

Intercessions on Sunday 25 July 2021

by Chris Seward

Lord God, heavenly Father, we pray this morning on the Feast of St James, the Apostle. We ask to be inspired by his life and by the service he gave to you. We recall the words of your Son to James' mother, saying that he "did not come to be served but to serve"... may each of us take these words with us in all we undertake and do this week.

We remember also that James died for his faith. We pray for all those whose safety and security are at risk because of their own faith and ask especially that Christians who are persecuted may remain strong and hopeful through knowing the protective power of your love.

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

We pray now for those whose vocation brings them to service in our own Christian community. We pray for Alan at this frustrating time of self-isolation, for Wendy as she celebrates her first Sunday worship at St Leonard's, Sandridge, and for Bill who returns to the tasks of ministry while, today, celebrating his 80th Birthday.

We pray also for Geoff, Melanie and Forbes as well as for Jo, giving thanks for the time she has offered us today.

May they all remain strong in faith and wise in leadership.

Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our nation and for the nations of the world. We give thanks for all who are engaged in the scientific and medical response to Coronavirus.

Around the world, during this Love Parks Week, we are called to love, protect and respect our parks and open spaces. So we are reminded of the important role they play in our lives as well as our responsibility, as Christians, to honour your Creation by being attentive stewards.

And, while praying for our natural world, we hold before you especially those areas affected recently by severe flooding: in Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands, the Indian states of Goa and Maharashtra and the central areas of China.

May we each seek to learn about what is happening to our planet and to call for and to take whatever measures we can to secure its future.

We pray that, in all matters, the world's leaders will understand the need for co-operative action that protects all your people: whatever nationality or faith.

Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for those who seek healing in mind, body and spirit. We ask that they, and all who care for them, find hope and are sustained by your presence. We pray for those known to us personally and to those known within our church family...

Tom, Susan, Imogen, Sandy, Ivy, Pat and Forbes (Snr), Jackie, Phil, Joan, Yvonne, Joy, Gill, Julie, Claire, Sarah, Dean.

We pray for those who have died, asking that those who mourn will be comforted:

Pat Quint (former curate of this parish), Robin Osborne and Barbara Wilbourn-Smith

And we pray for those whose anniversaries fall at this time, giving thanks for their memory and the love that they shared with family and friends:

Tim Goodman, Winifred May Morey

Lord, in your mercy...

So, Heavenly Father, let us go forward from our worship thankful for all that you give us and committed to serve you in all that we do this week. May your Son, Jesus Christ, be our inspiration as he was to your servant James, the apostle.

Merciful Father, accept these prayers in the name of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, Amen.