

Prayers for Sunday 5th April 2020 – Julian Providence

"For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world but to save the world through Him."

Lord, on this Palm Sunday, when the world is in such a difficult place, we thank you that you are with all humanity. You came into our world in flesh and blood, sharing our struggles and frailties. You are not a God who is far off but one who knows the sufferings of this world and you draw near to the broken-hearted. We lift to you all those who have lost loved ones - so many deaths Lord and each one a cherished family member, a colleague, a friend. Thank you that you understand the pain of loss and that you weep with those who weep. Holy Spirit please comfort those who mourn.

We pray for members of our family here at St John's. For those of us who feel fearful and vulnerable, may we know you are with us even in the darkest places and that the knowledge of your perfect love for us drives out fear. For those of us who feel lonely and isolated, speak your words of love into our hearts and minds and help us to know of your presence with us. For those of us who feel tired and overwhelmed, help us to find our rest in you. Speak into our hearts knowing that greater are you than he that is in this world.

Thank you that you already have been teaching us how to be a family at St John's. We pray that you will help us to continue on that journey. Help us as a church to leave no one behind at this time but to live out that vision of caring for one another and thank you for all the many ways we are still finding to be church together, even though we cannot meet in person.

We pray for governments around the world to find the right ways to turn the tide of this illness. Help them work together and sustain them as they carry this heavy burden. Give knowledge to those trying to find a vaccine and in your mercy Lord would you shorten the time of this pandemic and bring healing to the nations.

We thank you we are so blessed in our nation that we have a government and public services stepping up to preserve our health and welfare. Help us as a nation not to take for granted all we have been gifted. Help us not to forget those around the world who are struggling. We think of poorer nations who don't have the resources to manage the pandemic - whose lives are blighted by the ravages of war, famine and poverty or who live under oppressive regimes - we remember them before you Lord.

Finally let us pray God's words to his people in Psalm 23:

"The Lord is my shepherd. I have all that I need. He lets me rest in green meadows. He leads me beside peaceful streams. He renews my strength. He guides me along right paths bringing honour to his name. Even when I walk through the darkest valley I will not be afraid for you are close beside me. Your rod and staff protect and comfort me. You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies. You honour me by anointing my head with oil. My cup overflows with blessings. Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life and I will live in the house of the Lord forever." (New Living Translation)

We lift our prayers to you in the name of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.