

Sunday 22 February – First Sunday of Lent

Prayers written by Sue Lyne

The response today for ‘Lord you are the rock’, will be ‘**On whom our security rests.**’

In this time of Lent, we are reminded that man and woman spoilt God’s perfect creation by falling into temptation and disobeying their creator. We are all guilty of sin, but through Christ we are given the strength and grace to resist temptation just as he did.

Trusting not in our weakness but in God’s mercy let us pray to him now.

We pray for Christians whose faith is being tested by hardship, spiritual dryness or any outside pressures; that they may hold fast to you, Lord Christ, and emerge stronger in the knowledge of your loyal, sustaining love.

Lord you are the rock **on whom our security rests.**

We pray for those involved in all areas of bureaucracy which frustrate and delay the course of useful action; for areas where anarchy undermines stability, for areas of political corruption. We pray for those areas suffering at the moment here in our country, for other countries fraught with war, famine, drought and oppression. Pour your blessing down to give help and comfort and we pray that whatever is good may flourish and grow so evil is rendered powerless and overthrown.

Lord you are the rock **on whom our security rests.**

We pray for the people on either side of us now; for the families represented here and all who live in the same street as we do; that we may live out the pattern of Christ by loving in a practical way. We pray for the ministry team here in Tiptree and our neighbouring churches. Give them your strength to bring your word and presence to those seeking peace and fulfilment.

Lord you are the rock **on whom our security rests.**

We pray for those blinded by prejudice or self-centred thinking; for those being dragged down by a drug, alcohol or other habits they feel powerless to stop; that they may be led tenderly to freedom. We pray for those suffering in body and mind at this time, may your healing hands give comfort and where there is no hope, give peace Lord that they may know

your presence in their final hours knowing you are waiting to hold them safe and secure in your undying love for them. We pray for Jericho Hasieber, Sarah, Sue Copsey, David Casemore, Michael, David Richards, Joanne Fearis and Ray Banks and any others known to us.

Lord you are the rock **on whom our security rests.**

We pray for those who having worshipped you on earth have now past into eternity; may they spend eternity in unending love and praise. Comfort the family and friends of those recently departed from this earth, especially Terence Horsfall.

And from our memorial book we give thanks for the lives of Georgina Waughman and Derek Elston.

Lord you are the rock **on whom our security rests.**

Father, we thank you for showing us the way to abundant life.

Merciful Father accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen