

## **Intercessory prayers** Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Lord, as we celebrate your baptism by John, let us be filled with Holy Spirit as you were. Let the Holy Spirit be with us as a church and lead us in our worship and learning together. Let your Spirit give us the understanding to preach your gospel throughout the world, the perseverance to continue when it seems that the world is not listening, and the courage to stand by you when the world appears to turn against us for our faith in you.

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

Lord, after his baptism Jesus went into the wilderness to spend time in prayer and listening to you. Enter our lives so that prayer becomes as important to us as it was to Jesus. Let your Spirit work in us so that we learn how to pray to you and to listen to your word, so that we may move closer to you in everything that we do. Let us feel your Love within our living.

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

Lord, as your world struggles with the coronavirus pandemic, we give you thanks for the gifts of knowledge and understanding that has led to the development of the vaccines that are beginning to be used across the world. We pray that our world distributes these with fairness and generosity, so that rich countries do not take everything for their own peoples but share with those poor and developing countries. Let there be justice and generosity in our efforts to control the spread of the disease.

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

Lord, who sent your son to make all things new, renew and strengthen our communities, we pray. Help us to rise above any petty disagreements and difficulties and help each of us to dig deep within to bring forth all that is best in us, as we seek to build up the mutual help that we can offer each other. We pray for our local schools. Bless and keep safe all the students and staff in their work to continue teaching in such difficult times.

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

Lord, we bring before you all those whose lives are bruised, whose hopes are quenched; all those who are in pain, whether physical or mental. In the darkest of dark nights, and the darkest of dark valleys, may they be granted a glimmer of your healing light and presence.

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

Lord, we pray for all those whom we have loved who are now departed this life. May they rest in peace and rise in glory. By your grace, may they and we be one in you in life everlasting.

*Short silence* Merciful Father accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen