

Lord, we pray for your church throughout the world. Draw your people closer to you in prayer, so we may recognise your kingship and rejoice in your action in our world. For those who are suffering because of their faith in you, may they be especially aware of your help and comfort, and be given your gift of peace. We pray also for you to reveal yourself to those who persecute your people. Give them hearts of love instead of hate.

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

Lord, we pray for all nations on this earth, especially as covid and its new variants continue to cause major problems. May more vaccines be given to the poorer countries who need them most.

Many countries, such as Yemen, have caused problems for their people who feel unsafe in the face of war, poverty and persecution, and wish to escape to safer places. We pray for the respect of all humanity as steps are taken to deal with the migrant crisis.

We continue to pray for places where natural disasters wreak havoc, such as the earthquake in Peru, the volcano in La Palma, and the recent flooding in British Columbia. We pray for those who have lost their homes and livelihoods to receive the help needed.

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

Lord, we pray for our own country – our Government and local councils. Give them wisdom and unity in decision making. We especially pray for the elderly and others who need help where there is a lack of resources, and we pray for carers to be given the support they need.

As we approach Christmas we pray for our schools. In all their preparations may our children learn more about you and the good news of your coming into our world. We pray also for all the teachers and other staff who may be struggling to cope, especially where staff may still be reduced due to covid.

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

Lord, we pray for all those known to us who are suffering in body, mind or spirit at this time, and in a few moments of silence may we lift them to the Lord for His healing touch to be upon them:

Lord, bring healing, bring peace. We also pray for the bereaved to receive your comfort, especially as Christmas may highlight the pain of loss and loneliness.

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

Lastly, Lord, we pray for ourselves. Daily challenge us to mend our ways where we need to, and daily refill us afresh with the power of the Holy Spirit, so others may see your presence in our lives.

Merciful Father....

**Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,
Our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**