

Let us bow our heads and pray to Our Father in Heaven,

As we begin this new year in another Nationwide lockdown, I ask that we reflect on Psalm 46 to strengthen us during these times. I therefore ask that after the words, Lord In your mercy Hear our prayer, that together we repeat:

**Ps 46:1 'God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble.'**

Jesus, you drew close to people of all ages and stations of life who longed to be set free from physical, mental, and spiritual ailments. Be present now to those who need your loving touch because of COVID-19. May they feel your power of restoration through the care of doctors and nurses. Take away fear, anxiety, and feelings of isolation from people receiving treatment or under quarantine. Give a sense of purpose in pursuing health and protecting others from exposure to the disease. Protect their families and friends and bring peace to all who love them.

Lord In your mercy, **Hear our prayer,**  
**'God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble.'**

Faithful God, we pray for our healthcare workers and first responders. Renew their energy and sustain them on long shifts. Bring your protection upon them as they work with patients. Multiply their supplies so they have the protective items and rapid tests needed to stay safe in their work.

Lord In your mercy, **Hear our prayer,**  
**'God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble.'**

Father, we pray for those who bear the responsibility for leading us in this time. Assist those making decisions that affect the lives and futures of our families, communities, countries, and the wider world. Grant them wisdom and clarity of thought and enable their communication with each other and with the public. May we receive and heed their guidance. May truth and compassion be their touchstones as they set policies for our protection.

Lord In your mercy, **Hear our prayer,**  
**'God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble.'**

Holy Spirit, as we adjust to new ways of living, as businesses and schools close, we ask that you guide us in our new temporary realities. Give us grace towards each other, especially when we are tired or tense. Prompt worn-out parents to speak words of kindness and encouragement to their children. Help children find creative ways to experience the beauty of all you have created and to continue learning and growing.

Lord In your mercy, **Hear our prayer,**  
**'God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble.'**

Compassionate healing Father We give you thanks for the National Health service and for all those involved in the development of safe vaccinations, which offer hope of immunity and a return to normality. We pray for the covid vaccines to be safe and effective and quickly distributed to all.

Lord In your mercy, **Hear our prayer,**  
**'God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble.'**

Lord we pray for the church worldwide at this time and in particular we pray for your blessing and protection over all at St Pauls' church, for their dedication and love, holding our community together even though we cannot currently be together in person, we are together in our worship of you Lord. Thank you Lord for Rev'd Jeni, and for blessing us with so many loving generous hearts in our St Paul's team for all who serve you Lord, fill them with your Holy Spirit. Thank you Lord for the love and support offered throughout the year from the St Paul's team, shining the light of Christ during these times which continue to be difficult for many. We thank you for the wardens and all who help and support in operating the church online. We pray for all to have wisdom and energy to continue their work with love and we look forward to a time when we will be able to safely be together again.

Lord In your mercy, **Hear our prayer,**  
**'God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble.'**

Lord in a moment of silence we pray for anyone or anything on our hearts and minds today in Jesus name.....

**Merciful Father accept these prayers for the sake of your son our saviour  
Jesus Christ Amen**