

For 17th to 30th April 2022

Prepared by Eric Smith

Each Sunday at 7pm, Christians in every part of the UK join in prayer. Here are some prayer thoughts from Eric you may wish to focus on.

*The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.'*

Matt 28:5-7

*When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs." Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep." The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep.*

John 21:15-17

*Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

Matt 28:18-20

The first day of this fortnightly series of prayer points is Easter Sunday – give thanks for the miracle of Easter, demonstrating as it does the depth of God's love, and the immensity of the sacrifice He made in the atoning death of Jesus. Reflect on the three passages above, coming in the aftermath of that first Easter and allow Christ's words to guide our prayers, thoughts and actions in the days ahead as we seek to share His gospel with those around.

### **Ukraine – pray for this ongoing conflict:**

- for those suffering as a result of the war itself, injured or bereaved
- for those working to help the injured, to give safe passage to those fleeing as refugees
- for those in the UK and other countries offering help and accommodation
- for those politicians and diplomats engaged in striving for peace

Above all, pray for a touch of the hand of God on the whole situation – that He may work in hearts and minds where human efforts fail that there may be a peaceful resolution.

### **Covid – as legal restrictions are lifted:**

- give thanks for the progress that is being made in so many areas of life towards a more “normal” situation
- pray that each person, going about their daily life, would recognise that for many this is still a hugely difficult and challenging time and would be considerate and respectful in how they interact
- pray for the still hard-pressed NHS and other services – for those doctors, nurses, porters, cleaners who are tired and faced with overwhelming demands
- pray that our politicians and leaders would have a genuine care for and respect for the people that they govern and that their actions would match up to their rhetoric

### **Government – national and local:**

- as we move towards elections, pray that those standing as candidates would be motivated by service of the electorate rather than personal position and power
- pray for Godly values to be at the root of how the political parties seek to govern – again that needs an intervention from God Himself in His power
- pray for constructive, wise debate and that the promises made would be fulfilled

### **Our Church family**

- give thanks for all who are part of Brightons Church family
- pray that those who lead, and help would know God’s touch and, if they have a summer break, would return refreshed

Remember Jesus’ words: *And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*