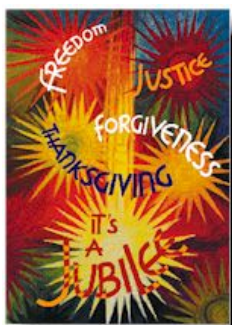


## Chelmsford Cathedral – Prayer for Today

FRIDAY, 17 September 2021



O Lord, open our lips  
**and our mouth shall proclaim your praise!**

You gave us downpours  
to refresh the promised land  
where you nourish your flock.  
Gracious God, you strengthen the weak.  
God speaks a word;  
a company of women  
spreads the good news.  
*Words from Psalm 68*

*As you enter into prayer today, take a moment to be still. Come into God's presence with a deepfelt desire to meet with God now. Know that God is the God who sees you and that God is looking at you now with great love. Pause for a moment and be still.*

In the face of Jesus Christ,  
your light and glory have blazed forth  
to all the nations, O God;  
with all your people,  
may we make known your grace  
and live out your ways of peace. Amen.

*Here we get a brief glimpse of the wider circle of people around Jesus as he travels around preaching and teaching and healing the sick. The Twelve are here, but so also are a group of women who are providing financial support to Jesus' mission. Jesus is never a solo hero but always part of a community of people on whom he depends. And although we only hear these names here in passing as if they were incidental and unimportant, these are the same women who will witness the death of Jesus. And Mary Magdalene (who is never referred to in the Bible as a prostitute whatever later tradition invented) will be the first witness to the resurrection. Our lives as followers of Jesus are never incidental or unimportant.*

### **Luke 8.1-3**

Soon afterwards Jesus went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. The twelve were with him, as well as some women who had been cured of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, and Joanna, the wife of Herod's steward Chuza, and Susanna, and many others, who provided for them out of their resources.

*Spend some time reflecting on the reading, mulling it over.  
Ask God what God wants you to hear today.*

*Offer your personal prayers and thanksgivings  
and offer the day to God in a spirit of gratitude and thanksgiving.*

*End this time of prayer by saying the Lord's Prayer.*

*To keep in touch and for more resources for daily prayer  
Please visit [chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk](http://chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk)*