

## Intercessions – Sunday 14th February 2021

Psalm 33. The word of the Lord is right and true, He is faithful in all He does. The Lord loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of His unfailing love.

Amos 5 verse 24 God said, "Let justice roll on like a river; righteousness like a never failing stream." In our intercessions this morning, I would like us to use these words as a form of meditation, after each section of our prayers.

Today we give You grateful thanks, Father God, for the beautiful world You have created for us and pray that You will continue to teach all of us how to be good stewards of the bounty You have provided. We ask forgiveness for the way we often mis-use natural resources and pray that You will continue to inspire those with the expertise to develop alternative forms of energy and those who are working to ensure that the abundance of Your creation is spread in a more equitable fashion. We pray particularly today for those areas of the world where thousands of lives are being ruined by continual wars: where so many people are being forced to leave their own homes, because of external aggression or civil strife, and live in terrible conditions. This morning we pray particularly for those caught up in the on- going tragedies in Syria, Afghanistan and parts of Africa and we also pray for a just settlement in the civil war now ruining lives and livelihoods in Myanmar.

Let justice roll on like a river; righteousness like a never failing stream. Lord in Your mercy hear our prayer.

We pray that You would bless the work and witness of Your Church in this land and worldwide, so that both here, and throughout the world, Your name, O Lord, will be honoured and glorified. As we approach this period of Lent, we pray that the love which Jesus demonstrated for each one of us, when He chose to take the road to Calvary and die on the Cross, will be evident in our lives. You have called us, Father God, to be lights in the midst of a sometimes dark and needy world and we pray that, through the power of the Holy Spirit living in us, we will play our part in carrying out that commission.

We give thanks for all ordained clergy and Christian ministers and particularly raise up before You this morning Tom, Julie and their family giving thanks to You, Father for their work in this Parish, Chopwell and the Diocese. We also bless and thank You for Rosemary and Mike; for our Church wardens /co- wardens; PCC; leadership team and all who continue to make it possible for us to worship together, during these difficult times. We also pray that You would support and bless Simon, Rachel and the family, as they combine the competing needs of work and family, with Simon's ordination studies. Thank You, Father, for the current Alpha Course and we pray that those who are seeking You, and those who are delivering the course, will be richly blessed. We pray that all of us in this Parish will have a renewed vision of Your love for us, and a renewed desire to serve You in body, mind and spirit.

Let justice roll on like a river; righteousness like a never failing stream. Lord in Your mercy hear our prayer.

Father we give You thanks and praise for all health and care workers; for teachers; those working in retail, transport and all frontline services, who go out each day to serve and protect us, during this on-going pandemic. Thank You for the expertise and commitment of those who have developed the vaccines, and for those who are now organising their transmission. Father we are so fortunate to live in a country where this vaccine is freely available to all, and where so many of our fellow citizens are volunteering to ensure that the vaccines are administered as quickly as possible. We do pray, Father, that arrangements will be in place to ensure that these vaccines are made available to people throughout the world, particularly in those countries where poverty and poor health conditions are already endemic.

Let justice roll on like a river; righteousness like a never failing stream.

Father we pray for those in our own land, who are finding life so difficult. Heavenly Father we know that, in relative terms, we are a wealthy nation, but we also know that this pandemic has demonstrated the glaring differences between sections of our society. We pray that all who are in positions of authority and influence will use this experience to consider ways to create a more equal society. Thank You for the recent plans to help those affected by the cladding crisis. We pray that other long running problems such as poverty, homelessness, unemployment and lack of opportunities for our young people will be dealt with. We also pray that physical and mental health care; the plight of children in care and the deprivation of those who are in prison, will be high on the list of priorities.

Let justice roll on like a river; righteousness like a never failing stream. Lord in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Father God, we raise before You today all of those who are suffering, during these difficult times. We think particularly of the thousands of people who have lost loved ones, during this pandemic, and those who are grieving because the on-going restrictions mean that they cannot meet with family members or friends. You Lord know all our individual circumstances so, in a moment of silence, we raise up to You those known to us who are ill in body, mind or spirit. We pray, Dear Lord, that those we have mentioned before You, and any who are feeling lonely and without hope, will be particularly aware of that healing touch today.

We end our prayers today with another verse from psalm 33.

We wait in hope for the Lord. He is our help and shield, in Him our hearts rejoice for we trust in His Holy name.

Heavenly Father, accept these prayers for the sake of Your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.