

Prayers of Intercession
Sunday 5th July 2020 – The Fourth Sunday after Trinity

Let us pray.

First, a prayer about coronavirus.

Merciful God, we pray for the many people who have contracted the coronavirus throughout the world. Bring comfort to those grieving loved ones that have died, and peace to those worried, fearful and uncertain as the virus spreads. We also pray for governments and authorities who are developing strategies to contain and deal with the virus, and those in the health services who may be risking their own lives to care for sick patients. We especially pray for the procedures that have been put into force to try to halt its spread. Help us all to be responsible in the things that we do in our lives to prevent the spread of the virus by taking heed of the recommended precautions and avoiding situations which may make things worse. **Amen.**

Holy God, and Lord of the Dance, we raise our prayers to you in the power of the Spirit which unites us with Christ Jesus, trusting that you will hear our prayers and use them to accomplish your will for the world and for the church.

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Faithful God, we pray for all people who seek to follow your way in their lives. Let your church speak your word of truth with confidence and in unity so that those who are searching and listening will be able to see and hear your message of love and peace. We pray for our bishops, ministers and laity, as plans are made to safely reopen our churches and prepare the liturgy so that we may once again worship together.

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Creator God, we pray for people and nations whose troubles brought about by the global pandemic drown out your music of harmony, and where the violent heat of anger seeks to destroy your word of peace. We pray for people in parts of the world where life is precarious, whether through disaster, poverty, disease or war. We pray that the time may be hastened when there is peace on earth, goodwill between all people. Especially we pray for our precious world. Help us to be good stewards so that we can pass on your wonderful creation in good order to the generations yet to come.

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Father God, we pray for the people around us in our neighbourhoods and our places of work. Give us sensitivity and insight into their needs and vulnerabilities so that we may learn truly to love our neighbours as ourselves. Help us to be responsible and sensible in all our interactions with those around us, so that we do not increase the chance of infecting or being infected by those we meet.

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Jesus, you are so sensitive to the crushing demands on ordinary people. In times of weakness, and in hour of need, yours is the strength by which we carry on, the shoulder which we rest our head upon. When our load is heavy and too much to bear, yours are the arms outstretched to help us. In times of weakness, and our hour of need, your voice is heard, "Come, find rest." Gracious God, we pray for people we know who are ill, anxious or bereaved, and for those that are weary and carrying heavy burdens. We pray that you will lead them and us in peace towards healing and wholeness of mind and spirit. In a moment of silence, we bring before you those we know require our prayers.

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Merciful God, we remember before you those who have died, and those who are bereaved by their passing. We give back to you Lord those whom you gave to us. Your son taught us that life is eternal, and that love cannot die, so death is only a horizon, and a horizon is only the limit of our sight. Open our eyes to see more clearly, and draw us closer to you so that we may know we are nearer to our loved ones who are with you.

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Loving God, we offer ourselves to you in faith and confidence. Show us, as we go out into the world, how we can best prepare ourselves to be part of your response to our prayers. Fill us with the spirit of life which was in Jesus Christ, your Son and our Saviour.

Merciful Father,
**Accept these prayers,
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**