

Sunday 9 March – Lent 1

Prayers written by Yvonne Toms

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

Lord God on this first Sunday in Lent, we remember the trials and temptations of your son Jesus Christ in his journey through the wilderness, and how he triumphed over all. In our prayers we think of the difficult journeys in life encountered by so many people in the world. We pray that in their times of need, they may find discernment to see their way ahead, and strength to overcome whatever problems they face. We pray that faith may be deepened in this period of Lent, and all may walk in the light of the Lord. Help us to watch and pray this Lent.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Lord, we pray for your church during this season of Lent. We pray that all of us who believe in you will be strengthened to remain faithful to our calling; to work for understanding and unity where we have created divisions and to show your love and compassion to each other and to all your children.

Help us to be able to look at ourselves, and to recognise the need for your presence in our daily lives. As we join in this service today, may we experience a real sense of belonging to you and to each other. Bind us together, Lord, so that we can travel along life's journey helping and supporting one another, overcoming together all the trials and temptations which confront us in our daily lives. Help us to be Christ's united body to heal and reconcile, help us to share Christ's life with everyone.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Lord God we think of the troubled parts of the world, where there is so much suffering, where darkness prevails and where the light of the Lord seems so far away. We pray for people whose humanity is denied by others.

- for those without homes and food
- for those suffering from malnutrition, illness and disease
- for those living in fear of the war and conflict

We remember especially the people living in Ukraine, the Palestinian territories and Israel and those in other parts of the world where there is

war and unrest. We pray for all those working for peace and justice, for our armed forces. We ask that they may all be sustained and encouraged in their difficult work in what must seem an endless journey and may they know the light of the Lord in everything they do in the name of peace.

God of peace and justice,
we pray for the peoples of Ukraine and the Middle East today.
We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.
We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.
We pray for those with power over war or peace,
for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions.
Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear,
that you would hold and protect them.
We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Lord we pray for the created world – your creation which is in our care. We pray for brothers and sisters who suffer from storms and droughts intensified by climate change. We pray for all species that suffer. We pray for world leaders delegated to make decisions for life. We pray that the web of life may be mended through courageous actions to limit carbon emissions. We pray for right actions for adaptation and mitigation to help our already suffering earth community. We pray that love and wisdom might inspire our actions as individuals and communities so that with integrity we may look into the eyes of brothers and sisters and truthfully say, we are doing our part to care for them and the future of the children. May your love transform us and our world with new steps toward life.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Lord, 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 and healing. We pray for all who suffer in mind, body or spirit. From our own community we pray for Alfred Johnson, Jan Barker, Teri Daden and all known to us.

Lord bind up our wounds and bring us back to the foot of the cross.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Loving Father, we thank you that nothing can separate us from the love of Christ. Whether we live or die we are yours and yours eternally.

We remember before God those who have died and we pray that God's love will surround all who mourn them, now and always. We remember especially today the family and friends of Olive Hodges, Ricardo Paul Hull, Paul Jackson, Baby Ollie Manchester-Spratt, John Francis, Liz Blundell and Anthony Fewell.

From our Memorial Book, we give thanks for the lives of Doreen Humphrey, Barbara Pamphilon and Jean Weaver.

Gracious God, as we remember before you those who have died, surround us and all who mourn with your strong compassion. Be gentle with us in our grief, protect us from despair, and give us grace to persevere and face the future with hope in Jesus Christ our risen Lord.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Lord God our Father as we go out into the world today we remember that you son was tempted by the forces of evil but chose faithfulness rather than popularity, service instead of fame, sacrifice instead of power. These temptations still come to us Lord and we are far weaker and so we pray for the strength to shun them as he did so that we may be of use to people and the growth of your Kingdom.

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