

# *A Prayer for the United Kingdom*

## *by 24-7 Prayer, March 2019*

*You are invited to kneel and, if you are able, to confess.*

“Heavenly Father, we pray for our country at this time of such division, confusion and despair. Some of us are for Brexit, some of us are against it, but we all look to you to guide us, reconcile and restore us.

***Lord, have mercy on us.***

Our political leaders cannot agree, but you have been the hope and the heart of these islands for centuries, and today we return to you again, the King of this divided kingdom.

***Lord, have mercy on us.***

Young people feel hopeless and unrepresented, but you are our future, the Lord of nations in every generation, the same yesterday, today and forever.

***Lord, have mercy on us.***

Communities are divided, social media is cynical, public discourse is polarised but you are the way, the truth and the life, the Rock of Ages, a very present help in times of trouble.

***Lord, have mercy on us.***

We humble ourselves and repent of our pride, our division, our selfishness. We confess that we have looked to ourselves and not to you. We are sorry. Hear our prayer and heal our land.

***Lord, have mercy on us.***

*You are invited to confess your own divisions, silently naming someone who thinks differently to you and asking God to bless that person. After a few moments of silence, you are invited to stand, if you are able, to intercede.*

God of all wisdom and truth, we ask you to inspire and guide our political leaders at this difficult time. Raise up brilliant women and men of peace, integrity and startling courage to lead us in this dark hour.

***Lord, we ask you to intervene.***

God of justice, at this time of economic and social uncertainty we pray for the most vulnerable in our midst - for the marginalised, the lonely elderly, the solo parents struggling to cope, the long-term unemployed, the homeless and the refugee. Lord, would you please intervene to do whatever is best, not for the rich and powerful but for the poor and vulnerable.

***Lord, we ask you to intervene.***

God of mercy, we are deeply divided. Would you rise with healing in your wings, bring balm to our brokenness and wholeness to our hurts. Forgive us where we have not loved our European neighbours. Have mercy on this great continent of nations, founded on your laws and shaped by your gospel. We have lost our way. We are prodigal people. Help us to find our way home.

***Lord, we ask you to intervene.***

Lord of the church, we pray for our spiritual leaders that they would speak truth to power without compromise. As our nations shake, awaken your church to proclaim the good news of your gospel with renewed conviction. Revive us, we pray, and reconcile our relationships that the world may perceive that you are alive, believe in your name, and receive your love for every person, every family, every city in this land.

***Lord, we ask you to intervene.***

And now we pray together Psalm 85, an ancient prayer for national restoration, in unison with others throughout the country and previous generations stretching back 2,500 years:

“Restore us again, God our Saviour, and put away your displeasure towards us.

Will you be angry with us for ever? Will you prolong your anger through all generations?

Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?

Show us your unfailing love, Lord, and grant us your salvation.

I will listen to what God the Lord says; he promises peace to his people, his faithful servants - but let them not turn to folly.

Surely his salvation is near those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.

Love and faithfulness meet together; righteousness and peace kiss each other.

Faithfulness springs forth from the earth, and righteousness looks down from heaven.

The Lord will indeed give what is good, and our land will yield its harvest.

Righteousness goes before him and prepares the way for his steps. Amen.”

Finally, we pray the Lord's Prayer, not just for ourselves but for the UK, asking that God's name would be hallowed at this time, that his kingdom would come, even through so much turmoil, that he would forgive our sins and deliver us as a family of nations from evil. And so we pray...

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

Your Kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven,

Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sin,

as we forgive those who sin against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For the Kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever,

*Amen."*