

**HT Intercessions**  
**20th January 2019**

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

During this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, we ask you to bless all Christian seekers after your truth, the ordained leaders, the lay helpers, and the members of their congregations. We pray for the Anglican church world-wide, the Catholic and Orthodox churches, and the many protestant denominations. Inspire them all to work together, and to follow the example, life and teaching of Jesus the Christ.

Lord we pray you to bless and support the millions of Christians around the world who are daily persecuted for their faith.

We ask for your blessing too, on the work and witness of Witney Churches Together, and on this congregation. Help us all, to feel part of the world-wide communion of Christian believers.

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

**Lord of glory,  
Hear our prayer.**

**Heavenly Father**, at this momentous time for our nation, grant to us all, wisdom and patience, that when a Plan B is put before us tomorrow, it will give us something around which the Country can unite.

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, uniting people, 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 of glory,  
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, 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 of glory,  
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: Natalie, Andy, Jose, Dorothy, Don, Christopher, Thomas and Alastair.

*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: Jon Sheppard, Tony Eggington and Gordon MacGregor. May they rest with you, in glory.

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

**Lord of glory,  
Hear our prayer.**

**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**