



## **Suggested Prayers - Sunday – 3<sup>rd</sup> of May 2020**

### **1. Thanksgiving and praise to God**

Our great and mighty God,

You are the powerful creator of all things, and of us. You rule over the whole world and sustain all of creation by your Son. You are a compassionate and gracious God, who is slow to anger and is rich in faithful love and truth. You maintain faithful love to a thousand generations, forgiving wrongdoing, rebellion, and sin. There is no other God besides you, and we praise you for your glory and majesty in all the earth.

We thank you that in your might and power, you know us and love us deeply. Thank you that you are a God who works in all things for the good of those who love you, who delights to hear our prayers, and who provides our every need. Thank you for your beautiful creation, for life and breath and every good thing we enjoy, because we know that every good and perfect gift is from you. Thank you most of all for Jesus, that he came and gave his life as a ransom for many. Thank you that in your love and mercy, you paid the price for our sins to reconcile us to yourself for eternity. Amen

### **2. A prayer for an end to the COVID-19 situation and the finding of a vaccine**

Our God and healer,

We pray in light of the current COVID-19 situation. We grieve the loss of so many lives around the globe and pray that you may bring a swift end to this crisis. We pray that you would stop the virus's spread, give our world leaders wisdom as they create policies to stem its spread, and give doctors and scientists insights into treatment and the production of a vaccine.

We thank you for the work of health care professionals all around the globe. Please give them endurance to continue, protection from infection, and rest when possible. Ease their anxieties and comfort them through loss. We also pray that you would comfort others around our world who have lost loved ones due to this virus. May this be a time where many people see their need for our Lord Jesus and turn to him to find life to the full. Amen

### **3. A prayer for World Mission, CMS and particularly Howard and Michelle Newby with Katelyn (14), Josh (10) and Caleb (7)**

Lord of all nations,

All of the earth is yours, and everyone in it, and we know that you are a God who wants everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. So, we thank you so much for those whom you have filled with the desire to see the gospel go out to all the nations, for World Mission, CMS, and other organisations. Please be at work through these groups to effectively see the gospel faithfully preached all around the globe, that we may see a world that knows Jesus.

We thank you in particular for the Newbys; for Howard, Michelle, Katelyn, Josh and Caleb. Thank you for their passion to see the good news about Jesus heard and believed in the Philippines. Thank you for what we have heard from them this week about how you are at work in the Philippines through your word, and that many are turning to Christ, growing in their knowledge and love of Jesus, and thirsting for your word. We pray that even though the Newbys are absent from the Philippines now that you might be growing the gospel there whilst also giving the family good refreshment here on home assignment. Amen

#### **4. A prayer for our Wardens, Parish Council and Senior Minister as they lead us in our financial decisions through this time**

God of the church.

We thank you for the Wardens, Parish Council and Phil. Thank you for their leadership, wisdom, and love as they guide our church, particularly in financial decisions. We thank you for your constant provision for our church by your people, and pray that you would continue to give us all hearts of gratitude and generosity toward the work of the gospel at SNAC.

Please continue to give them wisdom as they make decisions about church finances, particularly through this time. Give them confidence in your provision and guide them to gospel shaped priorities that, as a church, we may use our wealth for your eternal honour and glory. Amen

#### **5. A prayer for “Proclaiming Jesus” even in these unusual times**

Our heavenly Father,

We thank you so much for Jesus, and that the news of his lordship is indeed good news for all the earth. We grieve that we cannot meet together with friends and family at this time, but pray that even in these unusual times, you may be giving us opportunities to proclaim Jesus to those who don't yet know you. Give us awareness to notice opportunities as they come, and faithful words to speak in those situations. Help us make the most of current circumstances. Many of our society's cultural values and confidences have been shaken recently so please help us to proclaim the only truly firm foundation, Christ. Please use us in this way for the growth of your kingdom. Amen

#### **6. A prayer for the Bexley 8:30am congregation**

Our God who is near,

We pray for our brothers and sisters at the Bexley 8.30am congregation. Thank you for the many saints there who have been serving you faithfully for so long. Thank you for their love of you displayed over so many years. We pray now, that even in our changed circumstances, they are still able to meet around your word, love one another, and spur one another on to love and good deeds. As we all deal with isolation, we pray that you would particularly give them comfort in the knowledge of your presence by your spirit, and be at work in them to love one another well at this time, through whatever means they have available. Help them to look out for one another, to support and care for those in need, and to point one another to Jesus, the author and perfecter of their faith. Amen

#### **7. A prayer for us as we follow Jesus this week**

King of all peoples,

We pray now for ourselves this week. Please be conforming us, by the powerful work of your indwelling Spirit, more and more into the likeness of your Son. Help us to follow him faithfully, laying every aspect of your lives at his feet knowing that he is the rightful Lord of all. Help us to be people marked by love, love for you, for one another, and for our neighbours. Help us to put to death the sin in our lives that so easily entangles, and to put on love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, gentleness and self-control. May we be people who bring glory to you in every thought, word, and deed, as we take up our cross and follow him who died for us.

We pray all these things in the precious name of our Lord Jesus and for his eternal Glory.

Amen