

Intercessions on Sunday 15 November 2020

by Chris Seward

In the Lord I will be forever thankful. Do not be afraid, the Lord is near.

Father God, let us be thankful for all that you have given us and may we, confident in these gifts, live our lives in hope and with love for others. Through prayer, may we recognise when we sometimes succumb to fear and negativity and may we understand that negative or harmful acts, inactivity or withdrawing from wider relationships are not options that you would wish us to take.

We thank you for those gifts, talents and abilities you have given each of us. May we be generous with these and, each according to our own, make the most of our blessings for the benefit of others. Give us a renewed generosity, a renewed concern for others and a renewed vision of what it is for us to be your church, in this place, at this time.

And this morning, together as one worshipping community, we give thanks for all that is done, day by day, by so many in our two parishes to share and to show your love for us all.

We give thanks for Alan's leadership asking that you sustain him, the staff team and all their families through the busy weeks ahead and we rejoice in the successful publication of 'Every Storm Runs Out of Rain', a book that has you at its centre, Lord, and will encourage reflection and can bring hope to all who read it.

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

Let us pray for young people in our own country, some of whom in their schools and colleges will be embarking on National Enterprise Week. We pray that our young people are

inspired by a sense of love, compassion and care to use their talents enterprisingly and, through the power of your word and through our encouragement, many will wish to create a better world for themselves and all who share in it.

And may our young people and, indeed, all of us be inspired by the work of those engaged in the treatment and prevention of the Coronavirus. We see in them an absolute commitment to using their gifts for the benefit of others, may we be thankful for all the progress that is being made and may we find ways, each according to our own, to determinedly support the needs of others.

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

We pray for those who stand up for what is right, for values that are universal and for freedom of religion and worship. While those of many faiths experience prejudice and attack for their beliefs, we pray this morning for Christians around the world, that they may feel your love and be given courage by the example of your earliest apostles who went out, stood their ground and proclaimed their faith for you.

As we pray for the wider world, we remember the people of the Middle East... those at the mercy of weapons of war, those offering aid and care, those in positions of leadership and those who seek mutual respect and equal rights in the land in which they live. May people of faith-Muslim, Christian or Jew-come together trusting in a message of grace and reconciliation.

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

We come to pray for those who are sick and those who deal with medical conditions which challenge them and their loved ones. Yesterday was World Diabetes Day and we pray for those who manage that condition and give thanks for all who work to advance its care and treatment.

We pray for those who seek healing in mind, body or spirit... those known to us... and especially those known within our church families:

Mavis, Imogen, Paul, David, Julie, Susan, Dorothy, Jean, Tim, Colin, Bernard, Mark, Jane

May they and those who care for them feel your presence and your healing hand.

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

Keith Acheson, Phyl Halls, Lilian Addlesee, Elsie Summers-Gill, Rev. (George) Hilton Nicholson

We remember them confident that they share in the everlasting life promised by you through your Son, Jesus Christ.

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

Lord, we conclude our prayers inspired to be children of the light, to put on faith as our breastplate and to bring your word and your love to others through deeds and through example. Let us be forever thankful that you are near.

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