

Intercessions 1 December 2019

Readings Isaiah 2:1-5; Matthew 24:36-44

Collect Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness, that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen

Lord, teach us us your ways that we may walk in your paths. (from Isaiah 2:3)

We prayed in the Collect this morning that as your kingdom dawns, you would turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness, and that we would be ready to meet you in Jesus.

We remember everyone who was caught up this week in an obvious event of darkness on London Bridge. Give us insight to see the less obvious, more subtle attacks that we may face on a daily basis: deceit, lies, the disregard for truth and justice.

Lord, the world needs both salt and light, to preserve that which should be preserved and illuminate that which should be changed. When we feel like the world is unravelling all around us, help us to reflect on what is no longer tolerable, no longer acceptable, and no longer inevitable, and be part of the movement that shines light on these things and brings about change.

And as NATO leaders gather this week in Watford, we remember these words of Isaiah read to us this morning:

"[God] shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." (Isaiah 2:4)

And so we pray to the

*Lord, ever watchful and faithful,
we look to you to be our defence.
Grant courage to those who protect us,
and comfort those who are injured and fearful,
as we lift our hearts to know your help,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

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

Keep us awake!

Lord, teach us us your ways that we may walk in your paths. (from Isaiah 2:3)

Herts Welcomes Syrian Families is now known as Herts Welcomes Refugees in recognition of the role to welcome and support all refugees in Hertfordshire and those who will be coming to the county under the new government scheme due to replace the Syrian resettlement scheme next year.

We thank you, Lord, for the short film 'Suspended' which is being shown in schools, in faith and community groups, and on social media, which shows how important it is to offer a route to safety. We thank you, Lord, for Herts Welcomes Refugees' practical demonstration of welcoming the stranger and loving our neighbour.

Remind us that, in one sense as Christians being in the world but not of the world, we are all strangers, and yet we can thank you in another sense that in Christ we are no longer strangers and aliens but citizens of the the household of God. (Ephesians 2:19ff)

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

Lord, teach us us your ways that we may walk in your paths. (from Isaiah 2:3)

The annual UN climate conference, originally to be held in Santiago, Chile, will now be held this month in Madrid. Strengthen and equip the organisers and new hosts as they cope with the major upheaval caused by the change in plans.

*Creator of our common home,
you fill the earth and sea and sky with life.
Forgive us our neglect of your creation,
the choking waste of our pollution,
the damage done by careless habits,
and our indifference to future generations.
Help us to amend our lives,
to lift our voice for lasting change,
and to live well and gently on the earth.*

(Rt Revd Steven Croft, Bishop of Oxford)

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

Lord, teach us us your ways that we may walk in your paths. (from Isaiah 2:3)

Heavy rains have hit the Central African Republic (CAR), bringing devastating flooding to a country already impacted by extreme poverty.

One third of Burkina Faso in Africa is now affected by conflict, leading to almost half a million displaced people, schools closing and farmers forced to abandon their fields. There are 1.2 million people in need of food.

Unusually heavy rainfall in Ethiopia has led to an increase in locusts which has had serious consequences for farmers - some have lost all of their crops.

Yemen is currently home to the biggest humanitarian crisis in the world. A brutal civil war has left nearly 10 million people at risk of starvation.

Lord, comfort people who have lost everything in the extreme weather events, floods and fighting, and provide for them. May relief efforts be effective in bringing urgent supplies and support to the most vulnerable. May community development work in those countries be able to re-commence, and continue to change lives. Protect and keep safe from harm those reaching out in peace and with provision of aid. Thank you Lord, that even in the darkest of circumstances, you find ways to reach in and offer hope.

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

Lord, teach us us your ways that we may walk in your paths. (from Isaiah 2:3)

Restore the joy of your salvation and sustain those who are unwell, in particular:

Comfort those who mourn the death of a relative or friend.

We remember those who have died:

We remember the anniversaries of:

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

Collect for Andrew the Apostle

Almighty God,
who gave such grace to your apostle Saint Andrew
that he readily obeyed the call of your Son Jesus Christ and brought his brother with him:
call us by your holy word,
and give us grace to follow you without delay and to tell the good news of your kingdom;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

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

Amen