

Prayers All Saints East Budleigh 17 Jan 2021

Reading the Revelation passage, I was struck by how precious our prayers are to God. They are held in golden bowls by the elders in heaven. Our prayers, together with the prayers of saints drawn from every tribe and tongue and nation around the world, are valued and precious to God our Father. Let's be quiet for a minute or two letting that sink in.

A Coronavirus Prayer: Loving God, Your desire is for our wholeness and wellbeing. We hold in tenderness and prayer the collective suffering of our world at this time. We grieve precious lives lost and vulnerable lives threatened. We ache for ourselves and our neighbours, standing before an uncertain future. We pray: may love, not fear, go viral. Inspire our leaders to discern and choose wisely, aligned with the common good. Help us to practice social distancing and reveal to us new and creative ways to come together in spirit and in solidarity. Call us to profound trust in your faithful presence, You, the God who does not abandon.

Silence, Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

God of love, We thank you for the churches in our Mission Community. We pray especially for the church wardens, the PCCs, for Fran, the pastoral teams and for Stephen, Geoff, Mike & James who play for us. We also pray for Karen & Martin as they seek to serve you amongst us. Keep each one close to you, help them to daily know your presence, encouragement and love for them so they can remain strong as we reach out to the community even during these strange times.

Silence, Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

God of power, we pray for those in authority and in positions of influence and responsibility; especially that our government may be earthed in humility, courageous in integrity and mindful of the need to serve. Help them to make wise decisions for the long term in the midst of this pandemic with all the pressures they face. We especially pray for our teachers, parents and children with schools closed and lessons happening remotely. Help us in all that we do to ensure that children everywhere are properly taken care of so they can have hope and a future.

Silence, Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

God of mercy, we lift to you the many places in the world that are suffering war, violence, the effects of climate change as well as the pandemic. As we experience lockdown due to circumstances beyond our control, we pray for those living in terror from events beyond their control: from climate change, from war and violence and from unjust situations. We think especially of those in Yemen, Afghanistan, Gaza and the West Bank, refugees in Greece, Turkey and Bosnia stranded between worlds, living in limbo. Help us to rethink our

world after Covid so it is fairer and more just. *Let us have a moment or two of silence to bring to God one of these situations*

Silence, Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

God of wholeness, we remember those who are aching today in body, mind or spirit knowing that nothing is unredeemable we ask that you will bring good even out of these hurting places: we pray for those on our notice sheet today: *Rosie Smith, David Beagley, John Heavens, Philip Ringrose, Glenys Callaghan, Gillian Andrews, Hanneke Coates, Joan Renshaw.* We ask you to breathe into all our relationships the forgiving love which cleanses and heals. *Let's have a minute or two of silence to bring to God any family or friends on our hearts this morning*

Silence, Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

God of life, we pray for those whose earthly life has ended; we remember those who have died violently and tragically, suddenly and unprepared. We give you thanks for the lives well lived and for happy memories. May they rest in the eternal peace of heaven.

Silence, Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

God of faithfulness, we thank you for the way you always keep your promises and never let us down. We especially pray for all those working in the NHS. We pray you would give them courage and strength to keep strong and have all they need day by day as this crisis has stretched so many.

Silence, Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

I want to end by rereading the passage from Revelation: When Jesus, the lamb, had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty four elders fell before the Lamb in worship, each holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. They sing a new song: 'You are worthy and by your blood you ransomed for God saints from every tribe and language and people and nation'

Merciful father, accept these prayers for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen