

Sunday 10th October – Harvest Festival

Prayers written by Sue Lyne

Jesus Christ is the friend of sinners. The bad news about being human is that we seem to find it so easy to hurt one another and indulge in our selfishness; even with the best of intentions, we fail and sin. The good news is that in Jesus, God meets us where we are, He loves us and brings about reconciliation, forgiveness and peace.

Brothers and sisters in Christ let us approach our heavenly Father, acknowledging the wonder of his involvement with us, and asking him to help us.

We pray for all the injustice, cruelty and oppression of our world, its confusion of priorities, its lost opportunities and misdirected zeal; we ask for your blessing and peace on those suffering throughout the world especially those areas which are suffering with earthquakes, floods, and those having to flee their homes because of the eruption of the volcano in La Palma. We pray especially for all who are working tirelessly to bring shelter, food and assistance to those suffering, we ask that your loving hands surround them and protect them as they carry out their duties in such harsh conditions.

At this time Lord we stop and look at the wonders of your creation, the trees, flowers and the fields bearing food for us. From the tiniest seed you nurture growth into crops that we harvest for our tables. Help us to stop and marvel at all that you have created from the smallest seed to the largest tree, for all the varieties of food that we grow to sustain us and give us strength, energy and keep us healthy. Without the seasons which give us sunshine, darkness, heat and cold, grey clouds and gentle rain we would have nothing to raise our hearts and minds to offer our thanks and praise to for such wonders of your creation.

Where your world is damaged by our neglect, forgive us. Take our neglect, our brokenness, our denial and weave them into a new pattern. Set us free from our old ways. Strengthen us to make amends, and help us to live again as whole people through the love of Christ our healer.

We pray for our families, friends and neighbours, for the very young and the very old in our care, we ask for guidance and compassion in all that we do so that with you in our hearts we may show forth the true light of your ways and bring a spark of hope to all that we meet.

We pray at this time for those who are suffering in mind, body and soul and ask that you surround them with your love, we pray especially for: Jan Banks,

Ken Cathcart, Dorothy Lawrence, Hazel Chapman, John Leaworthy, Pat Bolton, Donald Rooke, Ellen Vigar, Linda Tuthill & Roger Hoare.

As the crops fade and die we too will complete the circle of life and at this time we ask that you take into your loving hands those who have departed this earth and ask you comfort those who are left to grieve and ask that you be with the families of Alfred Perrin and Joyce Neal. And from our Memorial Book we ask that you comfort those who remember their loved ones at this time: Kathleen Heard, Daisy Cottee and Irene Malyan.

Lord we plead with our heads lifted high to you; Do not let us be put to shame, nor let our enemies triumph over us, for those of us whose hope is in you will never be put to shame. Show us your ways, teach us your paths for our hope is in you all day long.

Amen