**Intercessions - Easter Day - 4 April 2021**

**Heavenly Father**, on this day of all days we give thanks for your goodness and the mercy shown to all your people, for whom your Son laid down his life.

God of new life, of resurrection, open up for us the gates to your Kingdom of peace and harmony. May we enter with thanksgiving and praise and our hearts rejoicing in you, even as we recognise the darkness that still surrounds your world and the suffering of so many of your children.

Help us, we pray, to know your healing presence, and may your light shine in and through us so that we become beacons of your light to all those around us.

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

**Gracious God,** we thank you for creation and the cycle of life. After the bleakness of a lockdown winter, it can be difficult to remember that new life is bursting out all around us, so we give thanks for the return of Spring and its wonderful blossoms.

We thank you that your Son fulfilled his destiny, in spite of the bitterness of his cup, when he rose from the dead and ascended into heaven. We may not yet be able to sing together here, but we can still rejoice that “Now the green blade rises from the buried grain, wheat that in the dark earth many years has slain; love is come again, like wheat that springs up green”.

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

**Faithful God,** it is because your Son is risen that we are gathered here today in community and seeking communion with you.

It is because your Son is risen, that we are assured of new life and new beginnings in you, the source of our hope and strength for our journey of faith.

Help us to draw from your wellspring of hope and strength when we seek to help and support our families, friends, neighbours and wider community, recognising they have as much need of us as we have need of them.

Lord, give us the wisdom to act collectively, with clarity and true charity for the well-being of others. May we see and recognise you in unexpected places and know your peace, as we strive together to achieve such peace on earth.

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

**Faithful God**, our source of comfort and healing, we pray that you be with all those who suffer in body mind or spirit.

Comfort those who cry out in pain, fear and grief of loss. May they regain their strength and health, and know you as the healer of all.

Lord, stay by our side in this time of continuing uncertainty and sorrow. Help us, we pray, to see the promise in the dawn of each new day and the green shoots of renewal, revival and hope.

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

**Merciful God,** through the resurrection of your Son, light triumphs over darkness and life triumphs over death.

We give thanks for the love that brings life out of death as we particularly remember today those known to us who have departed this life.

Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord, **and let light perpetual shine upon them**. May they rest in peace, **and rise in glory**.

Bring comfort to the families and friends of those who have died. As they now grieve the loss of loved ones, defend them from sickness and despair. May they too know your protection and peace.

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

We pray with Mary

**Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you,
blessed are you among women,**

**and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death**.

Merciful Father**, accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,**

**our Saviour, Jesus Christ.**

**Amen**