

### **Prayers of Intercession**

Let us pray for the Church and for the world and let us thank God for his goodness.

Dear Lord,

Let us pray for peace amongst us, peace around us and peace within us.

When Jesus spoke to his disciples, he said: "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

We pray that throughout our lives we recognise your love amongst us, your love around us and your love within us.

Help us to know your presence better and devote our lives to you.

***Lord, graciously hear us.***

Father God,

We pray this morning for all those who hold leadership positions within your Church. Guide them in their service and calling to you. Enrich their thinking and refresh their vision as they walk humbly in your sight.

We pray especially for our own diocese and the future of the Cathedral in Lichfield where some very difficult decisions have had to be taken in light of the recent pandemic.

In this our own Church, we pray for all of those who are present and for those who are present in their thoughts and hearts but unable to attend physically.

***Lord, graciously hear us.***

Lord,

Let us take some time to reflect on the beautiful words of 'Amazing Grace' written by John Newton, which Isabelle (aged 9) will read for us:

Amazing grace, How sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me.  
I once was lost, but now I am found,  
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
And grace my fears relieved.  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and snares  
I have already come,  
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far  
And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me  
His word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and portion be,  
As long as life endures.

Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail,  
And mortal life shall cease  
I shall possess within the veil,  
A life of joy and peace.

When we've been here ten thousand  
years  
Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
Than when we've first begun.

***Lord, graciously hear us.***

Dear God,

We cast our thoughts to the world around us that is both wonderful and broken. We offer the prayers within all of hearts to you.

Your Dear Son, healer of the forgotten.  
Bring relief to those who suffer in silence.

Your Dear Son, friend of the outcast.  
Lift up those who feel alone.

Your Dear Son, our teacher and our guide.  
Be with those who have returned to a very different education environment to that which they  
are used to.

Your Dear Son, provider for the hungry.  
Comfort and bring relief to those who are starving.  
**Lord, graciously hear us.**

*[Emily will now read a prayer for us]. Emily (aged 7):*

Dear God,  
I hear no voice, I feel no touch,  
I see no glory bright;  
But yet I know that God is near,  
In darkness as in light.  
God watches ever by my side,  
And hears my whispered prayer:  
A God of love for a little child  
Both night and day does care. Amen.

Lord God,

Let us know the light of your presence in our waking and in our sleeping. We pray for the  
small steps we take on our journeys of faith and we ask that you deepen our understanding  
of your sacrifice and forgiveness and truly offer our lives in your service and love.

We end our prayers by listening to the words of R.S. Thomas' poem entitled 'The Kingdom'.

It's a long way off but inside it  
There are quite different things going on:  
Festivals at which the poor man is King and the consumptive is Healed:  
Mirrors in which the blind look at themselves  
And love looks at them back:  
And industry is for mending  
The bent bones and the minds fractured by life.  
It's a long way off,  
But to get there takes no time and admission is free,  
If you will purge yourself of desire,  
And present yourself with Your need only,  
And the simple offering  
Of your faith, green as a leaf.

*Merciful Father,*

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