

Intercessions for Pentecost 2020

Father God, on this day of Pentecost you sent your spirit into the world to fill us with your strength and your voice. To create, in us, the arms that reach out to your world and the voices that speak of your love.

Lord, in your mercy...hear our prayer.

Today we celebrate the day considered the birthday of the church and we do so from outside - locked out of the buildings and places that we know and love. Help us to remember that first time - preaching on the street not shut away inside, no longer waiting in an upper room with the door barred.

Rain down your Spirit upon us today Lord - help us to understand anew that we, your people, are the church not the stones that we miss. We pray that you would breathe fresh life on us, that we can share your good news and your love from where we are.

Lord, in your mercy...hear our prayer.

We pray for church throughout the world, for our leaders, our bishops and our clergy. We thank you for all the work they do looking after us. We pray for our political leaders in this time of chaos, both here in the UK and throughout the world. We pray they will make good decisions for the good of the people.

And we lift before you all our front-line workers. Everyone who is putting themselves in danger to care and provide for us and our loved ones. Bless them richly, Lord, and protect them.

Lord, in your mercy...hear our prayer.

Father God, we raise before you those we know and love who are ill at this time whether in body, mind or spirit. We pray for those who are struggling with the changes Covid has brought. Those who are at risk of violence with escape routes closed. Those already vulnerable. Those who shelter alone. Bring your comfort and your healing upon us all.

In a moment of quiet, please name before the Lord, those known to you who need our prayers at this time...

Lord, in your mercy...hear our prayer.

And we remember those who have died and are now safe with you in glory. May light perpetual shine upon them.

Father we pray for those left behind, grieving and in pain. We remember especially those families unable to reach out to their loved ones in their final moments and who have been forced to bury them without the ritual or ceremony they would have wanted.

Stretch out your hand, oh Lord and bless them. Let them feel you surrounding and encompassing them.

Lord, in your mercy...hear our prayer.

And finally Father we pray for ourselves. Let us feel you come upon us afresh today. Help us to find within ourselves the flame that you have planted deep within which the world cannot reach. Let us shine as a light to the world.

Merciful Father...accept these prayers for the sake of your son, Jesus Christ. Amen.