

DAILY BIBLE READINGS AND PRAYER April 2020

The bible readings and prayers for April are based around hope – God’s love for us and his faithfulness through all generations gives us hope for the future in these challenging times. As we won’t be able to share the events of Holy Week and Easter together in the usual ways, there are readings and prayers here that you can use to help you reflect through the season.

April 1st: Isaiah 43:1-7 We are living through unprecedented times with an uncertain future. Thank God for the hope that we have in Him for the future in the midst of all the current challenges.

April 2nd: Exodus 3 One of the reasons we can be hopeful is our knowledge of God’s past faithfulness in times of hardship. Thank God for the way in which he rescued his people from their slavery in Egypt.

April 3rd: Deuteronomy 34 Though the Israelites faced uncertain times in the wilderness, God guided them to the promised land. Pray for our leaders and all who are a part of the decision-making process at this time. Give them strength and wisdom to see a way ahead.

April 4th: Jeremiah 29:10-14 Even after the Exile God could be relied upon to fulfil his promises. Praise Him that he stays with us through times of tribulation and we can place our hope in Him.

Holy Week and Easter April 5th: Palm Sunday, Matthew 21:1-11 As the people waved and laid palm branches before Jesus, reflect on how often we truly welcome and praise God for coming into our lives.

April 6th: Matthew 21:12-17 Pray for the strength to continue to honour Jesus as we worship in ones or twos during the enforced closure of our churches during this demanding time.

April 7th: Luke 20 Some of Jesus most difficult teaching is found as he speaks to the crowds and the religious leaders during that last week. Thank God that Jesus is the cap or the cornerstone and that, though sometimes challenging, we can rely on Him.

April 8th: Matthew 26:6-16 Sometimes, like Judas, we want Jesus to do the things we want or act the way we think he should. Pray for the courage to trust Him, even when the outcome seems uncertain or not what we would like.

April 9th: Maundy Thursday, Luke 22:7-46 Jesus told us when we eat a meal to remember Him. Today, let’s pray for faithfulness to continue to reflect on his sacrifice as we go through the day.

April 10th: Good Friday, Luke 22:47-23:48 Today, sometime between 12:00 noon and 3:00 pm stop for a few moments to reflect on Jesus' death on the cross, its horror and brutality and the immeasurable love of God.

April 11th: John 19:38-42 Scripture is basically silent about today. Jesus lies alone in the tomb. In some traditions, churches host remembrance services for friends and family who have died. Pray today for all those who have recently been bereaved, whether because of this pandemic or from other causes.

April 12th: Easter Sunday, John 20:1-23 Awaken with a song in your heart. He is Risen — The Lord Is Risen Indeed! Hallelujah!

April 13th: Luke 24:13-32 Jesus helps the confused followers to make sense of all that they had seen and learned from him in words and actions. Thank God for the different ways in which he leads us to him.

April 14th: John 20:24-31 Even though we often doubt, Jesus patiently guides our footsteps. Pray today for all whose faith is being sorely tested at this time.

April 15th: John 21:1-19 Peter is a wonderful, human example for us all. Thank God for his love and forgiveness and the hope that the life of Peter gives to each of us.

April 16th: Matthew 28:16-20 Reflect on Jesus words in your current situation — “I will be with you always, to the very end of the age.”

April 17th: Romans 5:1-5 Paul repeats what the Israelites learned in our readings at the start of the month, that we come closer to God in difficult times. Pray for all who are finding this month a challenge, that they may know God's presence and peace.

April 18th: Mark 5:1-36 Pray for the courage, like Jairus to have faith and hope, even in the darkest situations.

April 19th: Psalm 46 Take some time today simply to be still and know the presence and the strength of God.

April 20th: Philippians 1:12-26 Yet again at the start of this letter God is working through challenging times when Paul is in prison. Pray for continued positive exposure for Christian communities through the increased use of social media.

April 21st: Philippians 2:12-18 In these difficult days ask God to help you and the whole church family to continue to follow and serve him.

April 22nd: Philippians 2:19-30 Thank God for all who are caring for others in the emergency and health service, for their dedication often at their own risk.

April 23rd: Philippians 4:4-9 Spend a little time today reflecting on your deepest concerns and dare to hand them over to our loving God.

April 24th: Romans 8:24-28 Sometimes it's difficult to know what to pray for or where to start. Allow the Holy Spirit to offer our petitions to the Lord, trusting that he knows best.

April 25th: Hebrews 11 How often do we not see the fruits of our labour? Lord, give us the faith to be content that we are all part of your greater plan.

April 26th: Psalm 118 This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

April 27th: Romans 15:1-13 As we are not physically spending time with one another at the moment, spend some time in prayer for the church family, that they might know God's joy and peace.

April 28th: Mark 4:30-34 Pray for those who have encountered God's word digitally, perhaps for the first time, in these last weeks. Pray that a seed has been planted and that it will be given space and support to grow.

April 29th: 1 Peter 1:3-9 Praise God for the ultimate hope that we have through Jesus Christ. Pray for strength to endure the refiner's fire.

April 30th: Proverbs 3:5-6 Spend some time today reflecting on how you can rely more on God and less on your own ability.