

## PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

Let us join our hearts and minds in prayer.

Almighty God, we give thanks for your gentle and enduring love, for sending us your son Jesus to show us the way to live; for life itself, ....for our lives.... and for this world.

Grant us the grace to respect this world – so that we in faith may see it through your eyes, hear it through your ears, touch it through your hands and leave it as a place pleasing to you. We give thanks for Christian Aid and its work throughout the world as it challenges poverty, injustice, inequality and world climate change.

But, Lord, Our hearts are troubled as we cannot **but not** think immediately of and pray for all those suffering in the world due to the coronavirus pandemic.

In these times of isolation when people are apart from loved ones, distant from friends, away from neighbours, reassure them that there is nothing in all of creation, not even coronavirus that is able to separate them from your love.

Love never fails, even in the darkest moments, love gives hope.

We pray for the world, and for all those who are affected by this pandemic, particularly those more vulnerable in poorer countries. Grant our leaders the gifts of courage, compassion and wisdom as they face such challenging circumstances and decision making.

We pray for our scientists as they work tirelessly to find answers.

We pray for those who do not have access to clean water, soap and sanitation; those without good healthcare, and families who are struggling to find food. May God grant them hope and surround them with signs of love and care.

We particularly remember those in hospital and in care homes. .We pray for everyone who is sick, or afraid for themselves or their loved ones; for those who are bereaved and grieving, or isolated and we also pray for all who support them. God be their healer, their comforter and their protection.

So let us pause for a few moments as we remember and pray for those known to ourselves .....

We think of our own community and pray for your guidance to be good neighbours; so that no one feels lonely, forgotten or unloved. Raise up your church to be your well washed hands and faithful feet, to be present to the pain, to respond with love in action, if even from a safe distance.

LOVING FATHER Make us worthy of Your Love and of the sacrifice of your son as we now say the words of the prayer taught by Him

Our Father in heaven

Hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come,

Your will be done,

On earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

As we forgive those

Who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial,

And deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

And the glory are yours. Amen