



A New Beginning

*God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit –
calls us to set our sights on the goal
of following and living in the way of
Christ.*

God calls to us follow now.

Hymn: Be still for the Presence of the Lord

Prayers of praise, adoration and confession

Lord God, we are all so different, each our own being;
and yet you love and care for us all,
you nurture and protect us.
How can we not be thankful to you
for all that the journey with you offers!
We thank you that you guide us,
in unexpected ways, to find the right way in life.
We thank you that when we wander, you draw us back to you,
give us new direction and encourage us to follow where you lead.
We thank you that you know our individual needs and quirks,
and yearn for us to be on the journey of life with you.
We thank you that the pains of life can be overshadowed
by the joy of walking with you.
For all these blessings and more,
we give you thanks and praise.
Amen.

God of the journey of life,
the mystery of our very being,
we confess that the journey we take
gets disrupted and we get side-tracked.
We go off on wild goose chases that lead us nowhere,
up blind alleys and into bad and barren places.
We find our way back to you in sorrow for our failings
and in penitence for our wanderings.
May we be enriched by your welcome,
relieved by your forgiveness
and comforted by your all-embracing love.
Amen.

Prayers taken from [rootsontheweb](http://rootsontheweb.com)

Reading: Philippians 3:4b-14

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷ Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ,^[a] the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ^[b] and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal;^[c] but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³ Beloved,^[d] I do not consider that I have made it my own;^[e] but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly^[f] call of God in Christ Jesus.

Address: New Beginnings – Rev Heflin



Prayers of intercession

Let us join together and share in bringing our concerns to God in trust and hope.

Let us pray:

Lord we pray for the world you have made – full of wonder and beauty – full of promise and diversity for all to enjoy but spoiled by thoughtlessness, selfishness and greed.

Our world where resources are not shared and some lives not valued.

We pray for areas of the world torn apart by conflict and discrimination.

Guide the leaders of the world to make good decisions.

And renew in us all a desire to play our part in the healing of creation.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Lord we pray for the church throughout the world witnessing to your gospel of saving love through words and deeds. Especially we pray for Christians suffering persecution for their faith. We pray for our Richmond and Hounslow circuit for the ministers, layworkers, local preachers, worship leaders and stewards. Bless all our congregations – those who are able to attend worship in church, those who join in online and those who share through written services at home. May we all hear and respond to your word and give us joy, peace and hope in these uncertain times, trusting in your presence with us each new day.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer



Lord we pray for those who are ill, frail, anxious or lonely and those who care for them.
We remember all who have Covid-19 and those whose lives are affected by long Covid.
Help the scientists working to produce an effective vaccine.
We pray for those grieving for loved ones who have died – may they know your comfort through the love and support of family and friends. In a moment of silence let us each hold before God those we know who need healing in body, mind or spirit.


Lord in your mercy
Hear our prayer

Lord we pray for ourselves. Help us to lay aside any burdens or bitterness from the past and grasp the chance of new beginnings. May we move forward with renewed confidence and trust in your powerful saving love for each one of us and give us grace to live to your praise and glory.

Lord in your mercy
Hear our prayer

We bring all our prayers and thoughts together as we share in saying the Lord's Prayer:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name;
Thy kingdom come;
Thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen**



Hymn: Be thou my vision

Blessing

May the blessing of God, Father, Son and Spirit be with us all and remain with us all, now and evermore. Amen

