

Sunday 8 February – Second Sunday before Lent

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 as you revealed yourself to Abraham in ancient days, we pray that you will reveal yourself to us in this present age. Make us into a faithful people ready to believe your promises and follow you wherever you will lead us. Father, you loved this world so much that you gave your only Son, Jesus to be our Saviour. You call upon us to listen to Him and so we open our hearts to your Word and ask you by your Spirit to give us strength to follow in the way of the cross. Teach us that all gifts come from you for the service of all people and the growth of your Kingdom.

Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer

Loving Father, we thank you for all of the children who came to our Messy Church last Friday and for each family represented there. May the light of your love shine in their lives. Help us all 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. 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

God of all hope and peace, we bring to you the needs of our broken and hurting world. Our hearts are breaking with images of lives lost and torn apart by grief in Ukraine and Russia, Gaza and Israel, Iran and Sudan. We pray for an end to violence and warfare so that the challenging work of rebuilding may begin. Help us to affirm our common humanity so that in our differences we may work together for justice and peace.

Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer

Creator God your Son walked upon earth and taught us to seek your hand in the beauty and wonders of earth and sea and sky. We see too much of the evidence of our poor stewardship in our surroundings, and it is easy to forget that the world belongs to you. Help us to recognise your presence in our modern world and help us to use the resources of the earth more

wisely. 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 natural world. 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 and worries 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 Jericho Hasieber, Jo, Sarah, Sue Copsey, David Casemore, Michael, David Richards, Joanne Fearis and for all known to us alone.

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 thank you for lives lived well and for love shared.

We remember especially today the family and friends of Mary Smith and Terance Horsfall.

From our Memorial Book, we give thanks for the lives of Minnie Caplin and Peter Cottee.

We thank you for the love we have known in the lives of those we mourn, for the joy they brought and for the memories that now bring both tears and smiles. Be close to us in our sadness and gently lift our hearts with the comfort of your peace. Help us to remember our loved ones with gratitude and to cherish all that was good and kind in them and to find strength in the love we shared. Keep us calm in the days ahead and lighten our grief with moments of warmth and love.

Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer

Lord of all creation, as seeds need the darkness and light to grow, may we grow towards the light of your promise of resurrection life. May the

brightness of the risen life of our Lord Jesus Christ guide each one of us to your Kingdom and your eternal safe keeping.

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