

Intercessions for Sunday 31 October 2021 (Jane Woolf)

Father, we thank you that we can come before you, that we can lift our praises and our requests to you and you will hear them. As we bring to you our prayers for the church, the world and ourselves, we hold before you our world, your creation, as we pray for every part.

Lord in your mercy...hear our prayer

Almighty God, who wept at the death of Lazarus, his friend, we thank you for friendship and the strength and comfort our friends bring us. We pray for everyone who is lonely or alone, praying that we as the church can reach out in welcome. We thank you for the work of the church with the poorest in our society and especially for the Little Brothers of the Good Shepherd and all that they do. As the weather turns colder, we thank you for our homes, for the warmth and comfort they provide. We remember those facing another winter in a refugee camp, forced to flee that comfort into the coldness of the wilderness.

Lord in your mercy...hear our prayer

Lord Jesus we pray for our planet, your creation that you love and called 'good'. We are sorry for our part in the damage, and for misusing the resources you have given us. We pray for everyone facing hunger or thirst as crops and rains fail and for those facing devastation as weather patterns change and floods and wildfires spread. We pray for the upcoming Climate conference, that decisions can be made and acted upon.

Lord in your mercy...hear our prayer

Father God, we raise before you everyone we know who are ill at this time, whether in body, mind or spirit. We pray for our National Health Service and everyone who serves their communities in medical or caring roles. We pray for everyone suffering chronic pain, or from mental distress. Rain down your healing upon them, and give them peace.

Lord in your mercy...hear our prayer

Jesus stood at his friend's grave and wept. As we approach All Saints and All Souls, we pray for everyone weeping today, mourning a new loss or an old one. We pray that they will be comforted. We pray for those who have died, that they are safe with you in glory. May we hold fast to the knowledge that we will see them again, for when the old passes away, there will be no more death and no more weeping. He will dry our every tear.

Lord in your mercy...hear our prayer

Just as Mary and Martha called for Jesus to help, we too should not hesitate to call on Him. Lazarus helps to remind us that God's timing is not our timing, and even when it looks too late, nothing is impossible for God. We pray today that our faith will be strengthened, that we can practice patience and trust, to withstand all the storms we face, knowing that Jesus is walking alongside us, and can calm the storm.

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