**Prayers of the People**

Intercessor’s Copy Lent 2022

*The bidding and closing prayer are printed in the bulletin. Prayers should be adapted freely to the needs of your congregation.*

Let us join our hearts and pray together for strength on our Lenten journey:

God our Maker, hear our prayers as we take steps together into the wilderness. By the binding of our hearts and souls to you and to one another, may we know your saving power.

Aid us, O God, **and lead us to life.**

When tempted to arrogance or self-righteousness, let the Church remember the humility and service of the Christ who calls us. We pray for Michael, our Presiding Bishop, for Paul-Gordon, our Bishop, *for the Church of N. (Anglican Cycle of Prayer).* We pray for our Diocese, and for the faith community of N. *(Diocesan Cycle of Prayer).*

Aid us, O God**, and lead us to life.**

When tempted to mis-use power and corruption of law, let nations and powers remember the meaning of justice, truth and mercy; how fragile we are, how interconnected. We pray for all world leaders and for our President, Vice-President, and all federal, state and local officials. Aid us, O God, **and lead us to life.**

When tempted with pleasures without responsibility, help us to live selflessly, to be sensitive and considerate to others, to recognize and honor our interdependence. We are grateful for our church family [and give you thanks for those who celebrate *especially N.* -- b*irthday/anniversar*y.]

Aid us, O God, **and lead us to life.**

When tempted to the false comfort of consumption and greed for material goods, help us to infuse our daily interactions of consumerism with purpose, kindness, service to others, and to remember simplicity in our living.

Aid us, O God, **and lead us to life.**

When tempted to anger and violence, grant us the grace of restraint and the power of your peace. When frustrations, burdens, and barriers make us lose hope and trust in you, give us the memory of your assistance in the past and the power to persevere in the present. Aid us, O God**, and lead us to life.**

When illness and pain make us blind to your real and abiding presence, open our eyes and stretch out your hand. We pray for all those who suffer in body, mind or spirit especially *N*.

We pray for all those serving in the military and who need your guidance and protection, *especially N.*

Aid us, O God, **and lead us to life.**

When loneliness and isolation make us feel cut off from the human family, grant us the power to reach out to others who are also in need of aid, comfort, and companionship. Aid us, O God, **and lead us to life.**

When the powers of addiction ensnare us and keep us fractured from ourselves, our families, our communities, grant us the inner strength and courage to take a step toward healing and hopefulness.

Aid us, O God, **and lead us to life.**

When near to death, when suffering the loss of those we love, when fearful of our own mortality, grant us release from fear and help us trust that, because of Christ, death is not the final word. [We pray for *N.* who died…]

Aid us, O God, **and lead us to eternal life.**

O God, we know well our fragility and weakness. We know how we lose our way and forget our true identity in you. Help us this Lent to be open in new ways to your grace that strengthens, renews, and restores us. We pray together in Jesus’ name. **Amen.**