

Prayers 22 August

IN RESPONSE TO THE MESSAGE

Our Father in heaven, we thank you for this marvellous picture of your church – the body of Christ. We thank you that there are many gifts but one Spirit. We thank you that there is one body but many parts. And we thank you for the unique part that you have caused us as individuals to play in your body. Help us Lord both to know and to hone the gifts you have given us, and use them for the common good and for your glory. May all members work wonderfully well, as we come together as your body and give expression to all you have taught us here in this passage. And we ask it in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

COVID

Lord God and Heavenly Father, we praise you for your sovereign care of your world. We recognise that all things are upheld and sustained by your powerful and loving hand. So we come before you now and commit to you the global spread of the Coronavirus. Events like this remind us of our own limited control even of our own lives, so we ask for you to act mercifully in this situation. Please halt the spread of the virus. Protect those who are especially vulnerable; heal those who are sick; prevent any further death. Give wisdom to those who lead and govern that they may take every necessary step for the good of those who serve. Calm the hearts of those who are anxious and please grant your comfort to those who are isolated, or who have lost loved ones from the virus. Exercise your sovereign power in your great love and bring an end to this sickness, we pray. And we pray for your people in this time. Please enable us to continue meeting together. Please strengthen us to be salt and light in the world. May our lives be characterised by peace and not by panic; by faith rather than fear; by self-sacrifice and service rather than self-seeking; by the proclamation of the gospel to a world that desperately needs the good news of Christ. May our lives be a witness to the firm foundation of Jesus and his life-giving words. Rescue our world from this sickness. Even more so, be rescuing people from the terrible sickness of sin. In the name of King Jesus, we pray, **Amen.**

For the wider world

Gracious God, we have been shocked Taliban has taken over region after region in Afghanistan and then finally Kabul.

We pray for all the people dealing with the destruction caused by the violence. Please comfort those who have lost loved ones, bring strength and bring healing to the injured; wisdom to the world leaders as they work out how respond to the new situation in Afghanistan.

Through all of this, may Christians there be strengthened to trust you and to share with others, the hope and peace they have found in you. Please protect Christian pastors and people.

Have mercy on our entire world. Please Lord, bring revival and renewal of turning to you and trusting you, as we know that this is our world's only hope. Strengthen your church worldwide to live holy and godly lives which give powerful testimony to the reality of your transforming love. All this we ask in Jesus' name. **Amen.**