

St. Margaret's Church, Dunham Massey – Intercessions for 11th Sunday after Trinity
23rd August, 2020



Good morning. This is the first day that our much-loved Church building will be opened for worship, at the end of a long period of lock-down.

Some of us, though, whether we are shielding ourselves or someone else close to us, do not yet feel safe to be away from home. These intercessions, therefore, are for those who are worshipping at home rather than in Church.

Here is a little piece of Church for you. The reading today is from Matthew 16, verses 13 – 20. It refers to Christ giving to Peter the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven. This stained-glass window is in that part of the Stamford Chapel where our Ladies Fellowship and PCC meetings are held.

Look at the central part of the window. Peter is kneeling before Christ and is holding 'the keys'.

LET US PRAY:

The response to my bidding 'Lord, in your mercy', is 'hear our prayer'.

Almighty Father, your will is to restore all things in your beloved Son, the King of all. We pray that you will bring the families of the nations, divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin, to be subject to Christ's just and gentle rule'

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God of compassion, whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary, shared the life of a home in Nazareth, and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself: strengthen us in our daily living, that in joy and in sorrow we may know the power of your presence to bind together and to heal. We pray especially today for all those young people who have endured weeks of anxiety about their examination results. We pray that you will indeed bind together and heal as they still await hearing what the next stage of their lives will be.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

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God of compassion, your love for humanity was revealed in Jesus, whose earthly life began in the poverty of a stable and ended in the pain and isolation of the cross: We bring before you all who are grieving the loss of loved ones. We remember the life of Mary Lewis, who, with her husband Kenneth, gave herself for very many years in your service at St. Margaret's Church. We think of Mary's family and friends just now and we pray that you will comfort them in spirit. May Mary, reunited with Kenneth, rest in peace, and rise in Glory.

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, evermore. AMEN

Let this be our prayer for this coming week:

**Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me.
Christ beneath me, Christ above me
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.**

Every blessing,

Christine Armstrong