

Lent Resources 2014: Intercessions

Week One: Working for Reconciliation

"God of holy dreaming, Great Creator Spirit,
from the dawn of creation you have given your children
the good things of Mother Earth.
You spoke and the gum tree grew.
In the vast desert and dense forest, and in cities at the water's edge,
creation sings your praise."

Help us to care for the earth in action and word and to
remember the great impact our actions have on the earth.

God of Grace,
Hear our Prayer.

"Your presence endures as the rock at the heart of our Land.
When Jesus hung on the tree you heard the cries of all your people
and became one with the wounded ones:
the convicts, the hunted, and the dispossessed."

We pray for the people of our world who struggle under the weight of oppression, human greed, war,
poverty, and misuse of power.

Help us to work for peace and to remember that Jesus became one with the wounded ones.

God of Grace,
Hear our Prayer.

"The sunrise of your Son coloured the earth anew, and bathed it in glorious hope.
In Jesus we have been reconciled to you, to each other and to your whole creation."

We give you thanks for the Church in all times and places. We particularly pray this day for ABM's
reconciliation program, and for all who work for justice and reconciliation.

We pray for our Diocese - _____.

Help us as the Anglican Church in _____ to be a community of hope and
reconciliation in our local and global context.

God of Grace,
Hear our Prayer.

Lent Resources 2014: Intercessions

God who binds up the broken hearted and proclaims liberty to the captives,
We bring before you the sick and suffering. We particularly remember at this time

Be their comfort, companion and strength for the journey. Breathe your healing into their lives that they may know your presence with them.

God of Grace,
Hear our Prayer

God of all times and places,
We give you thanks for the Saints, for all those who have gone before us.
We pray for those who grieve the loss of loved ones and ask that your peace, which passes all understanding, be with them always.

God of Grace,
Hear our Prayer.

"Lead us on, Great Spirit,
as we gather from the four corners of the earth;
Enable us to walk together in trust
from the hurt and shame of the past
into the full day which has dawned in Jesus Christ. **Amen.**"

Acknowledgements:

Quoted sections of these intercessions are from the "A thanksgiving for Australia", A Prayer Book for Australia, page 218-19: by the Rev'd Lenore Parker.

Lent Resources 2014: Intercessions

Week Two: Building Amity

God of amity, at the beginning of creation you saw all that you had made and it was good. We give you thanks for the good earth, for its beauty and abundance. Forgive us for the times we disrespect the earth, through over consumption and ignorance. Help us to remember the great responsibility you have placed in our care.

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our Prayer.

God of amity, we give you thanks for the diversity of the nations of the world, for the beauty of diverse cultures: language, music, art and food. We pray for those nations where diversity means division, war and unrest. Help us to respect diversity and honour each person that our eyes may be opened to your presence in the "other" and we may contribute to peace.

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our Prayer.

God of amity, we give you thanks for the Church. We pray for the worldwide Church and pray that you may inspire a spirit of unity, that the Church may proclaim the Gospel in the world, in word and action. We give you thanks for the work of ABM's partner, The Amity Foundation in China and ask that you strengthen them in their work. We pray for our Diocese _____, and for our Parish _____.

Help us to be the body of Christ.

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our Prayer.

God of amity, we pray for those who are experiencing the burden of loneliness, exclusion, unemployment or illness. We particularly pray for those known to us _____. We pray also for those who have no one to pray for them. We ask your peace and comfort for all those we have named aloud and in the silence of our hearts. Help us to remember your call to us to bind up the broken hearted.

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our Prayer

God of amity, we give you thanks for the Saints and all those who have departed this earth. We pray for those recently departed _____ and for all whose hearts are heavy with grief.

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our Prayer.

Lent Resources 2014: Intercessions

Week Three: Loving your neighbour

Loving God, for the beauty of earth we thank you. We lament the times when human greed leads to the misuse of the earth's resources. Help us to love our neighbour earth by living sustainably, that your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Lord in your mercy,
Hear our Prayer.

Loving God, for the communities of earth we thank you. We pray for those who face daily persecution, oppression, violence and poverty. Be present with them in their suffering. Help us to love our neighbours across the globe by working for peace, that your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Lord in your mercy,
Hear our Prayer.

Loving God, for the Church we thank you. We thank you for the work of ABM's partners in the Pacific Islands. We thank you for the good news we, the Church, have to proclaim: news of freedom, inclusion and salvation.

