PRAYERS FOR WESLEY 300 OPEN DAYS ST MARYS CHURCH FLEET MARSTON

FRIDAY 3 OCTOBER 2025 and SATURDAY 4 OCTOBER 2025

Following Ordination in Christ Church Oxford, Revd John Wesley actually preached his first sermon here at St Marys Fleet Marston at Mattins on 3rd October 1725 where he preached on Job 3 v17 and in the afternoon at St Mary Magdalene Upper Winchendon.

Revd John Wesley's sermon was Job 3 v17
Scripture Reading – *Job 3:11–19 (KJV)*

11 Why died I not from the womb?
why did I not give up the ghost when I came out of the belly?

12 Why did the knees prevent me?
or why the breasts that I should suck?

13 For now should I have lain still and been quiet,
I should have slept: then had I been at rest,

14 With kings and counsellors of the earth,
which built desolate places for themselves.

15 Or with princes that had gold,
who filled their houses with silver:

16 Or as an hidden untimely birth I had not been;
as infants which never saw light.

17 There the wicked cease from troubling;
and there the weary be at rest.

18 There the prisoners rest together;
they hear not the voice of the oppressor.

19 The small and great are there;
and the servant is free from his master.

A prayer of Repentance from Psalm 51 v 1-2

Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your lovingkindness;
According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my transgressions.
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin.

The Collect of the day for Friday 3rd October 2025

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit upon your Church in the burning fire of your love: grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of the gospel that, always abiding in you, they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever; Amen.

These paraphrase words are from John Wesley's book of prayers for Friday morning

God you are merciful, gracious, patient and abounding in both goodness and truth. Your love covers a multitude of sins. You pardon all our iniquity, transgressions, and sin. God, how excellent is your love and kindness! All humanities' children should put their trust under the "shadow of your wings" (Psalm 91:4). So, we still look to your bountiful hand since you give us every good thing. Lord, have favour on us, as you do for all that love your holy name! Do not look upon our sinful desires, nor the sins of our hearts and lives, which are more than we can remember and greater than we can express. It is only due to the Lord's love that we are not consumed by sin, because your compassion does not fail. Instead you look upon the face of your anointed Son, who came to this world to take away our sins. Through Jesus we have access to you and your glorious majesty.

God, be merciful to us as sinners for the sake of Jesus, our Prince and Saviour, who gives us both the opportunity for repentance and the forgiveness of sins. Be merciful, God, be merciful to our souls, who have sinned against you. Heal our backslidings; give us a new repentance and set firm our hearts in awe and love. Please also set firm our daily walk in your way so we do not lose our steps. Help us to waver no more and help us to never be weary or faint of mind. Help us so we do not rebel against you or turn to foolish actions again. After you speak peace to our souls, may we continue by overcoming all the enemies of our spiritual lives and all that hinders our salvation till you place Satan under our feet.

We know Jesus Christ provides an infinite fullness to all we can want or wish. May we receive that fullness as grace upon grace. Give us grace to pardon our sins, subdue unjust actions, justify our persons, and sanctify our souls. May we complete this holy transformation, the total renewal of our hearts, so we may be transformed into the blessed image in which you created us. Make us worthy to take part in the inheritance of your saints in your presence.

Teach us, God, to use this world without abusing it. Help us to receive what we need for the body without losing what we have gained in your love, which is better than life itself. Whatever we have in this world, may we be content with your gift and love, made holy by the word of God, prayer, and our stewardship to your glory. Regardless of what we want from this world, do not leave us destitute of the very things that come from salvation. Adorn our souls with such gifts and graces of the Holy Spirit that we may adorn the message of God, our Saviour, in all things.

Now that you have renewed our lives, as well as your love to us this morning, help us to live anew our desires, commitments, and efforts to live in obedience to your holy will. Restrain us from sins we are most prone to fall into. Encourage us to embrace the very duties we are reluctant to perform. Grant that we may think, speak, will, and accomplish those things that are becoming of the children of our heavenly Father. As you do so, we will find comfort in your gracious acceptance of us in Jesus Christ, our Saviour, who taught us to pray:

***Our Father 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*

The Wesley or Methodist Covenant Prayer

I am no longer my own, but yours, Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will; put me to doing, put me to suffering; let me be employed for you, or laid aside for you, exalted for you, or brought low for you; let me be full, let me be empty, let me have all things, let me have nothing: I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things to your pleasure and disposal. And now, glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, you are mine and I am yours. So be it. And the covenant now made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen

Please use these words of Rev John Wesley to reflect on what this means to you

I build on Christ, the rock of ages; on His sure mercies described in His word, and on His promises, all which I know are yea and Amen

Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.

"The best of all is, God is with us" were John Wesley's last words

The Blessing Numbers 6 v22-26 The Lord bless you and keep you; The Lord make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you; The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace.