



This image is part of one of the stained-glass windows in the Stamford Chapel – Christ the Good Shepherd, carrying His sheep which was lost, but now is found. It illustrates perfectly part of the reading from Matthew's Gospel today.

So, let us pray:

The response to my bidding 'Lord, in your mercy', is 'Hear our Prayer'.

We bring our intercessions this morning, to God the Father who created the world, To God the Son who redeemed the world, To God the Holy Spirit who sustains the world.

Father God, we thank you this morning that we can bring our prayers before you with confidence. Lord Jesus, we thank you that when we were lost, you found us and re-made us. Holy Spirit, we thank you for your ever-present sustaining power and we pray that you will make us open channels for your blessings.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We bring before you Lord those in the world and in our own country who are in physical need; those who can never look forward to a good meal and a comfortable bed. We pray for those who are worn down with the stresses of life and who are without hope. We pray especially for the many children of this country whose mental distress is resulting in their dependence on antidepressants. Help us, Lord, to be your eyes and ears, hands, and feet to recognise need when we see it and to act when we can.

Lord, in your mercy, Hear our Prayer.

Father God we pray for our Church at St. Margaret's, that each of us, as we come gradually out of this period of Covid19 lockdown, will make use of our individual talents, enabling each church group to flourish as a witness to the "One Body" of your Church. Help us all to spread the warmth of Your love to those we meet in our daily lives and, once we are able to worship together in

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person again, help us to welcome all who come here no matter what their background, lifestyle, or outward appearance may be.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer

Lord Jesus, you came to this world to share our humanity, and you bore pain and grief yourself. You wept at the death of your friend Lazarus. We pray that you will be with all those who weep with grief or loss, so that they will know that they, and their loved ones, are 'found'

In a moment of quietness, we bring before you those we know who need your blessing just now:

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus, we bring before you today the children of our church in this time of confusion. We pray for our church school, that you will bless the Head Teacher, the Governors and all who are striving to do their best for our local children in such unusual circumstances. Holy Spirit, we pray that your abiding presence may be conducive to peace and calmness as difficult and consequential decisions are made.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Let us end our prayers by saying together the Grace.

May the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all now and evermore, AMEN.

Every Blessing.
Christine Armstrong