

Prayers of Intercession

9th May 2021

Let us pray to the Father, through Jesus Christ his Son, who calls us by name and asks us to follow Him. 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 to You in a time of crisis, where rays of light are quickly followed by fresh storms. We bring before you the pandemic and earnestly pray that you relieve the widespread suffering it continues to cause. In particular, we pray for India and the terrible death toll which is ripping through the country. Please send them the medical equipment, the doctors and nurses they seek, and the vaccines they so desperately need to prevent against future disease. We pray for the effectiveness of global strategies to curb the spread of Covid-19 and the new variants which continually emerge. We thank you for the vaccines and for their successful roll-out so far in this country; we pray that they get to those who need them most both here and around the world. We ask you to bless and protect doctors and nurses, paramedics, pharmacists, care home staff, and other key workers that are exposed to the virus in the pursuit of serving others. As we continue to socially distance, bring us closer together in unity and fellowship.

Lord, sit with us and hear us...

And deliver us Your peace

Merciful God, we pray for the world. May mercy prevail and peace be restored wherever there is war and conflict. Our thoughts also turn to the injustice that mars the perfection of Your creation. We especially pray for Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe who has recently been cruelly sentenced to further years of solitude and separation from her family. Comfort her and all those who are imprisoned unjustly and free them from bondage as You did the Israelites in Egypt. We also ask for critical aid to reach those in need and for the safe passage of those travelling in perilous conditions towards the hope of safety and a better life.

We also turn our prayers to the planet and the pressures and struggles it is facing. Inspire us with new initiatives, renewed motivation, and steadfast determination to find and apply solutions to global warming and CO2 emissions. Help us to treat it's breathtaking landscapes, and animal and plant life with greater care and to preserve the planet's beauty and wonder for future generations to enjoy.

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 pray for Christian Aid Week which is due to commence soon; fill our hearts with generous spirit, hungry bellies with food, dry wells with springs of water, and despair with radiant hope. Continue to endow those in power with the wisdom, compassion and clarity needed to change this world for the better. We pray for all those facing unemployment, debt, financial ruin, homelessness, loneliness or abuse. You feel their pain, You hear their cries, and You promise to carry their burdens always.

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 overwhelmed, burdened, and distressed. Place Your healing hands upon them as You did during your time on Earth. We also pray for those suffering with their mental health. When they are feeling as though they are drowning, remind them that their lifeguard walks on water.

Loving Father, we also pray for those who have died, and the families who are grieving their absence. We know those who have died are safe and at peace with You, in a perfect paradise beyond our comprehension. Comfort their families who are left behind and fill them with the peace only You can give.

Lord, sit with us and hear us...

And deliver us Your peace

And finally, Lord we pray for ourselves. I will now read a poem which I wrote one night a couple of months ago when I was struggling to pray...

Dear Lord, I place my life in Your hands,
Give You the reins and surrender to Your commands.
Too long I have fought with the struggles life brings,
But now I take shelter beneath Your mighty wings.

As I lay down and reflect on the day,
I see how You were with me all the way.
When I laughed, danced, worried and cried;
When my plans went awry, You knew I'd tried.

I am sorry for all the things I have said and done,
When righteousness failed and sin had won;
When my compassion, patience and humility are spent;
When I fail to mean my prayers and struggle to repent.

Looking toward my future and back to my past,
I realise Your love is something that will last.
Thank You for this world, my family, and my friends,
And the promise of life that never ends.

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