

PRAAYER FOR THE WEEK

Monday 20th April 2020

by Christine Standring



Father God, we sit here before You, wanting to talk to You and to share our thoughts and concerns with You especially at this time. You know all our innermost prayers before we speak them, but we are only human and we need to talk to You. One by one, we bring these prayers, no longer a congregation seated together in fellowship, but still Your church, Your people, seeking to pray together for ourselves and for others.

From the Bible, we know how in former times You guided our forefathers through the wilderness, surviving privation and pestilence, and tested their willingness to put their trust in You. But now, In times of comfort, plenty and safety, we never thought we too might be tested. We are in strange times with suffering, uncertainty and sadness for so many of the people we know and love, and we turn to You in trust. In the joyous return of springtime, sunshine and new life, You show that we can have faith that You are watching over us and over all the earth.

It is easy to be self-centred at this time when we cannot meet and reach out to others. We focus on our own needs for food, exercise and well-being, frustrated by the inability to share a meal, an activity or a hug with a friend. In the past, we have sought to serve You by helping others and now we can only do this by word and internet contact. Help us to speak those words of encouragement and love which are needed. We pray especially for those who are alone and have only the telephone to keep in touch

In the past, we have prayed for people in other countries who face hardship, sickness and poverty – often keeping clear in our minds those known to us – Duncan Dyason’s amazing extended family and Sergio and his family in Mozambique. Today we remember also those in our own country who have had to face losing a job, close confinement with others, and scarce means to provide the necessities of life. We pray for those who have been entrusted with running the country at this time and ask that You will guide them into wise counsel and thoughtful decision-making.

We remember especially those who are keeping going to provide us all with what is left of normal life – the key workers providing food and services, the doctors and nurses who give tirelessly to tend those who are sick. May they feel Your loving hand upon them and be strengthened by our prayers and the love of friends and family. We pray for those whose surgery or treatment is put on hold by the demands of specialist care for those with the virus. As we mourn the passing of our dear friend Jim Collins, we remember all the residents and staff in care homes and the families from whom they are separated. We know that You know about each one of them and You hold them close to Your heart.

As we spend unaccustomed time at home alone, help us to see our lives in clearer perspective – reflecting on the example of those who have gone before us and asking You to mould us into kinder, wiser followers of Jesus Christ for the next generation. If we are called to give up some of our freedoms for the greater good of mankind and Your creation, make us receptive to the changes and thankful for Your wise guidance. We do indeed believe that neither death nor life, nor things present, nor thing to come, can separate us from Your love. Lord, be with us, as we pray this prayer together.

AMEN