

Intercessions for the First Sunday in Lent 21st February 2021

Adapted From: <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/common-worship/holy-communion-service#mm7h>

Gracious God, we remember
the 40 long days that Jesus spent,
praying and fasting in the wilderness.
We remember your goodness,
that your angels came and ministered to him,
and your Spirit gave him strength to endure.
Hear our prayers for the world and the suffering of others,
In this season of our lives.

Give your Church the courage
to give up the temptations of vanity and self-importance
and to take on humility.
May the gaze of Jesus,
that refused to follow the gaze of the Tempter,
turn the eyes of your church to the poor of the world.
Lord, in times of testing:
give us strength and hear our prayer.

Give your world the courage
to give up the temptations of war, bitterness and hatred,
and to take on peace.
May the shoulders of Jesus,
that refused the cloak of false and temporary glory,
bear the burden of political and military conflict in our
world.
Lord, in times of testing:
give us strength and hear our prayer.

Give this nation the courage
to give up the temptations of quarrels, strife and jealousy,
and to take on care for the common good.
May the body of Jesus,
bruised and aching in the wilderness
and now made whole,
bring peace and direction as we live with one another.
Lord, in times of testing:
give us strength and hear our prayer.

Give our communities the courage
to give up the temptations of selfishness as we watch for
our neighbours,
and to take on time, care and comfort for the sick.
May the hands of Jesus,
that refused to grasp bread for himself alone,
bring his healing touch,
and the light of his presence fill rooms where loneliness
exists.
Lord, in times of testing:
give us strength and hear our prayer.

Give to each of us the courage
to give up the temptations of our fear of death,
and to take on rejoicing with those who now rest in you.
May the feet of Jesus,
that felt the cut of sharp stones,
walk alongside the dying and bereaved,
and walk with us and all your Church
through death to the arms of your love.
Lord, in times of testing:
**give us strength and hear our prayer,
here and in eternity. Amen.**