

Intercessions Sunday 9 August 2020

by Charles Ledsam

"Take heart, It is I. Do not be afraid." These are the words of Jesus.

Let us pray for the Church and for the world, and let us thank God for his goodness.

Almighty God, our heavenly father, you promised through your son Jesus Christ to hear us when we pray in faith.

Let us take some time now to thank God for some of the blessings in our own lives, maybe short break away or being able to see friends or family. (PAUSE)

Lord in your mercy

Nothing is straightforward and there seems much to frighten, concern and unsettle us in these extraordinary times.

We pray for those many parts of the world where there is disaster, man-made or natural, thinking particularly of the people of Lebanon, who face a major challenge following the chemical disaster last week where many died or were injured. Bless and support them in their time of trouble.

Lord in your mercy

We pray for all those affected by this pandemic, for those many people who have died or are seriously ill, not just in the UK but in many parts of the world including Australia, Brazil, India and the USA. Give strength, wisdom and energy to those helping to care for them in difficult situations. We ask you to bless those who are researching for a cure or vaccination to this pandemic.

Lord in your mercy

Closer to home we pray for the many refugees fleeing to Europe and desiring to start a new life away from the terror of bombs, famine, violence and disaster, where they can start new lives and their talents can be more fully used.

In particular, we pray for those who are desperate to come to this country and yet get rejected. We ask you, Lord, to help us all to work together for a changing world where there is no prejudice and we can be more welcoming and truly love our neighbours as ourselves.

Lord in your mercy

Bless and guide Elizabeth our Queen and other members of the royal family and we thank you for the loyal service they give across our community; give wisdom to our Government and all in authority, especially the leaders of the nations throughout the world, that they may work together for the good of all.

Direct this and every nation in the ways of justice and of peace, that we may honour one another and seek the common good.

Lord in your mercy

Strengthen our Bishops and all your church, including Alan, Bill, Wendy, Melanie, Geoff, Forbes and Tracey and all who serve our two churches; that those who confess your name may be united in your truth, live together in your love and reveal your glory to the world.

We thank you for our churches of St Mary's and St Andrew's and the many initiatives that groups continue to undertake to support one another and make us all feel welcome.

We pray for our town for its businesses and shops, struggling to cope with a massive downturn in activity and income.

We pray for our homes, for our families and friends. For those with whom we have contact. We pray for our church communities and for the area we live in.

We pray for Brian and Rhoda Giddings who are moving away from Hertford next week. We give thanks for the faithful service they have given to this church over the past forty years and ask you to bless them in the next stage of their lives.

Lord in your mercy

We pray for those suffering from stress, depression and anxiety with health problems, fear of losing their jobs and the mental and physical implications of not being able to meet and participate in their usual activities.

We pray for those who are unwell
Ellen, Julia, Debbie, Win, Geoff, Bernard, Barbara, Chrissy, Jean, Chris, Mark, Dorothy, Tim, Paul, Joe, Colin, Andy and Susan.

...and for those who love and care for them.

Give them courage and hope in their troubles and bring them the joy of your salvation.

We pray for those who have died, including; Maureen Purser, Tina Cox, Daisy Pink and Doris Hann.

Hear us as we remember in Years' Mind those whose anniversaries fall at this time;

Robert Lambert, Hilda Whittaker, Peter Walne, Gwendoline Fitzjohn, Joan Stapleton and Nora Turnbull

Lord in your mercy

A Prayer for those affected by Coronavirus

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy,
Sustain and support the anxious, be with those who care for
the sick,
and lift up all who are brought low; that we may find
comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
In Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen

“Take heart. It is I. Do not be afraid”.

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