

**Prayers – 12.02.23**

Heavenly Father, thank you that you hear our prayers and listen to the thoughts of our hearts as we lay before you our hopes and fears, our joys and sorrows.

Let's close our eyes for a moment and imagine you can see the whole world from above and all the different churches in our world. People from all nations worshipping together.

Father God, we pray for your Church, throughout the world, and all who call themselves Christians, that they may live in unity and strength. Help us treat each other and our neighbours with consideration and respect, to celebrate what we have in common and to peacefully accept our differences. Guide us all in we do to serve You, our God.

Let's pray for our own church here in Letchworth. For Jeni as she leads our busy parish.

In a moment, let's be silent & hold Rachel & Derek before our God. Give thanks for their ministry here and bless them & hold them in your arms as they move on to their new parishes in Bedfordshire.

We pray also for Nick as he comes to us next Sunday.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lets now take a few moments in quiet reflection and as individuals place before God all those places in our world that need your loving arms around them. In particular we think of Ukraine and Turkey & Syria. We hold before you in particular all those who have lost loved ones and their homes in these terrible earthquakes.

Creator God, help us not to despair of our world & it's sometimes endless problems. We pray that our world leaders would have a passion for justice and truth, honesty and transparency.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, we pray for our town and community, help us always to put you first, our neighbour second and ourselves last of all. Help us to be submissive to your will for us and to live our lives genuinely trying to be your servants to all in this place, just as you asked. We hold in silence any things we have on our own hearts for our town & community.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, we pray for all who are suffering from physical, emotional or mental illness. Help them to see you through their pain and give them courage to face their future whatever that may bring. In a moment of quiet please pray for someone you know who is in need of Gods healing presence

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful Father, we pray for those who may be dying alone, unnoticed or unloved. We hold before you all those lives lost by the earthquakes in Turkey & Syria and for those who are grieving.

We pray for them to be aware of your loving arms around them, holding them close.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Faithful God as we leave this place today draw near to us, strengthen our faith, deepen our love for you and for our neighbours and open our eyes to the wonders of your creation, that we will be ready, willing and able to serve you and our community during the coming week.

**Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,  
our Risen Saviour Jesus Christ.**