

PRAYERS – SUNDAY 17th MAY

Below are some prayer points you can use, whether you are alone, as a couple, or with your family. Feel free to add to them as you wish.

Or, of course, you can also come up with your own prayers.

Alternatively, you can use the full responsive prayer further below.

If there are several of you together you may wish to share the prayers. After each part the person praying may like to say; *Lord, in your mercy*, to which everyone else responds; **Hear our prayer**.

- Praise God that we know He is with us in whatever we go through.
- Ask God to help us to be faithful witnesses to those around us by everything we both say and do.
- Pray for God's help to have the right words to witness to Him when we have the opportunity to do so.
- Ask God to help us with any suffering we go through. Pray for healing where this is needed.
- Pray for people whose relationships are under pressure because of COVID 19; whether because of financial strain, increased substance abuse, being cut off from family and friends, or being forced into increased time together. May all people treat each other with care and compassion.
- Bring to God anything you are struggling with right now: a hurt which is hard to forgive; a relationship problem you can't see a way through; a work or business situation creating stress or hardship for you. Ask God to help you with any struggles you have.

A Responsive Prayer

Jesus promises that we are not left as orphans, but that he comes with his Father through his Spirit to make his home with us. Let us pray that God bless our homes with his healing presence.

Heavenly Father: thank you for the wonderful blessings you have given us, including our earthly families, and our spiritual family, the church. Thank you too for the psalms of praise. Make us thankful, and teach us to overflow with joyful praise.

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**.

We pray for children who have been separated from their families, especially those who are in refugee camps and do not know if other family members are alive or of their whereabouts. Give them the support they need through the various aid agencies and help them to be reunited with loved ones where possible.

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Help us in the way we follow you to be faithful witnesses to you and your Word. Give us strength to want to please you above all other things, and to witness to you and your love in all that we do.

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Meet the needs of those who are sick, facing surgery or recovering from surgery. In particular we pray for *(insert names here)* and others whom we now name in our hearts...

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

God of new life, you provide us with the care and nurture we need to grow as your newborn children. May your Son Jesus Christ come to us, so that in him we may live together with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**