

Prayers for Sunday 28 May 2017

Jesus reminds us in John 16:33 that in the world we will have trouble and tribulation. This week we have been particularly reminded of this with the events in Manchester, and the accusations from all sides. There are wars and rumours of wars and bombings and carnage and corruption around the world. This week as Christians celebrate the Ascension, Muslims celebrate the beginning of Ramadan. The political debates remind us that we have finite resources and we have to make choices, and in making choices some will suffer. Yet Jesus prefaced his comment by also reminding us

I have told you these things (that John has written down), so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble.

So as we pray this morning in the name of Jesus, we ask first, like his disciples, Lord, how do we pray about all this trouble in the world?

Whatever has come into your mind: pray for this now, and ask the Holy Spirit to show you what to pray for, and if there is anything you could do to make a difference:

*Lord, I am part of the tension and injustice of the world.
Forgive our human selfishness, to which I contribute;
Heal the resentment between people, of which I am a part;
And come into the world's conflicts, in which I share by being human.
Take my unworthiness and sorrow,
and use them in your great work of healing and redeeming humanity:
Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer***

Trouble and disappointment and failure and sickness and grief are a part of being in the world:

Jesus says: I have told you these things (that John has written down), so that in me you may have peace.

So let us each ask the Holy Spirit if there is someone who needs the peace of Jesus, or perhaps several people, for whom we should be especially praying this morning as we come together as the people of God, as a worshipping community:

If there is nobody particular for you, there are names in the Messenger of people you could pray for

Those who are sick
Those who grieve
Those who lament the cup of sorrow they have been given to drink

So we pray for the people that the Holy Spirit has brought to our mind:
Unto God's gracious mercy and protection we commit you. The Lord bless you, and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace, both now and evermore:

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

At this time of Ascensiontide the church turns our hearts and minds to what Jesus said next:

I have told you these things (that John has written down), so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But cheer up! I have overcome the world.

We pray for the church of Jesus risen, ascended and glorified, the worldwide community of those who love him, those who are suffering for their faith, and those for whom life is comfortable, those who have little, and those who have too much, those we like and those we find difficult, those we agree with and those whose views we find, frankly, appalling.

We give thanks and pray for God's blessing on so many in our community here in Hertford who give time and emotional energy into caring for our spiritual wellbeing.

We give thanks for and pray for God's blessing on those behind the scenes who do the backroom work that is essential to keep the community together; so that we can model the care and grace and generosity of a heavenly father who wants everybody to come into his worshipping family.

We pray especially for those who contribute to our joy with friendship and laughter and music and encouragement.

O Lord our heavenly Father, Almighty and everlasting God, who has safely brought us to the beginning of this week: defend us in the same with your mighty power; and grant that this week we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger; but that all our doings may be ordered by your governance, to do always that is righteous in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord: Amen

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