

Intercessions on Sunday 6 March 2022

by Charles Ledsam

(1st Sunday of Lent)

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.

Here's a prayer from the Methodist Church for the people of Ukraine and Russia:

Holy and Gracious God

We pray for the people of Ukraine and the people of Russia; for their countries and their leaders.

We pray for all those who are afraid; that your everlasting arms hold them in this time of great fear.

We pray for all those who have the power over life and death; that they will choose for all people life, and life in all its fullness.

We pray for those who choose war; that they will remember that you direct your people to turn our swords into ploughshares and seek for peace.

We pray for leaders on the world stage; that they are inspired by the wisdom and courage of Christ.

Above all, Lord, today we pray for peace for Ukraine.

And we ask this in the name of your blessed Son..Lord have mercy. Amen

Looking at the wider world, we pray for peace amongst all nations, for all who are affected by Climate Change and for all those countries affected by the situation unfolding in Ukraine.

We pray for all charities and organisations involved in helping to support those who have become refugees and are homeless or in prison.

Bless and guide Elizabeth our Queen. Give wisdom to all in authority, especially the leaders of the nations throughout the world.

At a time of a world pandemic, economic challenges and financial hardship, 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, Hear our Prayer

Strengthen our Bishops and all your church, including Alan, Bill, Melanie, Geoff and Forbes, Maria and Kath, and all who serve here at St Andrew's and St Mary's.

We pray that those who confess your name may be united in your truth, live together in your love and reveal your glory to the world.

Lord in your mercy, Hear our Prayer

We pray for our Town, especially for its shopkeepers, people who work in offices and businesses and all those who are working today.

We pray for our hospitals and surgeries, GPs and medical staff and for all those caring for the sick and the frail.

Lord in your mercy, Hear our Prayer

We give thanks for our schools, the students, teachers and support staff, especially remembering the work carried out both at St Andrew's and Hertingfordbury Cowper Schools.

Lord in your mercy, Hear our Prayer

We pray for those listening to our services on zoom, marvelling at the ways they have adapted during the pandemic and the opportunities for outreach and as a place of welcome and healing.

Lord in your mercy, Hear our Prayer

We pray for those who are unemployed, suffering from stress, depression and anxiety and all the sick, together with those who love and care for them. Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind or spirit including Yvonne, Barbara, Phoebe, Sue, Imogen, Kamala, Julie, Tim, Darcy, Amelia, Susan and others known to us.

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

Hear us as we remember those who have died, including Iris Greenhill and Charlie Wrangles.

Give those who have been left behind strength and courage to cope in their time of grief.

We remember those whose anniversaries fall at this time; Len Bowyer, Stan Stapleton, Terry Miles, Joe Frost, and Kathleen Jollands.

Lord in your mercy, Hear our Prayer

May we create "Neighbourhoods of Hope" and ensure that we keep a watchful eye on one another, especially as we gradually emerge from this long lockdown.

May we try to be good shepherds and offer words of encouragement and hope to those whom we meet and to whom we speak.

A prayer for those living on their own

I live alone, dear Lord, Stay by my side,
In all my daily deeds, Be thou my guide.
Grant me good health, for that indeed, I pray,
To carry on my work from day to day.
Keep pure my mind, my thoughts, my every deed.
Let me be kind, unselfish in my neighbour's need.
Spare me from fire, from flood, malicious tongues
From thieves, from fear and evil ones.
If sickness or accident befall, then humbly, Lord, I pray,
Hear thou my call, and when I'm feeling low,
Or in despair, lift up my heart and help me in my prayer.
I live alone, dear Lord, yet have no fear,
Because I feel your presence ever near. AMEN

We rejoice in the fellowship of St Andrew and all your saints and commend ourselves and all people to your unfailing love. May we be filled with the Holy Spirit.

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