

Loving Lord, the Light of the World **shine your light into our hearts.**

As the world waits for the pandemic to be brought under control help your Church to wait patiently and reflectively as to how it can, in the strength of the Holy Spirit, best reveal your Light to a suffering world both now and in the future. A Light to bring sustained hope and reassurance that we are all your children held at all times within your covenantal care. Help all of us as individuals to use this time to strengthen our own faith in your loving purposes for us and to take time to evaluate what really matters in our lives; what it is we truly long for as Simeon and Anna longed to bear witness to the coming of the Messiah.

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As governments around the world struggle with the task of effectively controlling the pandemic and carrying out a massive programme of vaccination we humbly ask that they may be given the blessings of wisdom and right judgement in the decisions they make for the good of all. May all the advice they are given from scientists and the medical profession help to shine a light into the best way forward into a future that holds hope for all people but most especially the poor and disadvantaged.

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As children and young people continue to be home- schooled we give thanks for all those who instruct and teach them in ways that are unfamiliar, and which challenge them to seek new methods of bringing the light of knowledge to their students and impart in them a sustained love of learning. We pray too for all parents who struggle to balance the demands of their own work with the needs of their children and ask you to teach them patience and understanding.

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We pray for all those in hospitals and care homes struggling each day with the immensity of the healing task they are called upon to perform. Even in their darkest hours may they be given a sense of the light of your healing presence to ease both physically and mentally their own pain, distress and sorrow.

We ask for your healing touch on all those we know personally who are suffering at this time and may the blessing of your peace be upon those close to death.

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And as the days lengthen, the spring flowers start to blossom and the birds to sing may we give you our most grateful thanks for all the wonders of your creation.

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Help us always to remember that ‘darkness is not dark to you; darkness and light to you are both alike.’ and be given by God’s grace the courage and fortitude, the perseverance and faithfulness to live out our lives to your glory..

May the Light of Christ be with us and refine us, inspire and encourage us to serve him faithfully all the days of our life.

Merciful Father **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.**