

## Intercessions for Lent 2, written by Jane Brough – 28/2/21

Those outside God's kingdom may see prayer as a last resort, we who trust the power of the Father and the love of the Son, know prayer as our first port of call.

So, knowing God loves us more than we can imagine and grants our requests more than we deserve, let us bring before him our concerns for the church, the world and each other in our intercessions.

We pray for the church during this season of Lent. We pray that all of us who believe in God will be strengthened to remain faithful to our calling. Help us to face up to the tough challenges presented by the way of the cross, and help us to show God's love and compassion to each other and to all God's children.

Lord in your mercy – **hear our prayer**

Everywhere in the world, people are struggling to stay alive with the Covid Virus, with warring countries, with violence, with political turmoil. Lives are hanging precariously in the balance. We pray for all who suffer because of the effects of flooding or drought, lack of food and medical supplies. In a moment of quiet, let's pray for them in their struggle (*pause*)

Lord in your mercy – **hear our prayer**

We pray for people near and around us who may be over-hasty in trying to force the pace with a particular issue. May the Lord grant them patience to discern the wise way forward and act in the right way at this time. Let us pray for them for patience and hope (*pause*)

Lord in your mercy – **hear our prayer**

Somewhere near us, the air is electric with a family argument – a young person is planning their next drug use – someone with depression is weeping quietly – people are frightened because they have lost their jobs – children may be finding it hard to home school and are afraid for their futures. Let's pray for them in their dark place (*pause*)

Lord in your mercy – **hear our prayer**

Someone known to us may be sick, in mind or in body. In a moment of quiet, pray that they may find healing – *pause* – For the lonely that they may find friendship – *pause* – For the desperate that they may find hope – *pause* – For those whose faith is threadbare, that they may rediscover the joy of life – *pause* – For the dying that they may live in you (*pause*)

Lord in your mercy – **hear our prayer**

And we pray for ourselves as we are faced with the challenge to take up our cross as Jesus' disciples. May the Lord grant us faith to follow where our master leads us, content that our lives are in his hands.

Lord in your mercy – **hear our prayer**

Somewhere near us, at this moment and every moment until we are all together again, God will be lovingly present to every part of his creation and every person in it. And he will be struggling with us, and shaping us; he will be encouraging us and persuading us; he will be delighting in us and despairing over us. But he will never give up and because he is inexhaustible, in the end he will always succeed.

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

**Amen.**