

PRAYERS 28TH June 2020

Father in Heaven,
Creator of heaven and earth, you alone are worthy of our praises.
As we gather in fellowship we thank you for the wonders that you have worked in our lives.
Accept our prayers in Jesus' name because we know that without you, we can do nothing.
But we know that with you, even those things beyond us can be trusted to you
Empower us to do great things and Inspire us to love and serve you in all we do.

Lord in Your Mercy Hear Our Prayer

We bring to you again our battle with Covid-19
Be with those worried that they might get ill and those anxious for their family and friends.
Help them to find peace.
Be with those suffering now, that they might be relieved of fear and of pain and be made well.
Help and teach doctors, scientists, and all whose work is to care for others; that they may find more and more about treating, curing and preventing this disease.
And help them to do their work lovingly and patiently, protected and free from anxiety. Strengthen them particularly in their times of physical and mental exhaustion and may they know the love you have for them and the love we have for them.
As we begin to enjoy new freedoms, help us and those around us not to take those freedoms for granted, and be mindful of our responsibilities to protect ourselves, our loved ones, our neighbours, and those we meet.

Lord in Your Mercy Hear our prayer.

In a world shaped by conflict, where we seem to be slipping back into tribal divisions, Lord God you call us to welcome everyone.
In a world full of inequalities which only seem to be widening, you call us to treat each person as our sister and brother.
In a world of intensifying injustices you call us to work for radical change.
In a world in which individuals are idolized to the exclusion of all others, you call us to notice the parent who goes without to feed their children, the dementia-diminished senior who can't make sense of a world so different from that they have known all their lives and the refugee and the homeless, existing from day to day and losing hope for a future.
May we answer your call and offer all that we are and all that we have.

Lord in Your Mercy Hear Our Prayer

In a week where we have seen the evil actions of individuals in Reading and Glasgow and the lawless actions of groups hijacking demonstrations in London and other cities and the careless actions of masses contravening social distancing laws – we pray for those who work to maintain order on our behalf.

We honour their bravery and pray for their safety.
May those who represent us maintain the integrity we expect of them.
And grant us similar courage to recognise and restrain evil,

May those who lead, work together to defend human liberty,
that we may live peaceably one with another, respecting all equally.

Lord in Your Mercy **Hear Our Prayer**

We pray for your Church, that it may continue to spread the Gospel of Christ.

We pray for our own Church of England and our Diocese of St. Albans, its clergy and its staff.

We pray for our own church here, for Charles, Simon and Gill and for all who give of their time and talents to carry forward the work of Christian witness in this place.

Guide us as we work out how to open our church building and organise our worship.

Lord in Your Mercy **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for those known to us who are sick. For

Zachary Sayers, Karen Wade, Penny Havercroft, David Johnston, Michelle Woodmore, Michael Vickars, William Campbell, Samuel Lung, Sarah Osborne, Izzy Jones, Richard Pilbeam, Sharon Pilbeam, Deryck Flashman, and Joan Graham

You know the needs of your children; look with compassion on those for whom our prayers are offered; give them courage and confidence and bless those who minister to them.

Lord in your mercy **Hear our Prayer**

We pray for those who have recently lost a loved one.

We pray especially for those who mourn the loss of

Tony Johnson, Dot Burgin, Deborah O'Hara, Clare Welstead, Elisabeth Pepper, Elizabeth Wright, Margaret Taylor, Mark Wade, Anthony Hartnoll, Peggy Grant, and Don MacDonald

Grant, O Lord to all who are bereaved, the spirit of faith and courage, that they may have the strength to face the days to come with steadfastness and patience; give them hope, thankful remembrance of good times past and trust in your presence with them in the future.

Lord in your mercy **Hear our Prayer**

Heavenly Father you have given to us our lives in this place and at this time. Help us to understand your will.

Help us to distinguish between the signs of your Spirit demanding change and renewal, and the signs of human greed and lust for power; that we may work for you and with you to create a society of justice, equal opportunity and compassion.

Give us the grace to follow Jesus.

May we be ready to serve the poor, the hungry, the sick, the bereaved, the homeless, and all to whom we can bring good.

May we have the strength and courage to support the liberation of the oppressed, the restoration of the dispossessed and for the dignity and freedom of all.

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