

## **Intercessions – Sunday 28th March**

Val Gardner

**Lord Jesus, today we join our voices with the welcoming crowd in Jerusalem, as You entered the city in triumph. You, Lord, are our strength and our song and we praise You because You are our Saviour and Redeemer. So many in that crowd would soon turn against You , but we pray that You will help each one of us today , during the week that lies ahead, to follow You to Calvary and experience the suffering You endured for us and the ultimate joy of Your victory over sin and death. Knowing, Lord Jesus, that You now sit at the right hand of God, and are our advocate in Heaven, we bring before You our prayers this morning for the world, the Church and ourselves.**

**At this time, when we are reflecting on the traumatic events of the past 12 months, we give You thanks, Heavenly Father, for the sense of hope that this pandemic can be controlled. Thank you, Father, for the skills and dedication of the scientists, who have developed the vaccines in record time; for those who have organised their distribution and for the skills and dedication of the medical staff and volunteers, who have administered the vaccines. We realise, Lord, that there is still a long way to go , before the pandemic is eradicated worldwide, and we pray that the achievements so far will not be undermined by political manipulation between competing governments. Father, please guide all world leaders to ensure there is an equitable supply of the vaccines, particularly to the poorer nations, so they will also have hope for their futures.**

**Lord in Your mercy, hear our prayer .**

**Father God, we continue to thank You for the skills and dedication of all health and care workers; for all teachers and school staff, who have made such an effort to ensure that children can return safely to school and for the front line workers, who continue to provide services for all of us. As we look back over the past 12 months, we pray particularly for all who have lost loved ones, during this time, and for those still recovering from the effects of Covid, or struggling with other long term health problems. Heavenly Father may they all experience the comfort of Your presence and be strengthened by the knowledge that You know their circumstances and love them.**

**Lord in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

**Father God, we pray for Your, Church today, that it may truly be a beacon of light, in a world which so often seems to be chaotic. We pray for all Christian people, worldwide, particularly those living in countries such as China, North**

**Korea and parts of the Middle East, where they may be undergoing suffering or imprisonment for their faith. We also think of those who have chosen to work in dangerous places, or where daily life is a constant struggle to exist, and pray for their protection.**

**Lord in Your mercy hear our prayer.**

**We know, Father, that this current pandemic has highlighted many injustices and inequalities in our country and we pray that the voice of Your Church will be heard , when decisions are made for the future. We pray, as a Nation, we will not just revert to former systems , but that a genuine effort will be made to eradicate poverty and to bring hope to all who feel marginalised. We pray for our Diocese ; for the Parish of Greenside and for the neighbouring Parishes, in this area of The Tyne Valley. We ask for a special blessing on Tom, Julie and the family; on Jen and Randy; Rosemary and Mike and all Christine ministers in this area that, together, they will work for the coming of Your Kingdom amongst Your people. Thank you, Father God for this church family and please help each of us to minister to friends and neighbours: to show, through our commitment to them, something of Your love.**

**Lord in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

**Lord Jesus , we now lift to You, in a moment of silence , anyone known to us who is suffering in body, mind or spirit and needs Your healing touch today. Thank you, Lord, that we know our prayers are heard.**

**We end our intercessory prayers this morning with some words from today's reading from Phillipians "Jesus, being in very nature God, made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant. He humbled Himself and became obedient to death, even death on a cross."**