

## Intercessions 21 Oct 2018

Readings: Isaiah 53 4-end; Mark 10: 35-45

*Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked,  
or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers;  
but their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law that meditate day  
and night.*

*They are like trees planted by streams of water,  
which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither.  
In all that they do, they prosper. (Psalm 1:1-3)*

Lord, we have heard today of servant leadership prophesied by Isaiah and modelled by Jesus.

This is not what we always see in either our spiritual or political leaders, but we pray for them and ourselves in whatever leadership roles and responsibilities we may have:

May we avoid folly and walk in wisdom.

May we hunger for wisdom and pursue it.

Help us to reflect on the many and sometimes conflicting sources of counsel, information, news.

May we work wisely and be lead along good paths.

May we be like trees planted by streams of water, yielding fruit in season, prospering in all that we do.

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

Last night, a film called 'Joy', a "raw, fresh view" of sex trafficking across Europe, scooped the London film festival's award for best film. The drama, from the Austrian director Sudabeh Mortezaei, follows the difficult life of a young Nigerian woman, Joy, who works on the street for a boss who had been through the same experience in order to pay off her debts and support her family back home.

As this lunchtime we have a presentation from A21 about human trafficking, what is being done about it and what we can do to help end slavery, we thank you Lord for the work of A21.

We long for the end of slavery, the trading of human beings, the use of people for their bodies and for their labour.

We long for the end of force, fraud and coercion, an end to people anywhere being bought and sold against their will.

Lord, help us to discern the path we should take and guide us in how to walk that path. We are not promised that the path will always be easy, yet may it be firm underfoot and avoid moral blind alleys.

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

The people of Yemen have faced such difficulty over the years, yet NGO's remain determined to seek change – even when confronted with famine. We continue to support the people of Yemen in prayer:

- We pray for this embattled nation – a nation on its knees. We pray that peace will come and the people of Yemen will be able to rebuild their lives.
- We ask for help with food, medicines and other provisions to get into the country and be distributed to those people in most need.
- We thank you, Lord, for the courage and commitment of organisations working in this hugely challenging context.

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

Comfort and heal those amongst us who are suffering, feeling afflicted or in despair. We particularly remember today: .....

Give them courage and hope, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

We remember those who have died, and pray for comfort for those who mourn them: .....

And we remember the anniversaries of: .....

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

Lord, help us to take our everyday ordinary life - our sleeping, eating, going-to-work and walking around life - and place it before you as an offering.

May we embrace what you do for us as the best thing we can do for you.

May we not become so well-adjusted to our culture that we fit into it without even thinking.

May we fix our attention on you and be changed from the inside out.

May we readily recognise what you want from us, and quickly respond to it. (Romans 12:1-2)

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