

Intercessions on 16 March 2025

by Andrew Goodman

First reading: Philippians 3.17-4.1 Gospel: Luke 13.31-end

Collect: Almighty God, by the prayer and discipline of Lent may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings, and by following in his Way come to share in his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

Lord, many will feel at this time that we are now in a kind of dangerous storm, where everything seems to be falling apart and at risk.

So, as Lent continues, we pray ...

Lord Jesus Christ, who was driven by the Spirit into the wilderness, wrestled with the tempter, and received the ministry of angels:

Strengthen us, we pray, as we seek our way in testing times.

Help us to resist all that draws us from God:

The selfishness that places material gain above searching for your Kingdom,

The willingness to accept falsehood and evil to increase our own power,

The lack of faith that puts you to the test.

And sustain us, we pray, with that sense of your presence,

Which is living bread to the hungry and water in a dry land. ¹

Lord, as the proverb says:

“.....give us neither poverty nor riches, but give us only our daily bread.

Otherwise, we may have too much and disown you and say ‘Who is the Lord?’

Or we may become poor and steal, and so dishonour the name of our God.”

(Proverbs 30.8b-9; NIV)

Lord, in your mercy - hear our prayer

Lord, we thank you for how Arocha’s EcoChurch initiative can help us reduce our impact on your creation, and for those who are lobbying the government for policies and laws which help sustain wildlife, waterways, lakes, seas and forests and promote the restoration of your world of wonders.

¹ <https://prayandfastfortheclimate.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/PAFFTC-Prayer-Points-March-2025.pdf>

Merciful God, we believe that you uphold and sustain all that you have made, while also lovingly giving us the freedom to live in relationship with the rest of creation. We ask your forgiveness for the ways we have abused that freedom, through what we have done and what we have left undone. We bring our lament and our longing for a renewed earth to you now. ²

Lord, in your mercy - hear our prayer

Lord, encourage and embolden the leaders who are willing to share power and authority, live within the rule of law, and respect systems of accountability.

Lord, thwart the leaders who want only wealth and power for themselves, who don't believe in public service, who don't really want to save 'the people', who only want to serve themselves.

Give wisdom to those who are striving to negotiate cessation of fighting and destruction - not just in Ukraine and Russia, and Israel and Palestine, but also the ongoing conflict in the DRC and the violence in the past week in Syria and Yemen.

Protect, encourage and comfort everyone in NGO's and churches who seek to be catalysts for change and brings solutions in the situations they find themselves in.

Lord, in your mercy - hear our prayer

² Christian Climate Action's Prayer for climate grief <https://prayandfastfortheclimate.org.uk/resources/>

Strengthen church leaders in your service: those in this parish and diocese, and in the Church of England discerning who should be appointed the next Archbishop of Canterbury.

In this world of conflict, may your church leaders around the world model servant leadership, forgiveness and love.

Lord, in your mercy - hear our prayer

Lord, comfort all those who are suffering physically, mentally and emotionally in the conflicts we remembered earlier in our prayers.

We remember those known to us locally:

Restore to them the healing and joy of your salvation.

Lord, comfort all those mourning the loss of loved ones in the conflicts we remembered earlier in our prayers.

We remember those known to us locally who have died recently:

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

We remember the anniversaries of:

Lord, in your mercy - hear our prayer

All that we are, Lord,
All that we do, Lord,
Everything we work for,
The troubles that weary us,
The thoughts that disturb us,
Each that we pray for,
Each that we care for,
We place into your hands. ³

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

³ Based on A Celtic Communion in Celtic Daily Prayer Book Two; Northumbria Community; 2015