

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

May 17, 2020

Let us pray. Grateful for the gifts we have already been given, we now bring our hopes and needs into the presence of God saying: *Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

Lord, we ask you to bless our church; work through our ministries in this difficult time, and use us to be your hands and feet in the world. Strengthen our communities and surround all people with supportive and loving groups of family, friends and neighbors.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for the lonely who suffer the burdens of life without friendship or family, for those depressed or weary of pandemic measures. In their loneliness, be their consolation; in their anxiety, be their hope; in their darkness, be their light;

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Bless the sick and dying; work through hospital chaplains, doctors, nurses, and all staff to provide your peace, comfort, and hope.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Be with the leaders of all nations especially during these chaotic and trying times. Help them to act with charity and true concern for the well being of the people they are meant to serve. Give them the wisdom to invest in long-term solutions that will help prepare for, or prevent, future outbreaks of Covid-19. May all leaders know your peace, as they work together to achieve peace on earth.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for the agencies and institutions through which we love our neighbors and provide for those in need, for the destitute and homeless. And we pray for everyone who suffers unemployment or underemployment, that we may aid them in their time of need. *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

We pray for protection from Covid-19 for our Indigenous communities, those in refugee camps, in the poor and cramped neighborhoods of cities in South America, Africa, and Asia, and for migrant workers in crowded accommodation.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Merciful God, we pray for the many people who have contracted the coronavirus in all parts of the world. Bring comfort to those grieving loved ones who have died, and peace to those worried, fearful and uncertain as the virus spreads. Help us all to be responsible in the things that we do in our lives to prevent the spread of the virus, by taking heed of the recommended precautions and avoiding situations which may make things worse.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We also pray for governments and authorities who are developing strategies to contain and deal with the virus and those in the health services who may be risking their own lives to care for sick patients. May they know your protection and peace.
Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Whether we are home or abroad, surrounded by many people suffering from this illness or only a few, stay with us as we endure and mourn, persist and prepare. In place of our anxiety, give us your peace.
Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer

Teach us to remember those who are living in nursing homes, and even though we cannot visit them, show us ways to remind them of their great worth. We pray for all who are elderly that they may cherish each moment of their lives, and in their sunset years experience the love and attention they need, especially during these difficult times.
Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer

Graduation approaches for many of our young people. This milestone should not be overlooked or forgotten, even though it may not be celebrated with friends and families. Lord, we ask you to give all graduates wisdom as well as knowledge; focus as well as confidence; and righteousness as well as competency in their chosen fields. Encourage them to use their skills to better this world, and keep their eyes fixed on the world to come.
Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your disciples, 'I am with you always'.
Be with us today, as we offer ourselves to you.
Hear our prayers for others and for ourselves,
and keep us in your care.
Amen.