

## Prayers of Intercession – 19<sup>th</sup> July 2020 – Prepared by Jane Brough

I want you to imagine a hand – God's hand. If we read Isaiah chapter 49 verse 16 we find, "see, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hand." What a lovely image of being held and nurtured by God. Each one of us written on God's hand which guides and moves us towards that which leads to life.

So, with this image in our minds, let's pray for our churches. May they always prove a beacon of light and a warm homecoming for the weary, for those who have gone astray, or are without hope. We pray especially for the leadership of our churches, lay and ordained. May they know God's hand guiding them in the ways of the Kingdom. We pray that the warm sunshine of God's Spirit will fall on the Church to bring a good crop, righteousness and joy.

We lay these hopes and prayers into God's hands.

We pray for all those with the authority to bring justice and peace to our nations, communities and neighbourhoods, and for those whose vision for good has died or changed with other priorities and agendas. We see the weeds of corruption, greed and heartlessness. Let's pray that the weeds may be uprooted so that men and women can live lives bringing forth a crop of goodness and love.

We lay these hopes and prayers into God's hands.

As we look at our own lives, we are conscious of the weeds that bind our bodies, our thoughts, our emotions and our spirit. We pray that God will cut the stems that hold us down and release us into a life of praise, full of the Holy Spirit. We pray for persistence, patience and faith and daily reminders of the caring hands of God close by.

We lay these hopes and prayers into God's hands.

We also lay before God those who are suffering and those who are caring for them. We pray for any who have been injured in acts of terrorism or who have suffered injury or loss through flood, fire, storm or COVID-19. May they feel God's healing and holding hands.

We lay these hopes and prayers into God's hands.

We remember all who have died and particularly those who died alone and those un-mourned. May they be gathered into your loving hands and the community of eternal life and wonderful love.

We lay these hopes and prayers into God's hands.

Lord, help us to choose to walk in your paths and to follow your ways that one day we too may shine like the sun in your Kingdom.

Lord your hand holds us,

your love enfolds us,

your eye beholds us.

When we fall you encourage us.

From chaos and emptiness,

from loneliness and lifelessness,

from darkness and dreadfulness,

from weakness and weariness,

from failure and fearfulness,

Lord, your hand holds us,

your love enfolds us,

Your eye beholds us.

Merciful Father,

**accept these prayers**

**for the sake of your Son,**

**our Saviour Jesus Christ.**

**Amen.**