

**HT Intercessions**  
**22<sup>nd</sup> January 2012**

*“Thou knowest Lord, the secrets of our hearts.”*

**Heavenly Father**, as we *open* our hearts before you, we beseech you to hear us, and to help us.

We pray for your world; the world you created, and saw that it was good. But we are conscious of our human mismanagement of its finite resources; the hate, the wars, the disputes, the jealousies, and the selfishness. Help us to play *our* part, in healing our divisions, husbanding our resources, and spreading peace and hope.

We long for the rulers of the nations, to heal *their* divisions, by the right use of their power. Change the hearts and minds of the aggressors, that they may turn to love and peace.

*“You have shown us Lord what is good, now enable us, to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with you, our God.”*

**Lord, in your mercy.**  
**Hear our prayer.**

**Heavenly Father**, at the end of this *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity*, we pray for Queen Elizabeth, the supreme governor of this, our Church of England, for our archbishops, our bishops, our clergy, their assistants, and their congregations. We also pray for the clergy and peoples of *all* Christian denominations. Pour your Holy Spirit into the hearts of every one of us, and show us the way of true *unity*, which is our love for you; whilst accepting that *uniformity*, can stifle freedom of expression and worship.

*“We pray, O Lord, for your universal Church, which is one in the greatness of your love, but divided by the littleness of our own.”*

**Lord, in your mercy.**  
**Hear our prayer.**

**Heavenly Father**, we are constantly reminded of the plights of our neighbours around the world; those fighting for their freedom from oppression, or caught up in conflicts not of their own making;

those made homeless by natural disasters, or whose lives have been turned upside down through recent accidents, and acts of personal violence; those who are starving, those in desperate need of medical care, and the dieing; the persecuted and the exploited.

We remember those, here at home, who are struggling with their finances; the unemployed, and those made redundant or facing redundancy; the lonely, the sad, the neglected; the used and the abused, the mentally disturbed, and the suicidal.

Help us to consider, what small part *we* might play, in alleviating their suffering, through prayer, action, and charitable giving of our time and talents.

*“Lord, grant that we may **never** pass by the needy, but may respond with generous hearts, to the voice of the helpless, whose cry is **your** cry.”*

**Lord, in your mercy,  
Hear our prayer.**

**Heavenly Father**, we ask for your healing peace, to bless each one of *us*, and all whom we know - our families, our friends, and our neighbours - who are in any form of need, whether it be medical, emotional, or spiritual. Particularly we remember: Joy Jones, Simon Brayton, Tim Maddrell, Des Kelly, Prue Carpenter and Dan Laws.

*Lord, may all who walk in **darkness**, begin to see your **great light**”.*

We pray for the souls of the faithful departed, ascended into heaven. Particularly today we pray for Ken Cooke, may he rest with you, in glory.

*Lord, grant peace to those who grieve for a death, but rejoice for a life.”*

**Lord, in your mercy,  
Hear our prayer.**

**Heavenly Father**, we ask for your blessing on all those, who work for the benefit of others: the armed forces, aid workers, doctors, nurses, hospital staff and paramedics, welfare and social workers, police and prison warders, judges and magistrates, those who maintain our utilities and transport services ...

May we ever be mindful, that no-one is an island, and that we all depend upon each other.

**Finally Heavenly Father**, we pray for ourselves, with all our concerns, our needs, our temptations, and our fears. Strengthen our faith; grant us the power of your Holy Spirit, to face up to our personal problems, to share them, or to seek help, as may be most appropriate.

*“Lord, as you gather into your hands, those for whom we pray, we know that you love them with uncomprehending love; help us to do the same.”*

**Merciful Father,  
Accept these prayers,  
For the sake of your Son,  
Our Saviour, Jesus Christ.**

**Amen**