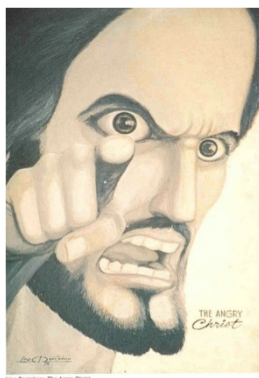


Chelmsford Cathedral – Prayer for Today

THURSDAY, 14 October 2021



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

Remember this, Lord!

Enemies scorn you, fools revile your name.

Do not give your dove to the hawk,

do not neglect your poor for ever.

Remember the covenant,

for the world is darkened by violence.

Save the downtrodden from ruin.

Let the poor and needy praise your name.

Words from Psalm 74

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.

O God, let not pride stiffen our necks,
but help us to give you thanks
and praise your name for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

Today as Jesus' tirade continues, notice what lies at the heart of Jesus' anger: the religious authorities have completely failed to understand what kind of people God is calling them to be. As a result, they don't move forward themselves and then prevent others from doing so. Inevitably, perhaps, the hostility of the scribes and Pharisees to the teaching of Jesus grows.

It is important for followers of Jesus today to examine themselves and recognise the ways in which we have actually behaved like Jesus' opponents and made it impossible for others to hear the call of God or to recognise God at work in their lives.

Luke 11.47-end

Jesus continued 'Woe to you! For you build the tombs of the prophets whom your ancestors killed. So you are witnesses and approve of the deeds of your ancestors; for they killed them, and you build their tombs. Therefore also the Wisdom of God said, "I will send them prophets and apostles, some of whom they will kill and persecute", so that this generation may be charged with the blood of all the prophets shed since the foundation of the world, from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who perished between the altar and the sanctuary. Yes, I tell you, it will be charged against this generation. Woe to you lawyers! For you have taken away the key of knowledge; you did not enter yourselves, and you hindered those who were entering.'

When he went outside, the scribes and the Pharisees began to be very hostile towards him and to cross-examine him about many things, lying in wait for him, to catch him in something he might say.

*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*