

Prayers of Intercession: 14th February 2021

Let us pray to the Father, through Jesus Christ his Son, who brings light out of darkness and restores hope to the world. Lord, help us to empty our minds of worldly things, focus on your grace and glory and enter your presence with an honest, humble heart.

We will now pause for a moment to reflect on the past week, and those things we want to bring before our Heavenly Father.

Let us pray.

Father, we come before you in a time of crisis, where the world has never seemed so dark and the challenges so insurmountable. We bring before you the pandemic and earnestly pray that you relieve the widespread suffering that fills the news and personally touches so many. We pray for the effectiveness of global strategies to curb the spread of Covid-19 and its new variants. We thank you for the vaccines and pray that they get to those who need them most and are distributed fairly. We ask you to protect those administering the vaccines and the many doctors, nurses, paramedics, pharmacists, and other key workers that expose themselves to risk protecting the lives of others, for they are truly doing Your work.

Lord, sit with us and hear us...

And deliver us Your peace

Merciful God, we pray for the world, in particular the Myanmar coup. May democracy triumph and peace be restored. Our thoughts also turn to ongoing human rights abuses; may those who suffer at cruel hands feel Your presence Lord, and be delivered from their plight. We ask for critical aid to reach areas where poverty, famine and war prevail and for the safe passage of those fleeing their homeland in search of a better life. As today is Racial Justice Sunday we bring before you prayers for unity and equality. We are all Your children, brothers and sisters in Christ, and designed and made perfect in You. Let us not judge others by the colour of their skin, but the contents of their heart.

Lord, sit with us and hear us...

And deliver us Your peace

Almighty Father, we pray for Your Church here on earth and the continuation of its good works. May it serve Your Heavenly Majesty always. We bring before you our government, who are facing unprecedented challenges that only You can resolve. Endow those in power with the wisdom, compassion and clarity needed to see this crisis through. We pray for all those at the mercy of unemployment, debt, financial ruin, and homelessness. Please send them the resolutions they seek and remind them to place their burdens on You, for You will carry them willingly. We pray for those suffering domestic abuse, deterioration of family relationships and friendships or loneliness at this time. May they feel Your presence beside them and know that they are not alone.

Lord, sit with us and hear us...

And deliver us Your peace

Jesus, Son of God, we bring before you all those who are ill, and their loved ones who feel helpless and are struggling to cope. Place Your healing hands upon them as You did when you walked the Earth. We also pray for those suffering with their mental health. Lighten their darkness Lord. Hope, like the sun, is always there, even when it is covered by clouds.

Lord, sit with us and hear us...

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Loving Father, we pray for those who have died, and the families who are grieving their absence. We remember Arthur Davis, Robin Martin, Ernie Thomas, Michael Perks, Millie Gibbs, David Brown and Marie Muchmore who are now safe with You. Comfort their families and strengthen their resolve to live for the ones they have lost.

Lord, sit with us and hear us...

And deliver us Your peace

And finally, Lord we pray for ourselves. When talking of worldly treasures, Rudyard Kipling once remarked "Someday you will meet a man who cares for none of these things. Then you will know how poor you are." We know he was speaking of You. Let us cast aside all other concerns in the pursuit of Your will. Thank You Lord Jesus that You paid the ultimate sacrifice to set us free. We know we can never repay You, and humbly offer you our service in gratitude.

Merciful Father,

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