

Prayers during week commencing 10th May 2020

In this [Christian Aid Week](#) we remember in our prayers those beyond our own country who are suffering with Covid-19 around the world.

We offer to God in our prayers the many complex situations which are not making the news while the focus is on the pandemic and particularly on our own situations:

Places broken by war.

Unstable political regimes.

Refugees fleeing horrors we can barely imagine.

Political prisoners around the world.

Places of famine, drought, hunger, poverty.

Families who cannot afford to educate their children.

Communities without safe water supplies.

Charities struggling to survive in the current economic situation.

Loving and caring God,

I hold in my prayers today people in places I have never visited, in situations I can barely imagine. People forgotten as the world focuses on Covid-19. They are never forgotten by you. You remember your family in every nation and in every community. I pray today for those I am aware of and hold their stories before you. I pray also for the places that are known to you which I do not know. Loving God pour out your peace where it is needed. Shower hope where it is lost. Enable aid where it is possible.

Show me, I pray, what I can do and where my limited resources can best be used for your work. Where can my little make a big kingdom difference on your behalf today dear Lord?

Amen.

SHARING IN PRAYER FOR OUR DISTRICT AND OUR WORLD

In you, O LORD, I seek refuge; in your righteousness deliver me.

Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily.

Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me.

You are indeed my rock and my fortress;

Into your hand I commit my spirit;

you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God. (Psalm 31 selected NRSVA)

This week as we pray for our circuits we invite you to particularly pray for circuit stewards and treasurers; for Local Preachers and Worship Leaders.

<u>Day</u>	<u>For our District</u>	<u>For our Wider World</u>
Sun 10 th May	Durham & Deerness Valley Circuit	World leaders responding to Covid-19
Mon 11 th May	West Durham Circuit	That the focus on climate change and justice is not lost.
Tues 12 th May	Barnard Castle & Teesdale Circuit	All who are shielding due to underlying health conditions.
Wed 13 th May	North Yorkshire Dales Circuit	Distribution, farming and food suppliers.
Thur 14 th May	Ecumenical partners in our region	All those we clap for this evening.
Fri 15 th May	Chinese Congregations in Durham & Middlesbrough.	Hong Kong Conference and Miathene Synod, Kenya.
Sat 16 th May	Our regional safeguarding & learning network team	Those fearing domestic abuse in lockdown.

God our comforter and refuge

help us to trust in you even in the darkest days.

When that which is in our power and control seems miniscule, when what we can do seems so little, help us to place our little in your hands that you might bless it and many beyond.

Just as you fed 5000 with one boy's packed lunch.

Lectio divina

during week beginning 10th May 2020

JESUS THE WAY TO THE FATHER

[John14: 1-14](#)

'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ² In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to the place where I am going.' ⁵ Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' ⁶ Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.'

⁸ Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.' ⁹ Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. ¹² Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

Allow yourself time to follow the 4 stages of lectio divina (on the next page) slowly and prayerfully listening for God in each step.

LECTIO: READING

As you read the words again underline or highlight words which stand out for you. Notice and appreciate what is written.

MEDITATIO: MEDITATING

What does the passage mean for you today?

ORATIO: PRAYER

Respond sharing all you have noticed with God.

CONTEMPLATIO: CONTEMPLATION

Be still before God. Invite God to be with you. Give time for the words you have read and the meaning you have found to suggest action in your own discipleship.

Finding a rhythm and prayer and reflection in lockdown.

Here are some suggestions

Begin the day with Lectio 365 – reflect on a passage of scripture and pray with the 24/7 prayer team. (install on your phone from 24-7prayer.com)

9am daily – a regular order of morning prayer led by Christopher Wood-Archer in Middlesbrough and Eston Circuit (on Jitsi – contact Christopher or Kiera for details.)

Noon Join with Stokesley Circuit in saying the Lord's Prayer in the form familiar to you wherever you are at 12 noon.

1.17pm You may like to join with the **All We Can** team in committing to pray at 1:17 pm every day (reflecting Colossians 1:17 'In Christ all things hold together') - you can visit their social media pages to join them in prayer, or just pray wherever you are.