

Sunday 11th July – Sixth Sunday after Trinity

Prayers written by Yvonne Toms

Let us pray for the church and for the world and let us thank God for his goodness.

Loving God, we thank you for calling each of us by name into the company of those who trust in Christ and seek to obey His will. May your Spirit guide and strengthen us in mission and service to your world; for we are strangers no longer but pilgrims together on the way to your Kingdom. God of power, may the boldness of your Spirit transform us, may the gentleness of your Spirit lead us, may the gifts of your Spirit equip us to serve and worship you now and always.

May we be at peace.

May our hearts remain open.

May we be aware of our true nature.

May we be healed.

May we be a source of healing to others.

May we dwell in the Breath of God.

Loving God, we thank you for the family of the Church.

We pray for our Churches as we live through challenging times. Nourish us with your grace so we may know that you are with us wherever we are, we are part of your living Church – your body on earth - and we are never alone. We thank you for all the people who are part of our Church communities and pray that we may still serve you in all we do. Lord, help us to clear space in our lives where your holy presence may grow and produce fruit worthy of our great calling. Remove far from us those things which cause hurt to others and hurt ourselves. Plant seeds of joy and peace that love might grow and be shown as we live in grace with others. Help us to understand that “we can do no great things, only small things with great love.”

Loving God we pray for children and young people in our communities and especially today we bring before you those who will be ending terms at schools, colleges and universities and starting new courses or entering training or employment - that they will build on the past and will be open to the future, guided by your Spirit and held in your love.

Loving God, as we see the brokenness of our world we pray for healing among the nations; for food where there is hunger; for freedom where there is

oppression; for joy where there is pain; that your love may bring peace to all your children.

God of justice, in your wisdom you create all people in your image, without exception. Through your goodness, open our eyes to see the dignity, beauty, and worth of every human being. Open our minds to understand that all your children are brothers and sisters in the same human family. Open our hearts to repent of racist attitudes, behaviours, and speech which demean others. Open our ears to hear the cries of those wounded by racial discrimination, and their passionate appeals for change. Strengthen our resolve to make amends for past injustices and to right the wrongs of history. And fill us with courage that we might seek to heal wounds, build bridges, forgive and be forgiven, and establish peace and equality for all in our communities.

Father grant to all those who administer justice the spirit of wisdom and discernment; that they may be strong and patient, upright and compassionate in all their work. Guide our judges, magistrates, lawyers, juries, the police and all others involved in upholding the law and that they may seek your will and the common good of all humankind.

Give us grace to rebuild bonds of trust that together we may work for the dignity and flourishing of all people through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Loving God, source of light and life, we pray for all who suffer in mind, body or spirit. We pray for those in hospital; surround the frightened with your tenderness, give strength to those in pain, hold the weak in your arms of love and give hope and patience to those who are recovering. Send your blessing on those who care for the sick and those who they serve. Grant us your wisdom in our lives, your love in our pain and your peace in our hearts. From our own community we pray for Jan Banks, Margaret Wilding, Ken Cathcart, Dorothy Lawrence, Hazel Chapman, John Leaworthy, Pat Bolton, Donald Rooke, Ellen Vigar and for all known to us alone.

We thank you that you continue to reach out into the life of the world; that in our deepest uncertainty you bring the certainty of your love; in the place of deepest darkness you bring your light and into our lives you bring your forgiveness.

Through many dangers, toils and snares I have already come; God's grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

We pray for those all those who mourn and for those who still miss the companionship and care of loved ones. We pray that as they journey onwards, the assurances of our risen Lord will bring to them new strength and new life.

Today we remember especially the family and friends of Sidney South, Hazel Houghton, Hazel Curtis, Gladys Jones, Doreen Tye, Michael East and Margaret King.

From our memorial book, we give thanks for the lives of Eric Cheeseman, Katie Houghton and James Waughman.

Christ is the morning star who when the night of this world is past, brings his saints the promise of the light of life and opens everlasting day.

Mighty God, to you belong the mysteries of the universe.
You transform shepherds into kings,
the smallest seeds into magnificent trees,
and hardened hearts into loving ones.
Bless us with your life-giving Spirit,
re-create us in your image,
and shape us to your purposes,
through Jesus Christ.

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, Amen.