

Intercessions 29 October 2017

Readings

Leviticus 19:1-2; 15-18

Matthew 22:34-46

Father, we pray for a vision of your world as your love would make it;
A world where the weak are protected and none go hungry or poor;
A world where the benefits of life are fairly shared;
A world where the nations, races, cultures and religions live with mutual respect;
A world where peace is built with justice, and justice is guided by love, and that we may have the courage and inspiration to play our part in building it.

(Green Christian)

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer**

Lord, you gave us the gift of insight to understand
The meaning of your creation and our responsibility to care for it.
You gave us eyes to see the beauty of the world
The gift of empathy to understand others and their needs.
Lord, forgive us for not caring for your creation
Forgive us that we seek to become masters of your work
Forgive our inner blindness and deafness to need of our neighbour.

(Part of a prayer by Jaqueline Ryle, 2009; www.prayandfastfortheclimate.org)

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer**

We pray for those you are working on the implications of Brexit on trade and investment policy, which includes health care, environmental and labour standards, and international development.

We pray that the current, highly secretive processes for trade deals in the EU and UK, with the risk of badly designed deals not in the interest of people and planet, will be replaced by reformed arrangements for public and parliamentary engagement, with scrutiny of trade.

We pray that broad principles will be established for all trade policy that aligns it with human rights, workers' rights, sustainable development objectives and environmental commitment.

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer**

Brexit is a process that is changing arrangements between certain European countries. We pray for other peoples and areas of the world that want to change arrangements for their governance and control, and for those that want to maintain the status quo:

Citizens of Catalonia and Spain.

Kurdish people and the countries of Turkey, Iran, Iraq and Syria within which they currently reside.

The people of Kenya, where a second general election within a short time period has not resolved deep disagreements within the country.

In Yemen, forces loyal to the internationally recognised government of the president and those allied to the Houthi rebel movement.

We pray for everyone in these places who are seeking to build bridges.

Help us as citizens of God's kingdom, and the church communities to which we belong, to think and live responsibly as citizens of the state with respect for authorities, in balance with exercising the freedom given to us in serving God's kingdom. Give us the wisdom to be able to discern when we should act and speak out against injustice and oppression carried out in the name of rulers and governments.

Lord in your mercy **hear our prayer**

We hold before God:

Those for whom life is very difficult; those who have difficult decisions to make, and who honestly do not know what is the right the thing to do.

We hold before God:

Those who have difficult tasks to do and face, and who fear they may fail them; those who have difficult temptations to face, and who know only too well that they may fall to them, if they try to meet them alone.

We hold before God:

Those who have difficult people to work with; those who have to suffer unjust treatment, unfair criticism, unappreciated work.

We hold before God:

Those who are sad because someone they loved has died; and any who are disappointed in something for which they hoped very much.

(Source: A general intercession for those in trouble; William Barclay; Celtic Daily Prayer Book 1, p182)

We are concerned about all the recent media coverage of people using and abusing each other, use and abuse of sex, use and abuse of the earth and everything in it, and pray for God's healing, protection and restoration.

Within our community, we ask for healing, protection and restoration for

We remember those who have died and their families and friends who mourn

We remember the anniversaries of

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer**

May Jesus himself and God our Father, who reached out in love and surprised us with gifts of unending help and confidence, put a fresh heart in us, invigorate our work, enliven our speech.

(2 Thessalonians 16-17; The Message)

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