

## Prayers of Intercession – 11<sup>th</sup> April 2021 - The Second Sunday of Easter

I am the first and the last, says the Lord, and the living one; I was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore. Lord Jesus, on this second Sunday of Easter, the light of your love shines on! Your light has come into the world, And neither darkness, nor evil, nor even death itself could overcome it. Fill us with your light and help us shine as a light in the world.

*Lord, in your mercy...hear our prayer*

Lord, we pray for the body of Christ that is your Church. Help us to use our resources to reach out to the people Jesus would reach out to. As an institution the church has not always made good decisions and we pray for everyone who feels alienated from the church because of our human failings. Help us spread the good news, that through the advocacy of Jesus, everyone is welcomed and loved by you. That you love us as we are.

*Lord, in your mercy...hear our prayer*

We pray for society, both here and abroad. Recent events, such as the increase in anti-Asian violence and the trial of George Floyd's killer Derek Chauvin fill us with grief and anger. We pray that you will stand with us when we step out into darkness. That when we are faced with uncertainty and doubt, you will guide our footsteps and our thinking. Help us to think the best of people – remind us that when we look at other people, we see Jesus our Lord.

*Lord, in your mercy...hear our prayer*

Help us Father, when we're like Thomas. When we're scared and anxious, fearful of our reality. When we retreat from our faith and demand the reassurance of our physical senses. When we beg you for a sign. Help us further to be honest with ourselves when we doubt or question – you are bigger than the measure of our minds. Beyond our knowledge. Beyond even our imagination. There will always be things we do not understand and you do not condemn us for this. Use our doubts to strengthen and deepen our faith and joy in you.

*Lord, in your mercy...hear our prayer*

We pray for those we know and love who are ill at this time, whether in body, mind or spirit. We are thankful that the vaccine program is progressing and the death rate is falling. We pray for everyone living with chronic illness and pain. We pray especially for everyone suffering from dementia and the families and carers who care for them.

*Lord, in your mercy...hear our prayer*

We remember those who have died, who are now safe with you in glory. Pour upon their families and friends unending blessings; secure in them the promise of the resurrection and dry all their tears.

*Lord, in your mercy...hear our prayer*

Lord we want to believe, help our unbelief! Give us faith, small as a mustard seed, so that we can be your faithful people, sharing your light, love and joy with everyone we meet.

*Merciful Father...accept these prayers, for the sake of your son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.*