

Intercessions on Sunday 28 January 2024

by Andrew Goodman

Readings: Acts 19. 1-7 & Mark 1. 4-11

Collect: Heavenly Father, at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son: may recognise we him as our Lord and know ourselves to be your beloved children; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen

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

A prayer from Embrace the Middle East, a Christian development charity tackling poverty and injustice in the Middle East:

God of justice and compassion,

We cry out to you for the people of Gaza, particularly for the children. We pray for an unequivocal ceasefire and the resumption of aid and food deliveries.

We give thanks for the release of hostages and continue to pray for those still in captivity. We pray that those released may find healing and the restoration of hope in the months ahead. We pray for the unconditional release of all hostages held by Hamas.

We continue to pray for a safe and prosperous tomorrow for Palestinians and Israelis, a future of equal rights for all and an end to the occupation.

We lift Embrace's partners and their staff before you. We ask that they remain safe and know your peace and protection.

We pray for ourselves, that we may resist hatred, stand for justice, and open ourselves to be channels of your peace.

Lord, in your mercy - hear our prayer

We thank you, Lord, that the cross tells us, and as the Collect said earlier, that we are your beloved children. Forgive us, Lord, when we forget that the cross also tells us that you suffered on account of our enemies too, and that we are to love our enemies.

We remember countries where there is conflict between parties that see each other as enemies, including:

- Russia and Ukraine
- Iranian-backed Houthis and the Saudi-led coalition backed government in Yemen
- Sudan and South Sudan
- Israel and Palestine (remembering too that yesterday was International Holocaust Remembrance Day which commemorates the genocide of 6 million Jews, with 27th January itself marking the anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz concentration camp)

Lord, in your mercy - hear our prayer

A prayer for those in government, originally prepared for a COP28 prayer walk last year, but still appropriate today:

Jesus Christ, you are the King of Kings, and in your name all things are possible.

We pray for our earthly leaders. May they model your leadership of mercy, justice, and love.

May their hearts break like yours when they see the destruction and pain greed has caused to planet and people.

May they work together to seek solutions which benefit all of creation.¹

Lord, in your mercy - hear our prayer

¹ Source: [COP28 prayer walk](#); Cafod/ Christian Aid/ Tearfund 2023

Lord, we remember those 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

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ , the father of glory, give us a spirit of wisdom and revelation as we come to know him, so that with the eyes of our hearts enlightened, we may know what is the hope to which he has called us, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance amongst the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power.²

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

² Based on Ephesians 1.17-19