Forgive us for the times the good news is muted by the noise of division and exclusion. Help us to love our neighbour by working for unity, that your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Lord in your mercy,
Hear our Prayer.

Loving God, for your constant presence we thank you. We pray for those who are in need at this time, particularly _____, may they know your wholeness. Help us to care for our neighbour by caring for those bound by illness, that your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Lord in your mercy,
Hear our Prayer

Loving God, for the Saints we thank you. We remember those who have died recently _____, rest eternal grant to them, O Lord, **and let perpetual light shine upon them. Amen.**

Lent Resources 2014: Intercessions

Week Four: Embracing Kindness

"Jesus, like a mother you gather your people to you:
You are gentle with us like a mother with her children;
Often you weep over our sins and our pride:
tenderly you draw us from hatred and judgement."

Holy God, we pray for the earth. Where it is wounded, help us to heal it through advocacy and sustainable action.

Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

"You comfort us in sorrow and bind up our wounds:
in sickness you nurse us,
and with pure milk you feed us.
Jesus, by your dying we are born to new life:
by your anguish and labour we come forth in joy."

Holy God, we pray for those nations who are at war, those communities who are experiencing poverty or distress of any kind. In the midst of their despair may they know your consolation. Remind us afresh of your call to us to be peacemakers.

Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer

"Despair turns to hope through your sweet goodness:
through your gentleness, we find comfort in fear.
Your warmth gives life to the dead:
your touch makes sinners righteous."

Holy God, we pray for the Church.

We give you thanks for ABM's partners in Asia and the good news they are making known in their communities. We pray for our Parish _____.

We pray for those who are sick or in need of any kind, particularly remembering _____.

Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

"Lord Jesus, in your mercy, heal us:
in your love and tenderness, remake us.
In your compassion, bring grace and forgiveness:
for the beauty of heaven, may your love prepare us."

Holy God, we remember those whose year's mind occurs at this time _____, may they rest in peace and rise in glory. **Amen.**

Lent Resources 2014: Intercessions

Acknowledgements:

Quoted sections of these intercessions are from the "A Song of Christ's Goodness", Anselm of Canterbury. A Prayer Book for Australia, page 428-29.

Lent Resources 2014: Intercessions

Week Five: Doing Justice

He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

- Micah 6. 8

Creator God, we give you thanks for the earth. We pray for those parts of the earth groaning under the weight of environmental degradation and climate change. Remind us this Lent to care for the earth.

God of justice,
Hear our prayer.

God of peace, we give you thanks for the nations of the world. We pray for those nations experiencing violence and unrest at this time, particularly remembering _____. Remind us this Lent that you proclaim the peacemakers blessed.

God of justice,
Hear our prayer

God of community, we give you thanks for the community of the Church, for the fellowship we share. We pray for ABM's partners in Africa and for the work they are doing in sharing your good news. We pray for our Diocese, for _____. In our parish we pray for _____. Remind us this Lent to share the good news of your justice.

God of justice,
Hear our prayer.

God of wholeness, we pray for those who are bound by sickness and need. Your son Jesus Christ raised Lazarus from the dead. When Lazarus emerged from the tomb, Jesus said, "unbind him and let him go". Remind us this Lent of your call to proclaim liberty to the captives.

God of justice,
Hear our prayer.

God of abundant life, we give you thanks for the Saints, may we live our lives as if we have learnt from them. We remember those who have died recently _____ and those whose year's mind occurs at this time. Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord, **and let perpetual light shine upon them. Amen.**

He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

- Micah 6. 8

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Palm Sunday

Week Six: Walking a Way of Peace

In our prayers today the response to "God of peace" is "**equip us.**"

God of peace,
equip us.

As we stand on the edge of Holy Week, may we be prepared to walk a way of peace for the earth.

God of peace,
equip us.

As we stand on the edge of Holy Week, may we be prepared to walk a way of peace for the nations of the world.

God of peace,
equip us.

As we stand on the edge of Holy Week, may we be prepared to walk a way of peace for the Church, particularly remembering today the Anglican Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East.

God of peace,
equip us.

As we stand on the edge of Holy Week, may we be prepared to walk a way of peace for the sick and those in distress.

God of peace,
equip us.

As we stand on the edge of Holy Week, may we be inspired by the Saints to walk a way of peace.

God of peace,
equip us.

Lord, make us instruments of Your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy.

O, Divine Master, grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love; For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born again to eternal life.

- Adapted from the Prayer of St Francis of Assisi