

Intercessions 20 May 2020, Wednesday Service

(Melanie Seward)

In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ, let us pray to the Father.

Heavenly Father, we thank you that you are not far from each one of us. And that even when we do not know what to pray or even what words to use, we are always welcome to sit with you and pray that the Holy Spirit will help us in our weakness, interceding with sighs too deep for words.

Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

We give thanks for all those who serve the public whether it be working in the NHS and the emergency services, running public transport or as volunteers delivering food and medicine. Lord, this pandemic has created so much good will and a sense of community. Help us to see that as villages, towns and nations, you intend us to live in community not just for lockdown but after it has passed.

Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

Father God, we know that our leaders are not always on best form. Give them strength, relieve their anxiety, give them a positive vision of the future and the will to work together in

meeting the needs of all groups in society who need guidance and support.

Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

We pray for those who are unwell. Firstly, we take a moment to pray for those known only to ourselves.....

And together we hold in our hearts and pray for strength and hope for: Debbie, Barbara Wilbourn-Smith, Joe Caruana, Wendy Sellers, Paul, Andy, Bernard Stack, Jo Holdstock, Suzanne, Malini, Mark Johnson, Ellen Cook, Gillian MacKenna, Tim, Colin Harding and Rebecca Phipps.

We pray for those who have died:

Alan Wilbourne, Avilé Grey and Terry Asser - send angels to mourn with their family and friends and may they know that they are loved and be aware of your presence.

We remember in Years' Mind those whose anniversaries fall at this time:

(Sunday 17 May) Elizabeth Hubble, Elsie Petitt, Maisie Ditton, Francis Edward Carpenter

(Sunday 24 May) Alec Bentley, Sylvia Mear, Arthur Risby,
David Hubble, Gwen Wiggington

We thank you for these lives and all they brought to the world.

Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, we call to mind the stories from around the world of the different nations responding to the same pandemic. Especially today we pray for the country of Bolivia where poverty and scarce medical supplies limit the length of lockdown and for Brazil where lack of leadership and inequality mean the lives of the poor are not recognised as having equal value. We ask you to warm the hearts of those who have power and inspire support internationally for the countries who have no means to manage the virus themselves.

Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

Father, we pray on behalf of those living in the coastal areas of India and Bangladesh as the Bay of Bengal waits and watches the movement of what looks like a super cyclone. Endow with wisdom, and empower, the authorities and the

emergency teams they have directed, to organise shelter and care for the people.

Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer

In the words of the great hymn-

Great is thy faithfulness

O God my Father

There is no shadow of turning with Thee:

Thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not

As Thou hast been

Thou ever wilt be.

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