

Intercessions on 15 June 2025

by Andrew Goodman

First reading: Romans 5.1-5

Gospel: John 16.12-15

Collect: Holy God, faithful and unchanging: enlarge our minds with the knowledge of your truth, and draw us more deeply into the mystery of your love, that we may truly worship you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

Isaiah 25.4-6:

“For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress, a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat. When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm, the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place, you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds, the song of the ruthless was stilled. On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.”

Adam Russell Taylor on Walter Brueggemann (b. 11 Mar 1933 - d. 5 Jun2025) <https://sojo.net/articles/opinion/dangerous-oddness-walter-brueggemann>

“When I first read ‘The Prophetic Imagination’ in 2004.....I was struck by how Brueggemann roots discipleship in a radical commitment to act in solidarity with the disinherited, dismantling the evils of empire or, as he would have put it, the “royal consciousness”. Brueggemann pointed out that throughout the Bible, kings and military leaders embodied a way of thinking concerned with the acquisition of power or wealth, often at the expense of the most vulnerable in society. He noted that this “royal consciousness” was repeatedly rebuked by the prophets and ultimately Jesus.”

Lord, we know that sometimes the road leads through dark places. This is our experience at the moment, both within our church family here and in what is happening around the world.

We don't feel up to the task, but help us, Lord, to stand in the gap as we intercede for your world of wonders this morning.

Lord, in your mercy - hear our prayer

We thank you, Lord, for everyone who exercises amongst us gifts you have given through the Holy Spirit for the common good. Encourage and bless Archdeacon Janet, Alan, Bill and Scott in their ministries. Encourage and inspire our lay readers and lay leaders, churchwardens and PCC. Give them wisdom and discernment in leadership.

We remember again and thank you for the life and work of Chris Seward. As we feel the loss of one taken from us, equip those who have already taken over some of his responsibilities and those who you will encourage to do so in the coming days to serve and sustain the life of your church.

Lord, in your mercy - hear our prayer

Lord, you rule over every situation - certain and uncertain. Today we pray for the chaos and escalation in the Middle East. We seek your peace that surpasses all understanding to rule over the hearts and minds of your church across the entire region. Give them calmness through this peace so they can voice your message of reconciliation and justice to those in power and to those under oppression.

Lord, protect the communities and families currently living under fear of violence and war.¹

Lord, in your mercy - hear our prayer

Lord, we are overwhelmed by leaders who embody a way of thinking concerned with the acquisition of power and wealth, often at the expense of those most vulnerable in society. Help us, and our brothers and sisters around the world, to root our discipleship in imagination and commitment to act in solidarity with the disinherited and in dismantling evils, just as we read in your Word was often spoken by the prophets and Jesus.

Lord, in your mercy - hear our prayer

¹ Adapted from a prayer written by Sara Hijazeen who heads up Tearfund's work in the Middle East

This week is a week of prayer for refugees and displaced people. Lord, we are aware that conflict, economic hardship and natural disasters (often caused by climate change) have currently forced an estimated 123 million people around the world to flee from their homes, leaving behind possessions, jobs and loved ones.

We thank you, Lord, for the NGO's we have supported in our mission giving - including Christian Aid, Embrace the Middle East and Tearfund - who seek to help refugees on their journeys, and see that each person is loved by you, Lord, and deserves the opportunity to thrive.

Lord, in your mercy - hear our prayer

We remember before you, Lord, the millions of small farmers around the world who more and more are being affected by changing weather patterns and which can force them into (or further into) extreme poverty and hunger.

Again we thank you, Lord, for Christian Aid and Tearfund who work with farmers facing poverty to help provide them with support through:

- financial assistance;
- providing training in more climate-resistant farming techniques and crops; and
- finding alternative sources of income.

Lord, in your mercy - hear our prayer

Lord, comfort all those who are suffering physically, mentally and emotionally. We commit to you those known to us who are unwell:
Restore to them the healing and joy of your salvation.

Lord, comfort all those mourning the loss of loved ones. We commit to you those known to us 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

Lord, pour out your grace on us; may we feel your hand in everything we do and be strengthened by the things you bring us through.

May your grace abound in us and motivate everything we do, and may the fullness of your love be shared through us.

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