

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Monday 22nd June 2020

The Revd Erna Stevenson

*Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession
Audio Service 21st June 2020 Fathers' Day*



Living and loving God,

You are the heartbeat that keeps us alive and keeps us together. You are our passion, our hope, our joy, the love and compassion between us, the truth, the peace and the justice that shapes us into your family. Hear us now as we pray for ourselves and for others.

Lord of Creation, faithful and strong, present with the whole world, we pray for the peoples of all nations and all tongues. Although we are all unique in your sight, the Covid-19 pandemic is reminding us of our common humanity and our common vulnerability: We are all afraid of this invisible enemy! As we try to cope in our different ways, we pray for rich and poor, healthy and sick, for those at peace or at war. For those feeling safe and superior and those who cannot bear their oppression any longer. Sometimes we feel so helpless at the state of the world that we can only appeal to you echoing the words of the Psalmist in trust and hopefulness:

**Lord, you are kind and forbearing,
full of love towards all who cry to you.**

Our Father in heaven, on this Fathers' Day we pray for all those with the privilege and responsibility of Fatherhood. We give thanks for them and for the many gifts we have received through them. Help all fathers to be ever loving and caring, to provide a good model for their children to follow. We also pray for children who grow up without a father, or who only have negative experiences of one. May they be healed and be granted other nourishing human relationships through which they can learn that ...

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full of love towards all who cry to you.**

Ever-working Christ, we pray for those whose work has been curtailed because of the Lockdown. Those, who are fearful of going back to work and those who find themselves out of work not being able to provide for their families. We ask for your blessing on individuals and organisations who are

finding creative ways of working for the common good. We remember our good neighbours, helpful friends, and family members, who are so willingly step in the breach to take care of our needs. We give thanks for them as they convey to us your divine providence, for ...

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Healing Christ, who bears the suffering of your people in pain, in sickness and in dying, we pray for those who are ill whether through virus infection or for any other reason. May they feel loved and cared for in their hours of need. And we pray for those, who dedicate their lives to alleviate suffering. The devoted NHS staff, members of all front-line services, paramedics, those caring for others in individual homes or nursing homes. Grant them your strength, fortify them with your upholding presence, may they know that ...

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Enlivening Spirit, Spirit of change, we pray for your blessing of lasting change in our national, international and Church life. This pandemic has brought out the best of many people, there have been heroic acts of kindness and generosity and we have all learnt to focus on the important things in life. May this different vision guide us on now as we begin to contemplate the return of 'ordinary days'. Take away our fears of the unknown and give us open hearts and creative minds to step out bravely onto the road you are leading us on. Help us to fix our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith and receive our prayer in his name. **Amen**