

PRAYERS of INTERCESSIONSunday, 21st March 2021

A lament inspired by one of the National Psalms of Lament has been prepared either as a sung response used in this prayer or as a stand alone item. It is set to a bittersweet Welsh tune, "David of the White Rock", which has been haunting the creator of the Lament throughout lockdown. Please feel free to use these resources in whatever way and feel free to share them.

Lord, you have been a refuge
to all who learn to trust in you:
offering hope and help,
reaching out anew.

At this time of darkness
when hope seems all but gone
may we see again your light
to bring in a new dawn.

R A Hamilton

LET US PRAY

Welcoming God,

who in Christ embraced the world in a welcome offered to Jew and Greek, male and female,

hear our prayers for others as, like Andrew and Philip who brought Greeks to Jesus,
we bring family, friends and neighbours both far and near to you.

As we lament with them in their pain, may they know you drawing alongside them . . .

Response: Lord, you have been a refuge . . .

Suffering God,

who in Christ embraced a suffering world and continues to embrace all who are suffering,

hear our prayers for those for whom life is hard and, at times unbearable, especially
over this past year:

we pray for the most fragile and vulnerable,
broken in body . . .

broken in mind . . .
 we pray for the bereaved,
 those whose loss has been greatest,
 unable to say proper goodbyes . . .
 deprived of immediate support around them . . .

As we lament with them in their pain, may they know you drawing alongside them . . .

Response: Lord, you have been a refuge . . .

Serving God,

who in Christ washed the feet of his friends as a symbol of one who came to serve,
 hear our prayers for those who have sought to serve and bring relief to those
 who have suffered and continue to suffer:

we pray for all NHS workers and all in the caring sectors working in hospitals,
 in care homes and in people's home . . .

we pray for all who have supported the bereaved - in the church and churches,
 in the funeral sector, in so many other places and other ways.

As we give thanks for their commitment, their words and messages of hope and their practical
 support, may they also know you kneeling with them as they kneel at the feet of many in need.

As we lament with them in their pain, may they know you drawing alongside them . . .

Response: Lord, you have been a refuge . . .

Eternal God,

who in Christ pointed us beyond this life to eternity and the place he went to prepare for us,
 we give thanks for the saints who have gone before us . . .

who inspired us both in their living and their dying.

May we be ever thankful for their presence in our lives and that rich legacy of love that they
 have left and the example they have given for us to follow.

In the name of Christ who is the light, life and hope of this world and the world to come.

AMEN.