

January 24th 2020

Let us pray:

Lord, you brought joy and celebration to a young couple and their guests who had welcomed you to their simple gathering. May we always be willing to welcome you into our lives. Open our hearts to friends and strangers, the sick and the healthy, those whom we love, and those whom we find it difficult to love. Help us to recognize you in the best and the least of your people, and to show your welcoming spirit to all whom we encounter.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

We pray for the church and its leaders and give thanks for the contribution of the many people who work to ensure that people may come together for worship both in this building and online. Be with those who feel isolated or afraid in these difficult times, particularly the elderly, the sick and the vulnerable. Help them to know that they are not alone, and inspire us to show them your love and care in whatever way we are able.

We remember also those couples who had looked forward to marriage but who have had to postpone their weddings due to Covid restrictions. Grant to all couples a sense of strength and resilience, that their love may continue to grow and flourish, bringing them closer to each other and to you.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

We pray for world and political leaders in these times of division and uncertainty. Today we remember the people of the United States as they embark on a new chapter with President Joe Biden. Grant him and others in his administration the wisdom and strength to know and do your will, to seek truth, justice and peace, to heal the wounds of fear and dissent and to join with other world leaders as partners, allies and friends.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

As we consider the countless blessings in our lives, we remember the many people who are concerned with the welfare of others. Be with health care workers, police, social workers and all who work on the front line. Help them to know that they are not forgotten and be with them as they struggle to cope with their own physical and mental stress in the midst of so much suffering.

Lord, in your mercy ...

Lord, as you transformed common water into wine, we pray that you may take our common lives and transform them into the lives that you meant us to live. Save us and all your children from violence, discord and confusion; and show us your way, that we may be bearers of your love, bringing your light into this hurting world.

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