Leading worship 28th April.

Good morning everybody. Thank you for joining us for our time of prayer and reflection.

We begin with a prayer after St Cyprian circa 200-258

Blessed are you, Lord our God Giver of life,

Father, Son, and Holy spirit.

At the opening of this day you call us out of darkness

Into your marvellous light.

Blessed are you for ever and ever.

Our reading from Scripture this morning will be given to us by Pril. Thank you Pril.

Another prayer which focuses on the unity of our churches

Lord we pray for the unity of your church.

Help us to see ourselves as rays from the one Son, branches of a single tree, and streams flowing from one river.

May we remain united to you and to each other, because you are our common source of life; may we send out your light, and pour forth your flowing streams over all the earth drawing out our inspiration and joy from you.

Gracious Father we pray for your church.

Fill it with your truth and keep it in your peace.

Where it is corrupt, purge it; where it is in error correct it:

Where it is right, strengthen and confirm it;

Where it needs help, provide for it;

Where it is divided, heal it, and unite it in your love.

Through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

(William Loud 1573-1645)

Prayer : The churches banquet angles age,

God’s breath in man returning to its birth,

The soul in paraphrase, heart in pilgrimage

The Christian plummet, sounding heaven and earth

Engine against the Almighty, Sinners tower.

Reversed thunder, Christ-side piercing spear.

The six-days world transposing in an hour,

A kind of tune, which all things hear and fear;

Softness and peace, and joy, and love, and bliss,

Exalted manner, gladness of the best,

Heaven in ordinary, man well drest,

The milky way, the bird of Paradise,

Church Bells beyond the stars heard,

The souls blood, the land of spices;

Something understood.

This wonderful poem form the pen of George Herbert, a parish priest in the reign of Elizabeth the first. He came from the nobility,

but chose to remain a parish priest. This wonderful poem, encourages us to think about our prayer life.

It makes it clear that prayer life is not one thing, it is many things,

that we encounter or experience. It allows for many things for us to use as a gateway to meditation and contemplation.

Pick out a phrase that strikes you, and in your own time of stillness and quiet, follow where it takes you.

Blessing

The love of the Lord Jesus

draw you to himself,

the power of the Lord Jesus

strengthen you in his service,

the joy of the Lord Jesus fill your hearts;

and the blessing of God almighty,

the father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

Be among you and remain with you always.