**Intercession**

**Fifth Sunday of Lent**

**21st March 2021**

**The Church of Christ**

Dear Lord, you come to meet us long before we search for you. Make your Church, a gateway to encountering your presence and glory. Eternal God, your son chose twelve disciples to work together to spread the good news of the gospel to the whole world, help us as we work together in our ministry for the common good. May we delight in sharing in each other’s spiritual gifts and enabling everyone to make their own contribution however small. May we show forth your love and always direct our hearts to you.

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

**Creation, human society, the Sovereign and those in authority**

You come to meet us, O Lord, amidst the struggles and tensions of life. We pray for peace in our world; may all lands that suffer violence and injustice find peace and reconciliation.

We pray for the peoples of the world, and all who **offer** their services in the leadership of the affairs of the world, that they may uphold what is right and good.

Father we pray especially for the injured and displaced people of Tigray Ethiopia, to find a timely and peaceful resolution to the ongoing conflict. We pray for God’s intervention and his presence to be felt for those affected and those still in danger.

We pray particularly at this time for your love and compassion to prosper, as we walk through this challenging time of the global Pandemic.  Give all people courage to stand for justice and peace. We ask for wisdom for those who bear the load of making decisions about Coronavirus with possible widespread consequences. And help us to bring in your kingdom of truth and liberty here on earth.

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

**The local community**

Dear Lord, where winter has reigned, let spring break out. Where hearts are gripped in ice, may your sun rise with healing wings, in moments of faithfulness and failure.

Give us grace to confront the darkness within and to embrace your new life. Let us learn to be your neighbour and be loved. Link us to life through you. Help victims and offenders to be set free from all that burdens them.

We thank you for all those who volunteer to support our community to run smoothly. Help us to be supportive and encouraging and to step into situations where we can serve. Bless our neighbours and strengthen those who are working in your name in order to bring healing and comfort to those in need.

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

**Those who suffer**

Lord, take us to yourself, in strength and weakness. Those who hurt so much in the depths of their being and caught up in the pain of life. As you shared our frailty, give comfort to all in distress or adversity. Merciful God your Son Jesus Christ healed the lame with a touch and raised the dead with a word – hear our prayers today for those who are laid low by sorrow and illness, or by fear and weakness; breathe new life into them.

In all our infirmity we share in your passion.

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

**The communion of saints**

Lord, we pray for all those who have passed and who’s anniversaries fall around this time. You come to meet us in your cross and resurrection. We remember all those whom we knew and have now joined the cycle of life and death… Draw them to yourself, that they may be lifted up into eternal life.

**Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord;** and let light perpetual shine upon them.

May the rest in peace; and rise in Glory

**We Pray with Mary:** Hail Mary, full of Grace. The Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst all women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God Pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death.

Loving God as we go forth from this time of worship, help us to remember that you do infinitely more for us than we can ask or imagine. Hear our prayers for all your creation and gather us in the embrace of your abundant and life-giving Spirit.

**Merciful Father, accept these prayers…**