

Prayers of Intercession

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

Father God,

When we think of Jesus, we all have different images that we call to mind. As we have heard in our Gospel reading today, Jesus did not portray himself as a great King but as a good shepherd tending to his flock and prepared to lay down his life for his sheep. Let us take a moment of silence to think deeply about our relationship with Jesus; focussing on how we see Jesus, the stories and miracles that we most associate with and the images of your dear Son that speak to each of us.

[PAUSE]

Your Son had the ability to walk on water and yet he knelt down to the diseased and impoverished. Open our hearts and minds and make us willing to follow the example he set for us and be ready to share our experiences of his story with those around us.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Lord God,

Your dear Son, the Leader and Good Shepherd...

Guide your Church and especially those in leadership both nationally and locally at this turbulent time. We pray for our community in this Church and for the APCM meeting being held later today. Grant wisdom to those in authority and may the light of your love be reflected in the work and prayer of all your churches.

Lord,

Your dear Son, the Healer and Good Shepherd...

You know our every breath, let us know your presence. You did not disregard the afflicted, diseased and outcast but cared for them. Watch over those who are ill and in any form of pain today and be with them in all that they face.

We pray for those who are weary with the endless struggle to feed themselves and their families, those who do not have the comfort of a bed to sleep in and a roof over their heads. Bring hope to all who are in this sort of despair.

Let us pray for all those who have died. We pray particularly for those who know the pain of bereavement. Let them know your compassion in their loneliness and loss.

Father,

Your dear Son, the Teacher and Good Shepherd...

Jesus taught his disciples that they must love one another. We pray that we may remember those who need our love and care and bring to mind all those we know of in our hearts.

[PAUSE]

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Emily's Prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus,

Thank you for your wonderful stories.

The story of the rich farmer, which tells us that we should not spend our lives storing up riches for ourselves but find our riches in God.

The story of the lost son, which tells us that God is happy when he welcomes people who were lost to him.

And the story of the good Samaritan, which tells us how to be good people inside and out to others.

Thank you for all of the miracles that you performed.

You fed a great crowd of 5000 people.

You calmed a storm.

You healed a blind man.

You helped a little girl and brought her back to life.

Help us be good every day, just like you.

Give us ears to listen to your stories.

Give us eyes to see the true meaning of your stories.

Give us hands to care for others and give thanks to you.

Amen.

Isabelle's Prayer:

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep."

Thank you, Lord Jesus for all the little things you do for us that are so important. The beautiful ways you give us to enjoy our lives. Thank you for being with us and always being our friend. Help us to see when you encourage us, bless us and challenge us to follow you. Amen.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

(Evelyn:) We know your voice... stir us...refresh us...ignite our hearts with your love.

(Isabelle:) We know your message...inspire us to lift up our voices.

(Samantha:) We know your ministry...call us to use our gifts in your name.

(Emily:) We know your strength...be beside us when our strength fails us.

(Samantha:) We know your story...help us to become more like you.

As we close our eyes, we know your peace...help us to see you more clearly.

Let us end by reflecting on the words of the final verse of the hymn 'My song is love unknown' by Samuel Crossman:

'Here might I stay and sing,
no story so divine;
Never was love, dear King, never was grief like thine.
This is my friend in whose sweet praise
I all my days could gladly spend.'

Merciful Father,

Accept these prayers

For the sake of your Son

Our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.