

Prayer for the Nation

Psalm 23 – a source of strength

Psalm 23 has been a source of strength for thousands of years. Below is a version with additional words for reflection by the Bishop of Oxford, Rt Rev Steven Croft. He suggests that we pause and say it every day at 6 pm through this crisis we now face.

When we are isolated and alone, we remember God is with us; we place our hands in his hands...

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

When we are tired and confused...

He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;

When we are worn out with worry...

He restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

When we are sick and afraid and if we lose those we love...

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff - they comfort me.

When we face difficulties today and we hope for a better tomorrow...

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

In the face of trouble & difficulty of all kinds, we remember Jesus' promise of life beyond death...

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

Finish reading Psalm 23 with the Lord's Prayer.

Bible verses used here are NRSV, the commentary is by the Rt Revd Dr Steven Croft, Bishop of Oxford