As we begin this New Year and new term, keep us, good Lord,

under the shadow of your wings of mercy in this time of uncertainty and change.

Draw close to all who are suffering in body, mind or spirit.

Sustain and support the anxious and fearful.

Bring your presence into the midst of our loneliness,

your peace into our anxiety, your light into our darkness.

Help us to remember you are with us and hold us in your hands.

Thank you for your promise never to leave us,

so we may be assured that in whatever ways we are struggling, we are not alone because nothing can separate us from your love in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gracious God,

We ask you to continue to give resilience, skill and sympathy to all who are caring for the vulnerable, the elderly and the sick, whether at home, in care home or hospital.

By your Spirit strengthen all who work in our health and social care systems, that through them many will be restored to health and know your comfort.

We thank you for the provision of vaccines in the UK and we ask for further breakthroughs in the treatment of the omicron variant of virus.

 We pray that all these benefits will be shared globally for the healing and well-being of all, wherever they may live. Amen.

Holy Spirit, Lord and giver of all talents,

We pray for each and every key worker, risking their well-being to help others and pray your protection and blessing over them and their families.

We pray you would help us to think and to act responsibly to protect ourselves and others, and that you would teach us to love our neighbours as ourselves. Amen.

Lord Jesus,

You know what it is to grieve.

We pray that you will draw close to all who mourn,

that you will enfold them in your loving arms and comfort them.

May they know a tangible sense of your comfort as they grieve,

and that you are with them always.

We pray that you will help people to journey through their grief and pray for those who are struggling. Amen.

Sovereign Spirit of God, As the new term begins, we pray for all schools, colleges and universities, pupils, students and teaching staff, lecturers, principals and governors. Help them to engage with their lessons and studies in ways that are considered and safe, and we ask for your protection and peace over them and their families. Amen.

Loving Lord,

We pray for all whose livelihoods continue to be damaged by this virus, for those who cannot work, or whose job is under threat, or has come to an end, and for those seeking work. As living costs rise, we pray for all who are worried about money and ask that government support will be generous, available, and easily accessible. We pray for shopkeepers and businesses, asking your blessing on every wholesome enterprise, and we pray particularly for the flourishing of all retailers and employers in Alsager and for the area of the North West. Amen.

Father God,

We pray for the world that you have given us and called us to care for as stewards.

As we pray for our government and other world leaders, grant them humility, integrity, and a love of the truth as they work on our behalf.

May the promises made at COP26 be turned into actions.

We pray for the right decisions to be made to lower infection rates again.

We pray for the establishment of your justice in our world, and for an end to all oppression, racism, and corruption wherever and whenever it is found.

We ask for your spirit of generosity and grace to abound,

for your wisdom in decision making,

your clarity in communication,

and for your imagination as new plans are created. Amen.

Holy Spirit, as you have revealed to us Jesus as the saviour and light of the world,

Empower us, bless us with unity and encourage us to walk with you and one another, taking every opportunity to witness to you in word and deed. We pray you will transform the hearts of many to become lifelong disciples of Jesus, praying especially for all the Alpha courses around the world. As we pray for our own church family at Christ Church, navigating through this period of change, grant us wisdom, and guide and lead us that we may be loving, obedient and faithful to your will. Amen.

We are not people of fear,

we are people of courage.

We are not people who protect our own safety alone,

we are people who protect our neighbours’ safety.

We are not people of greed,

we are people of generosity.

We are not people who promote oppression,

We are people who seek justice and equality for all.

We are your people God, giving and loving,

wherever we are, whatever it costs,

for as long as it takes, wherever you call us. Amen.

And so we gather all our prayers together, those spoken, and the silent ones we’ve said in our hearts, bringing before God every family represented here in our community in Alsager and online as we say together the family prayer that Jesus taught us

**Our Father in heaven,**

**hallowed be your name**

**your kingdom come,**

**your will be done on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**for the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,**

**now and forever.**

**Amen.**

**Short passages from the bible**

Psalm 27 The Lord is my light and my salvation

Psalm 46 God is our refuge and strength.

Psalm 121 God is our helper and protector

Psalm 139 O Lord, you have searched me out and known me

Isaiah 43 I have called you by name

Matt 6 v 25 – 34 Do not worry about your life, God cares for you.

Phil. 4 v 4 – 8 God’s peace will guard you hearts

**Personal Prayers**

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your disciples,
‘I am with you always’.
Be with me today, as I offer myself to you.
Hear my prayers for others and for myself,
and keep me in your care.

Amen

*St Patrick’s Breastplate*

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.

**Blessings**

The Lord bless you and keep you,

the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you,

the Lord look kindly on you and give you peace;

and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you, this day and for evermore.

Amen.

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you, wherever He may send you.

May He guide you through the wilderness, protect you through the storm.

May He bring you home rejoicing at the wonders He has shown you.

May He bring you home rejoicing once again into our doors.

Amen.

**Source URL:** [*https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches*](https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches) *and Rev. Sister Heather Kemball*