

Intercessions St Paul's 21st Feb

God of wonders, God of hope, God of love, God of peace.

As we enter your presence in these moments, draw near to us.

Make yourself known to us by your spirit. Lift our hearts and minds to tune in to you. Dwell amongst us as we pray.

Lord God on Giving Sunday we reflect on all that you have so generously given us. That you have withheld nothing from us but been kind and big-hearted in providing in so many ways. Cultivate in us a generous spirit and an attitude to share what we have with others. May we not hold onto anything so tightly we're not willing to give it away. Guide us today as we consider what we have to offer and what we can give, however insignificant that may seem to us. For all our resources whether financial or practical, our gifts, skills and time are offered up in service of you and your kingdom. Let us not hold anything back.

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer. (All)

God we see people and places across our globe struggling for so many reasons at this time. People against people, abuses of power, regimes exerting military force. Give world leaders wisdom to make informed decisions, may they chase after justice Lord and not oppression. Would those who are facing unlawful detention be set free. We think particular of the situations in Myanmar, protests in India and the Uighur community in China. Move global leaders to respect human rights, cooperate as nations, working together for the good of all, generating peace and dignity for those who are defeated, censored and yet continue to fight for justice.

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer. (All)

For all those in our community who are bereaved and grieving, surround them with your loving arms. May they know your great comfort and reassurance, help them to experience your presence and to know that in the midst of grief you sit with them. In a moment of quiet now we draw to mind those dear to us who have passed away and remember those feeling this sense of loss greatly at this time.

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer. (All)

Lord God as we travel through this journey of Lent, guide our steps. Remind us of the extraordinary road that Jesus walked, of the suffering that he knew, of the ill treatment he received and the times he felt abandoned. As he walked through those difficult events knowing that each step brought him closer to death. Would you renew in us a sense of awe at Jesus' obedience and willingness to do all that was asked of him.

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer. (All)

As we each continue to walk our own roads in these uncertain times, would you join us on the journey, walk alongside us, be our constant companion. Would your presence be an encouragement and reassurance as we grapple with all we're experiencing at this time. For those who are feeling a sense of being burnt out and there is weariness in their bones, bring energy and refreshment. Fill us with hope that is built on knowing you are our faithful God and we can always trust in you.

Merciful Father,

Accept these prayers

For the sake of your Son,

our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen