we might see the wilderness as a gift, rather than a punishment.

Pause....

We pray:

We pray for the re-framing of our perceptions, to see the wilderness as a school, a place of learning, where we can grow and where we can learn to recognise the pillars of cloud and fire in our lives, and follow them.

Lord Jesus, help us to do what you did in your wilderness times, to keep our eyes on Father, to seek his face and to trust that we are held, even when we feel we cannot hold on any longer. Thank you, Lord, Amen

We intercede:

For those like Adam and Eve, in the wilderness of exile.....

For those like Hannah, in the wilderness of lost hope

For those like Job, in the wilderness of suffering

For those like Naomi, in the wilderness of grief....

For those like Jesus, in the wilderness of Gethsemane....

For those like Saul, in the wilderness of unbelief.....

Father, we pray for each one that the wilderness may be:

- A place of provision, as it was for the children of Israel, when you provided daily manna;
- A place of sanctuary, as it was for Elijah, when he was hidden from the eyes of those who wanted to destroy him;
- A place of worship – as you intended for the children of Israel.

We pray in the name of Jesus, that the wilderness may become a sacred space, a place of Presence, where we grow closer to you.

Amen

We declare:

The Lord is good,

His love endures for ever;

With a mighty hand and outstretched arm,

His love endures forever.

He led His people through the desert,

His love endures forever.

(Psalm 136 v 1, 12, 16. NIV)

Midday Prayer

We read:

Remember how the Lord your God led you all the way in the wilderness these forty years, to humble and test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands. He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your ancestors had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord. Your clothes did not wear out and your feet did not swell during these forty years. Know then in your heart that as a man disciplines his son, so the Lord your God disciplines you.

Observe the commands of the Lord your God, walking in obedience to him and revering him. For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land—a land with brooks, streams, and deep springs gushing out into the valleys and hills; a land with wheat and barley, vines and fig trees, pomegranates, olive oil and honey; a land where bread will not be scarce and you will lack nothing; a land where the rocks are iron and you can dig copper out of the hills. When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the Lord your God for the good land he has given you.

(Deuteronomy 8 v 2-10 61 NIV)