

Intercessions on 29 October 2023

by Andrew Goodman

First reading: Hebrews 12. 1-3

Gospel: John 6. 60-69

Collect: Merciful God, teach us to be faithful in change and uncertainty, that trusting in your word and obeying your will we may enter the unfailing joy of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Baptism of Maya Jennifer Philip

Thank you, Lord, that you hear us when we pray in faith.

It is a joy, Lord, to be here this morning with Maya, Charlotte, Raj and their family and friends and to bless all of them as Maya is baptised.

It is a joy, Lord, to be reminded of how you welcomed children.

But it grieves us, Lord, to see and hear how children are suffering and dying around the world today at the hands of adults and leaders who pursue violence.

We remember children in Syria and Yemen; Ukraine's stolen children; Israeli and Palestinian children. We thank you, Lord, for anyone who is advocating for these children and seeking peace.

We remember, too, the 1 million children in the UK who experience destitution.¹ We thank you, Lord, for poverty

¹ Joseph Rowntree Foundation <https://www.jrf.org.uk/living-standards/destitution>

campaigners, teachers and frontline welfare workers working to reduce ill health, undernourishment, social isolation, school absences and poor classroom behaviour.

We thank you, too, Lord, for those who care for children in and around Hertford: for teachers, for Young Life, FutureHope, for the leaders of St Andrew's Junior Church, TMM Youth Group and Shake After-School Club. We remember, too, the contribution to community welfare provided by the Hertford & District Foodbank, the Hertford Pantry run by Hertford and the Jedidiah charity's supply of fresh food.

Lord, may joy find a way and God bless children with vision and faith, as we bless them now with a prayer from the baptismal service which will say together later:

With all our hearts and minds and strength we bless them on this day and all the days ahead.

May all that is loving in the universe surround them, all that is strong and true and free walk with them, and their lives be filled with joy.

May God, the Great Parent, surround them with love, Christ Jesus walk beside them all the way, and the Spirit dance in life ahead of them.

Lord, in your mercy - hear our prayer

Lord, we know Jesus is the Prince of Peace, not retaliation or retribution. We thank you, Lord, for all those caring for the traumatised and injured. We are aware, Lord, of hospitals and medical workers in Gaza struggling with limited or no resources and overwhelming needs. May there

be ways to get the resources and equipment needed to them to treat the sick and injured.

Lord, we remember those closer to home who are suffering with physical and mental health issues. Those known to us include:

Restore to them the healing and joy of your salvation.

We thank you Lord for those who have loved us, nurtured us, encouraged us, and mentored us, some of whom are no longer with us.

We remember those who have died recently:

We remember the anniversaries of:

Lord, we thank you for sending the Holy Spirit to comfort and give us peace. Bring comfort and reassurance to those who mourn that you are with them in their pain and sorrow.

Lord, in your mercy - hear our prayer

Thinking about the words from Hebrews we heard earlier: Lord, may we keep our eyes on Jesus and study how he lived. Keep us from flagging in our faith, keep us encouraged by the story we are living out.

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