

Praying with today's collect

Following on from Wednesday's Morning Worship and yesterday's reflection, today's collect echoes our thoughts on seeking God's guidance and discernment as we move out of lockdown into a time when we are working towards opening the church for services.

We appeal to the God who made us, our loving and living God who remains steadfast in his love for us and who is a constant in these rapidly changing times. Constant but still moving. He moves towards us, and when we seek to do his will and hold our relationship with him at the forefront of everything we think and do then we are responding to that positive, caring movement with movement of our own. We draw closer together.

We are praying for discernment as we are working out how to open safely, and how we move forward in the coming months, prayerfully and carefully. We pray to hear God's voice amidst the daily flurry of information, we pray with intention and integrity to stop and listen to what is his will for us and for our community.

Yesterday I asked what sort of community do we want to be? A community of service, is my prayer. A community that truly recognises that everyone is made in God's image, a community that is hungry to hear God's truth and listens with intention for his guidance, a community that humbly serves without judgement, a community that in every way seeks to be followers of Christ.

Let us pray together this prayer, the collect for today, setting our intention to be always moving towards God in everything we think, and say and do.

Creator God

You made us all in your image:

May we discern you in all that we see,

And serve you in all that we do;

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Interesting Fact #408

You may wonder, what is this prayer called a collect, which we encounter in our worship services and in Morning and Evening Prayer?

Simply defined, a collect is a prayer that gathers together all the intentions of the people and the focus of worship, "collecting" it all into one concise prayer.

All collects pretty much fit a simple formula that looks something like this:

We address God and we say something of his character or actions in the world

“Creator God”

There is a request or petition

“May we discern you in all that we see

And serve you in all that we do”

There is an invocation and some words of praise (the doxology)

“Through Jesus Christ our Lord”

There is the Amen, uttered at the end of a prayer to say “so be it”

You may notice this in action when we pray collects together in the future, even if you already knew this little gem, it serves as a prompt to remember the different aspects of the prayers we say, how they have an intention behind them and how in praying them at home and in praying them in our community, we are setting our intentions with those of millions of other Christians, our brothers and our sisters around the globe to align ourselves with the will of God.