

The LORD is righteous in all he does, merciful in all his acts. He is near to those who call to him, who call to him with sincerity.

Psalm 145:17-18

## PRAYERS FROM THE HEART

### Week 29th November to 5th December 2020

#### SUNDAY

We remember O God the events of the last year which we would not have foreseen 12 months ago. Many businesses and individuals are greatly concerned about their future. O Lord lead them in the way forward and grant them your "peace, which passes all understanding." Please let them know your presence and encourage them to trust you, even in these difficult times. We pray for world leaders as they grapple with the impact of Covid-19. O Lord, give them a desire to seek your face and not to attempt things in their own strength. May they be like Solomon who asked you for wisdom and discernment above all else. Help them to realise that, in doing so, you will counsel them and give them the understanding they need. For you are the fount of all wisdom and knowledge. Lord God, we ask that you would give great wisdom to the scientists developing and testing potential vaccines. May one soon be found which is safe and with few side effects. Lord we pray in your Powerful Name. Amen.

**REFLECT:** Consider praying regularly for our MPs. Perhaps send them a letter, postcard or email to say you are praying for them in these challenging days.

#### MONDAY

Light of the World, your Word reminds us that "the light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it". We know that many individuals and communities around the globe are suffering from the effects of isolation. Unable to meet up with family, friends or colleagues; they may have not spoken to other people for several weeks. You are the Good Shepherd and we bring before you these lonely and isolated people, both in the UK and the wider world. Lord we pray for your protection over their mental health and may they know your closeness at this time by the power of your Holy Spirit. Help us to "love our neighbours as ourselves" and to show it in practical ways. Give us confidence to respond to the promptings of your Holy Spirit in connecting with people and caring for them. For your glory. Amen.

**REFLECT:** Is there a neighbour or friend you could reach out to, asking how they are and if they need help with shopping etc?

#### TUESDAY

Lord God, we pray for Street Pastors as they reach out to others, often late at night. Reaching out to people who may have had too much alcohol to drink or who may be struggling with difficult issues in their life. Thank you for this opportunity to show the love of Jesus to people, by giving them practical and sometimes spiritual support. Continue to open doors for Street Pastors we pray, so they can help people and be good witnesses for you. Father thank you for Food Banks that organise food and personal items for individuals and families. This need has been even more evident during the last few months. There are so many people struggling to find enough money to put food on their table. Thank you that you have put love in our hearts and moved people by your Spirit to donate items to Food Banks. *"This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another."* (1 John 4 v10-11). Amen.

#### WEDNESDAY

Father God, we bring before you all GPs and medical staff working in hospitals and similar facilities. We ask that you would give them the wisdom needed to do their work. Show them how to provide the best care for the patients they deal with, especially in these challenging days. O Lord would you renew their strength each day and help them to cope with the pressures many of them are facing. Thank you for the skills you have given them so that they can serve their communities. Lord God, we also pray for all those struggling with ill health and ask that you would be near to them. May they look to you and hear your voice in the midst of the storm. Thank you Lord

that you can bring wholeness. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

#### THURSDAY

Lord God, we are so saddened about the ongoing atrocities against black people. O Lord you designed and created each person on this earth. How much more must you be saddened to see how badly one person treats another, whom you have made. We pray that you will convict people's hearts of your love and show them how to change and follow a better way, your way. We pray that you will draw out the hatred from people who carry out such evil acts against another human being. O Lord we know that you have the power to change people's hearts. We pray for a turnaround in all societies where black people are shunned. We cry out to you for your mercy and forgiveness for any hint of bad attitude within us. Show us how we can be part of the solution. For your glory Jesus. Amen.

#### FRIDAY

Caring Saviour, we bring before you the many thousands of children who did not receive any formal schooling for up to six months as a result of lockdown restrictions. We pray that there will be no long-term effects on children's education, health and wellbeing. O Lord we pray for Head Teachers and their colleagues who commit so much time into their work. Would you impart wisdom to them in knowing the best way to teach children and to help them catch up in lessons they have missed. Lord we pray for a new sense of your peace and joy to flow through schools now they have had time to settle back in. In your precious name, we pray. Amen.

**REFLECT:** Consider praying regularly for Head Teachers at your local school(s). Perhaps send them a letter, postcard or email to encourage them in their work and to say you are upholding them in prayer.

#### SATURDAY

Loving Father, we praise you that individuals have been able to keep in touch using technology, during this difficult time we have been going through. We thank you that so many people have been searching for you and have watched online Church services and meetings - many of these people would not normally have considered you. We have had a wonderful opportunity to reach out to them. O Lord, we pray that you would continue to draw near to these people and ask that many would come to know you as their Saviour and their Lord. Convict their hearts of their need for your forgiveness and for a relationship with you. We ask that you continue to encourage church leaders and to show them ways of meeting the needs of their congregations in the weeks and months ahead. Would you uphold our church leaders if they feel weary and would you fill them afresh with your living water. Breathe on them anew Holy Spirit. In Jesus name. Amen.



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