

HT Intercessions
19th January 2014

“Lord teach us how to pray aright, with reverence and with awe.”

Heavenly Father, in this week of Prayer for Christian Unity, we pray for a better understanding between the churches and their people. Bless all who guide us in the way of Christ. We pray for Archbishop Justin, Pope Francis, our Bishops John and Colin, our clergy, Toby in his extended role as Area Dean, Elizabeth as she prepares for her new work in Derby, for Alistair as he prepares for his ordination as priest, for Joy Hance our new assistant priest starting next month, for our assistant priests and lay ministers, and for the work of the Churches together in Witney.

We pray that your infinite grace, mercy and love, will help those whose responsibility it is to guide this Anglican Communion, through its divisions, its misunderstandings, and its intolerances. Help them, and us, to think through what the implications might be, and to use Jesus’ life, teachings and example, as our guide.

“Lord, heal the dissensions which divide us from one another, and bring us into a unity of love for you.”

Lord, in your mercy.
Hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, we pray for your world; the world you created, and saw that it was good. But we are painfully conscious of our human mis-management of its finite resources; the hate, the wars, the disputes, the jealousies, the selfishness and the wastefulness. Help us to play our small part, in healing our divisions, husbanding our resources, and spreading the good news of 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. May they *all* seek to allay fears, negotiate understandings, and work for a cessation of the many conflicts between nations.

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

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

Heavenly Father, we are constantly reminded of the plights of our neighbours around the world; those fighting, or caught up in the conflicts; those made homeless by natural disasters; those who are isolated, homeless, starving, and in urgent need of medical care.

We remember those, here at home, whose lives are currently affected by the weather. Those flooded and isolated and whose possessions have been ruined; those who are struggling with their finances; the unemployed, and those currently facing redundancy; the lonely, the sad, and the neglected; the used, the abused and the exploited.

Particularly today we pray for the family and communities of little Mikaeel Kular. Be with them in their anguish, as they, like us, try to come to terms with the enormity of the crime against an innocent child.

Help *us* to consider, what small part we might play, in alleviating deprivation and suffering, by prayer, action, and charitable giving of our money, our time and our talents, which are all gifts from *you*, and which we offer *back* to you.

“Lord, grant that we may never pass by the poor, the bewildered, the sick, the sorrowing, or the struggling; but may respond with generous hearts, to the cry of the helpless, whose cry is your own.”

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

Heavenly Father, we ask for your healing peace, to bless each one of us, and all we know, our friends, our families and our neighbours, who are in any form of need, whether it be physical, emotional, or spiritual. Particularly today we remember: Joy Jones, Martin, Muriel Greenway, Don Laws, Zac Durkin, Seb, Win Carr, Alison Potter, and Barbara Williams.

“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, to be with you. Particularly today we pray for Allan de Buriatte, Mary Cornelus-Ried and Mikaeel Kular.

“Grant peace to those who grieve for the death, but rejoice for the life.”

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

Heavenly Father, we ask for your blessing on all of us assembled here today in your name, and for our families and friends, wherever they may be.

“Lord, as you gather into your hands, those for whom we pray, we know that you love them with an uncomprehending love. We too are here for them, Lord, use us.”

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