

Sunday 23rd June 2024

readings together you could reflect how both show seemingly impossible struggles that are made possible by God.

Prayers of Intercession

God of love,
we have today given thanks for all you have done for us,
and we have heard from scripture of your grace and compassion.
We give thanks for the gift of our world,
our planet and its people,
but we acknowledge that planet is damaged and polluted,
and that across the world many people are suffering.

We pray for the Davids of our world,
people willing to take on the powerful in the name of justice,
and we pray they may have courage and strength.
We pray for the Goliaths,
those people with power and authority;
presidents and Prime Ministers,
those whose decisions can affect many lives.
We pray those with power will act
with compassion, honesty and integrity,
rather than through narrow partisan interest.

Creator God, we think again of the universe you made,
and of the effects of climate change on our planet.
We pray for people who have lost homes and livelihoods
due to drought or flood or famine,
and we pray the nations of the world
can join together in helping those in need.
We pray for people living in poverty,
those in our own communities struggling
with the high cost of living,
and people across the world
without access to clean water and sanitation.
God of plenty and generosity,
we pray for a world in which your resources are shared fairly
and nobody goes hungry.

We pray for people struggling with illness,
either mental or physical;
for those waiting for treatment
or recovering from operations,
at home or in hospital.
We give thanks for the dedication

of NHS staff and careworkers,
and pray that everyone will receive
the care that they need to flourish.

God of peace and unity,
we pray for peace wherever there is conflict,
wherever there is war,
and we hold before those regions and nations
where wars are being fought today,
or the effects of conflict are still felt.
We think of Ukraine, Gaza, Yemen, Syria,
and many other places.

We pray for people living in fear
of bombing from the air or attack from land,
and all of those forced out of their homes.
We pray for refugees and asylum seekers
trying to make new lives in new places,
and we pray they will be met with compassion
rather than suspicion and hatred.

We pray for people across the world
who are victims of discrimination.
We pray for people held back by racist attitudes and structures,
by homophobia and transphobia,
and we remember that your love reaches out to each and every person.
Help us, in the church, to become a model of radical inclusion.

Praise the Lord, all the earth.
A time is surely coming when the poor will be fed,
the powerful will bow down,
and all creation will know that God is Lord of all.
Praise the Lord, all the earth,
as we bring our prayers humbly before God today,
trusting as always in God's everlasting love and mercy. Amen.

Blessing

Loving God, help us to see you at work this week
in the people we meet and the places we go,
help us to be builders of your kingdom.
And may the grace of God almighty,
Creator, redeemer and sustainer,
be with and remain with us all, and the people we love,
now and always. Amen.

Hymn Suggestions

| | RS | CH4 | StF | MP |
|------------------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| Who would true valour see± | 557 | 535 | 486 | 224 |
| Guide me O thou great Jehovah | 345 | 167 | 465 | 201 |
| The love of God is broad like beach and meadow | 108 | | | |
| Will your anchor hold in the storms of life | 598 | 737 | 645 | 770 |
| Our God, our help in ages past | 705 | 161 | 132 | 498 |
| The love of God comes close | 107 | | 654 | 940 |
| People draw near to God in their distress | 342 | 393* | 640 * | |
| My hope is built on nothing less | | | | 473 |
| Outrageous grace | | | | 1114 |
| Hail to the Lord's anointed | 127 § | 474 § | 228 § | 204 |

RS – *Rejoice & Sing* | CH4 – *Church Hymnary 4* | StF – *Singing the Faith* | MP –