

Prayer Service, Thursday, 23 April 2020

All the world's a stage / And all the men and women merely players. / They have their exits and their entrances, / And one man in his time plays many parts.

— *AS YOU LIKE IT, ACT 2 SCENE 7*

Saint Day for George, Martyr, Patron of England, c.304

**Also: The birth and death of William Shakespeare (1564-1616)
The death of William Wordsworth (1770-1850)**



Carpaccio's St George & the Dragon
Scuola di San Giorgio degli Schiavoni, Venice

<https://binged.it/2KnSA7l> Reading of Daffodils by Jeremy Irons

¹⁻³ It seemed like a dream, too good to be true,
when GOD returned Zion's exiles.

We laughed, we sang,
we couldn't believe our good fortune.

We were the talk of the nations—
"GOD was wonderful to them!"

GOD *was* wonderful to us;
we are one happy people.

⁴⁻⁶ And now, GOD, do it again—
bring rains to our drought-stricken lives

So those who planted their crops in despair
will shout hurrahs at the harvest,

So those who went off with heavy hearts
will come home laughing, with armloads of blessing [*Psalm 126, The Message*]

<https://binged.it/2KrhQty> **I Vow to thee my country, Festival of Remembrance 2011**
or

<https://binged.it/3bzFrnS> from Kate and William's wedding

Revelation 12:7-12 New International Version (NIV)

⁷ Then war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. ⁸ But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. ⁹ The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.

¹⁰ Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say:

"Now have come the salvation and the power
and the kingdom of our God,
and the authority of his Messiah.

For the accuser of our brothers and sisters,
who accuses them before our God day and night,
has been hurled down.

¹¹ They triumphed over him

by the blood of the Lamb
and by the word of their testimony;
they did not love their lives so much
as to shrink from death.
¹² Therefore rejoice, you heavens
and you who dwell in them!
But woe to the earth and the sea,
because the devil has gone down to you!
He is filled with fury,
because he knows that his time is short.”

2 Timothy 2:3-13

New International Version (NIV)

³ Join with me in suffering, like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. ⁴ No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in civilian affairs, but rather tries to please his commanding officer. ⁵ Similarly, anyone who competes as an athlete does not receive the victor’s crown except by competing according to the rules. ⁶ The hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops. ⁷ Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this.

⁸ Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel, ⁹ for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But God’s word is not chained. ¹⁰ Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.

¹¹ Here is a trustworthy saying:

If we died with him, we will also live with him;

¹² if we endure, we will also reign with him.

If we disown him, he will also disown us;

¹³ if we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot disown himself.

Meditation: *Our themes today are suffering, endurance, joy and blessing.*

<https://binged.it/2VRQNwL> Kimberly & Alberto Rivera, Release the song

Lay back and give it all to God. All your thoughts, all your desires, all your cares, all your sorrows. Just be with your God. Your God loves you. Bask in His love.

John 15:18-21

New International Version (NIV)

The World Hates the Disciples

¹⁸ “If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. ¹⁹ If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. ²⁰ Remember what I told you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’^[a] If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also. ²¹ They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the one who sent me.

Prayer

We remember those who are suffering in the world right now and pray for the blessing that will come at the end of this long dark night.

We remember the Church, the power of Christ in the shining lights all around the world, lifting up prayers of grace, healing and love for all.

We remember governments, struggling to know how to respond as the pandemic twists and turns to evade capture for all the wisdom of Christ to transform this world here and now.

The Lord's Prayer

Collect

God of hosts, who so kindled the flame of love in the heart of your servant George that he bore witness to the risen Lord by his life and by his death: give us the same faith and power of love that we who rejoice in his triumphs may come to share with him the fullness of the resurrection; 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.*

Hymn 33 - And can it be <https://binged.it/3bvyGmN> **Arranged by Dan Forrest, 10/3/2016 BYU Choirs & Orchestra**

**God of life, do not darken your light to us,
O God of life, do not close your joy to us,
O God of life, do not shut your door to us,
O God of life, do not refuse your mercy to us,
and, O God of life, crown us with your gladness. Amen.**