

PRAYER FOLLOWING THE ACT OF TERRORISM IN CHRISTCHURCH, NEW ZEALAND – MARCH 2019

In Psalm 46, we read:

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

Almighty God,

Creator and preserver of our world, we solemnly pray today for all persons affected by **the act of terrorism** at two mosques in Christchurch.

Have compassion upon **the people of Christchurch** at this time. Comfort and relieve all who grieve the loss of loved ones. Heal those who remain broken in body and spirit. Provide energy, skill and wisdom to those who care for the injured and grieving. Grant to that city the resolve to stand united in the face of violence; courage and hope in the midst of despair.

Give wisdom to **Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern** and to others as they provide leadership during this dark hour. Strengthen the efforts of **emergency services** and other providers of aid and bring the perpetrators of violence to justice.

We pray, too, for **the witness of Christians** throughout New Zealand. Enable them to minister to the broken-hearted with the compassion of Christ.

In an uncertain world, marked by senseless violence and selfishness, have mercy upon **all who do not know life in your Son**. By your Holy Spirit, turn the hearts of men, women & children to your saving truth and may all peoples seek shelter in your steadfast love. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**