



# Church Family Prayer

## Exodus 3:7-10, 4:29-31

**3:7** The Lord said, 'I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. **8** So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey – the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. **9** And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the

Egyptians are oppressing them. **10** So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.'

**4:29** Moses and Aaron brought together all the elders of the Israelites, **30** and Aaron told them everything the Lord had said to Moses. He also performed the signs before the people, **31** and they believed. And when they heard that the Lord was concerned about them and had seen their misery, they bowed down and worshipped.

## Praise and Thanksgiving

### The Pandemic

#### *Give thanks for:*

- The success of the vaccination rollout and those involved in its implementation.
- The NHS and its staff.
- The reminder this pandemic brings of our frailty and need of eternal security.

#### *Pray for:*

- The continued speed and effectiveness of the vaccine programme.
- A continued decline in rates of infection, admission and death.
- Protection for those who are most vulnerable, medically and economically.
- Wisdom for the government as they oversee the easing of restrictions.
- There to be no new variants against which existing vaccines would not work.
- Those who are dying and those left behind – that many turn to the Lord Jesus.
- Churches nationally to be offering gospel hope in a time when it's so especially needed.

## Our Community

### *Pray for:*

- Our schools as children return from Monday – for the transition to go smoothly, for children’s mental health as they adjust and for safety.
- Local businesses struggling due to current restrictions.
- Those who are especially isolated or who have been bereaved during the last year.
- Those who are struggling financially or who struggle to provide for themselves.
- Arise Sheffield – for prayer and evangelism through March. Visit [arisesheffield.org](http://arisesheffield.org) for more info.

## Our Church – People

### *Those who are unwell:*

- Doreen Brook
- Roy Womack
- Jean Pearson
- Evelyn Coulson
- Sarah Asbery
- Simon and Denise Balfour and Denise’s mother, Margaret (all with covid-19)

### *Those in leadership positions:*

- Anna De Castro – furlough ends this week. Pray for the adjustment in the family as the girls return to school. Pray for Anna as she looks to develop various ministries and prepare for post-covid ministry.

- Chris Tufnell – for wisdom in leadership, sustaining in the course of regular sermon prep and a close and deepening walk with the Lord. Please pray for Chris on the ‘Arrow Leadership Programme’ all next week – for this to be a deeply beneficial time.
- Marilyn Stanley and Beth Johnson – who have recently become ‘Welcome Team Leaders’.
- Helen Hayward as warden and the rest of the PCC as they make decisions over the life of the church.
- For our APCM on 23<sup>rd</sup> March and all those who will be elected to leadership positions through that.

## Our Church – Ministry

### *Outreach:*

- Those who are ‘dropping in’ on our live streamed services. For unbelievers to come to faith through that.
- For various people who have made baptism enquiries recently.
- The Easter Gift Packs Giveaway – for many to buy and give away packs and for those who receive them to engage with Jesus and the gospel through the resources included in them. (Note: order deadline is 14<sup>th</sup> March.)
- Christianity Explored course – beginning Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> April. For us as we invite people to come. For many to sign up, attend and come to faith in Jesus.
- For other initiatives in the planning to share the gospel in this period.

on a personal level and grip their hearts with the gospel of Jesus.

- Parents seeking to disciple their children at home.

### *Discipleship:*

- For the recommencement of in-person services to go smoothly and safely, and for it to be a great joy for those who are able to meet physically together again.
- Pray for the situation nationally to allow restrictions on singing and social distancing at church services to end sooner rather than later.
- For ‘Small Group Central’ to be a place of real spiritual growth as we seek to apply the teaching from the previous Sunday.
- For God the Holy Spirit to be showing us more of Jesus through our Sunday talk series through Mark 14-16.
- For all those who serve us on Sundays through the music, sound, visuals and live stream.
- For our individual Bible reading and prayer lives to be deepening our delight in God and the gospel.

### *Children, Youth and Families:*

- Sunday Club, continuing online until 18 April.
- Youth Bible Studies continuing to look at ‘Christianity Explored for Youth’. That the Lord would use that to engage the youth

## **The Persecuted Church – Syria**

*Syria's north-eastern Hassake Governorate is home to tens of thousands of mostly Assyrian and Armenian Christians. In 2019, Turkish troops and Islamist jihadists advanced into this area insisting there would be "no room for Christians". One of their weapons has been water. In August 2020, in the midst of the scorching summer heat, airstrikes on the Alok pumping station, deprived many residents of water for weeks.*

*Before the civil war, around 10% of Syria's 22 million population was Christian. Unusually for a Muslim-majority country, Christians in Syria had enjoyed respect and equality until the rise of Islamist groups during the civil war.*

*Huge numbers of Syrian Christians have fled their country since the civil war began in 2011, but have often faced discrimination and sometimes violence in the countries where they found themselves.*

*Pray for:*

- Pray that Christians forced to flee north-east Syria will find safety and a new home.
- Pray for peace and stability in Syria and for Christians to once again be able to live there in safety.
- Give thanks that the faith of Christians has emerged stronger from the furnace of affliction.
- Pray that this witness might draw many other Syrians to trust and follow Jesus.
- Pray that the Lord will continue to provide for them as they rebuild their lives.

**Pray for others in your breakout room**