

Intercessions 6 August 2017

Readings: 2 Peter 1.16-19; Luke 9.28-36

Teach us, dear Lord, to number our days;
that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.
Oh, satisfy us early with Thy mercy,
that we may rejoice and be glad all of our days.
And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us;
and establish Thou the work of our hands, dear Lord.

(Source: Psalm 90)

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer**

Lord, we pray for wisdom for those who lead in the church:

Archbishops Justin and John, Bishop of St Albans Alan and Bishop of Hertford Michael; we pray especially for Archbishop Justin who has been in Uganda this week and as he prepares for the Anglican primates gathering in October.

Within St Andrew's Alan and Bill, lay readers, churchwardens and the PCC, Tracey and everyone who works with our children and young people, especially those who are involved with the Holiday Club later this month.

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer**

Lord, we pray for wisdom for those who lead in government, in particular for the negotiations that UK and EU governments are involved in at the moment which will have significant impact on issues already challenging the governments' cognitive, physical and financial abilities to respond.

The impacts of Climate change, trade issues and refugee problems are interlinked, and challenge the abilities of governments to agree on joined up action. The not-always benign global leadership shown by the USA has faded; international trade is often very unfair and exploitative of people with few resources, and poorer countries such as Jordan, Lebanon and Uganda are bearing far more of the burden imposed by refugees fleeing war than richer nations.

Elections have taken place recently in Rwanda and Venezuela which appear to have reinforced divisions within these societies, and elections will be taking place in Kenya in 2 days time.

Venezuela in particular has been in crisis for a while, with violent anti-government protests against the Supreme Court's decision to take over the National Assembly controlled by the opposition, resulting in:

- dozens of people killed;
- severe food shortages; and
- a jump in extreme poverty caused primarily by an economic crisis.

The election on 30 July voted for a constituent assembly with power to change the country's constitution and on its first day of work has dismissed the Chief Prosecutor who was critical of President Maduro.

So we pray for just government that seeks the common good and to extinguish selfish gain, for the churches and NGOs that work hard to bring relief, healing and build bridges between divided communities.

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer**

Every day between 5,000-7,000 people are falling ill from cholera in Yemen. In the last 3 months nearly 400,000 cases have been reported and over 1,800 people have died.

A prayer for Yemen (from Tearfund, whose partners are distributing cholera kits, water filters, medicines to treat the disease, promoting hygiene and providing clean water):

Father God,

Our hearts cry out for the people of Yemen.

Comfort all those who are suffering,
strengthen those who are mourning
and let your peace and provision reign.

We pray for total end to the cholera outbreak.

We ask that the aid effort won't be impeded in any way
and that supplies will reach people where they're needed most.
Give wisdom and safety to those doing this work.

Make the nations turn their attention to Yemen,
so that they reposed immediately and generously -
don't let this be another headline that goes unheeded.
Lord of all, we commit the people of Yemen to you.

Lord in you mercy **hear our prayer**

We hold before God:

Those for whom life is very difficult; those who have difficult decisions to make, and who honestly do not know what is the right the thing to do.

We hold before God:

Those who have difficult tasks to do and face, and who fear they may fail them; those who have difficult temptations to face, and who know only too well that they may fall to them, if they try to meet them alone.

We hold before God:

Those who have difficult people to work with; those who have to suffer unjust treatment, unfair criticism, unappreciated work.

We hold before God:

Those who are sad because someone they loved has died; and any who are disappointed in something for which they hoped very much.

(Source: A general intercession for those in trouble; William Barclay; Celtic Daily Prayer Book 1, p182)

Within our community, we ask for healing, protection and restoration for

We remember those who have died and their families and friends who mourn

We remember the anniversaries of

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer**

Not so much as Mo Farah or Usain Bolt, but as in the words of the writer of Hebrews, let us run the race with perseverance, fixing our eyes on Jesus - Jesus who endured such opposition. Let us consider him as we embark on the coming week so that we will not grow weary and lose heart.

(Hebrews 12.1-3)

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