

Intercessions 21 July 2019

Readings Colossians 1:24-27; Luke 10:38-42

Collect Almighty God, send down upon your Church the riches of your Spirit, and kindle in all who minister the gospel your countless gifts of grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord..
Amen

The psalmist wrote *“The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it”*.

Monsoon rains have caused severe floods and landslides in Nepal, Bangladesh and north-eastern India, leaving millions of people at risk. Thank you, Lord, for NGO’s that are providing support for people affected. Lord, protect Rohingya refugees living in temporary shelters as more heavy rain is predicted.

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ebola has spread to Goma, a major city of 2 million people close to the Rwandan border. Thank you, Lord, for NGO’s that are working to bring an end to the spread of this virus. Protect them in their work as they seek to prevent people from contracting Ebola.

Thank you, Lord, for the increasing awareness of the impact of waste, especially single use plastic, and for efforts in the UK to reduce its use. As the understanding of the impact of waste on people living in poverty around the world increases, may we take up opportunities to change our more harmful habits and care more effectively for your creation.

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

The psalmist wrote *“The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it”*.

Some commentators describe racism as *‘the original sin’*. We see the president of the United States using racial and gender abuse, and the demonising of immigrants and muslims, as an electoral tactic. Lord, raise the voices of those in the US who object to their president’s racist language, and help them present the better way.

In the UK, the Home Office have been implementing a policy that seeks to create a hostile environment towards illegal immigrants which also appears to have spread to affect the lives of people who have moved from other countries to live in the UK. Lord, strengthen your church to reflect on the apostle Paul’s words about *“whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable”* and help us to *“Keep on doing these things”*. In particular, strengthen our racially and gender diverse archbishops and bishops, some of whom have the privilege and responsibility to sit in the House of Lords, to promote this better way.

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

The psalmist wrote *“The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it”*.

This week, the UK will have a new prime minister who will need to provide leadership in several complicated areas of policy and relationship with other countries, other ethnicity and other faith. Lord, may the new prime minister seek to understand and not humiliate others, have the ability to compromise, make decisions on the basis of facts and detail, not emotion and discrimination, and above all be honest.

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

Restore the joy of your salvation and sustain those who are unwell, in particular:

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Comfort those who mourn the death of a relative or friend. We remember those who have died:

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We remember the anniversaries of:

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

Bless those you are at the Taize community in France at the moment. Bless their time together and bless the interactions with people from around the world.

Bless Street Pastors as they gather this week to commission and restart their work.

Bless the team preparing for Holiday at Home next month, and those who will be attending the event.

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

We heard today of the different choices that Martha and Mary made when Jesus came to their home. Help us to balance and combine hospitality with listening; may our love be genuine; may we hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; may we love one another with mutual affection; may we not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit and serve the Lord; may we rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer; may we contribute to the needs of the saints and extend hospitality to strangers. (*Romans 12:9-13*)

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