

## **Week One**

### **1. Witness to Christ's saving, forgiving and reconciling love for all people.**

Gospel: Mark 1. 9-15

*In the gospel reading today (Mark 1. 9-15) we hear the story of Jesus' baptism and the beginning of his ministry. This ministry was characterised by love, and empowered by the Holy Spirit. Today we remember Christ's saving, forgiving and reconciling love for all people.*

God of freedom,

We hold before you the earth. As it groans for new life and refreshment in the face of Climate Change and human greed, remind us of your call to participate in your ministry of love. Forgive us when we forget the earth and go about our business ignorant of earth's needs.

Reconciling God,

**Hear our prayer.**

God of peace,

We hold before you the nations of the world. Particularly remembering those places where war, poverty, oppression, occupation and violence rob innocent people of abundant life. We pray for

\_\_\_\_\_.

Forgive us when we are ignorant of our neighbour's dream for peace. Remind us of your call to participate in your ministry of love.

Reconciling God,

**Hear our prayer.**

God of community,

We hold before you the Church, praying for our Diocese \_\_\_\_\_, Bishop \_\_\_\_\_, and all who minister here. Forgive us when we allow differences to divide, exclude and distort the body of Christ. Remind us of your call to participate in your ministry of love.

Reconciling God,

**Hear our prayer.**

Healing God,

We hold before those bound by sickness, need, and constant fear. We pray for those who have asked for our prayers \_\_\_\_\_. May these, and all your people, know your wholeness and peace. Forgive us when our wants eclipse the needs of the other. Remind us of your call to participate in your ministry of love.

Reconciling God,

**Hear our prayer.**

Eternal God,

We hold before you our memories of those who have died. We remember those who have died recently \_\_\_\_\_, and pray for their loved ones. We give you thanks for all the saints. Remind us, by their example, of your call to participate in your ministry of love.

Reconciling God,

**Hear our prayer.**

## Week Two

### 2. Build welcoming, transforming communities of faith.

Gospel: Mark 8:31-38

Loving God,

We turn to you as we pray for the world that you created.

May our ears and our hearts be open to the cries of all who suffer.

May our voices and our hands work together alongside all who labour for justice.

Give us the strength to follow you even where the way is cloudy and the path seems difficult, so that we may be woven together in Communion with your church throughout the world.

Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

God who goes before us,

Transform us by the renewal of our minds and the indwelling of your Holy Spirit.

By your presence, guide us free from selfish endeavour and enable us to serve our neighbours.

Grant our leaders wisdom and humility and guard us all from the corruptions of power.

Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

We pray particularly for our own community,

Lead us to serve, nurture and support our neighbours nearby and far away.

We pray for those who are sick \_\_\_\_\_.

May suffering be transformed by your healing love.

Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

Lord, you created us to live together in community.

We invite you to continue your work of transformation in us,

Send us out into the world that you love to spend our lives in the service of others,

May we be your witnesses as you continue to build welcoming, transforming communities of faith in our own generation.

Almighty God, you have promised to hear our prayers.

**Grant that what we have asked in faith we may by your grace receive, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## Week Three

### 3. Stand in Solidarity with the poor and needy

Gospel: John 2:13-22

God of mission,  
As you entered the temple in Jerusalem all those years ago,  
So enter this place today and disturb us with your passion and zeal.

God of mission,  
Help us to see the needs of our neighbours.  
May our responses be compassionate and loving.

God of mission,  
When we are too strong to understand the needs of the poor,  
Remind us of our weaknesses and support us in our vulnerability.

God of mission,  
You go out before us proclaiming a kingdom of love, hope and justice,  
Teach us to love and to welcome all people who are created in your image.

God of mission,  
Comfort us when we are poor and needy. Remind us of your presence and love.  
We especially pray for those who are sick or grieving\_\_\_\_\_.

God of mission,  
As you drove the money-changers out of the temple, drive from us the things that keep us from true worship.  
Renew us, as your body - the church, so that all we do may manifest your love and glorify your name.

This we ask though Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray...

**Our Father...**

## **Week Four**

### **4. Challenge violence, injustice and oppression, and work for peace and reconciliation.**

Gospel: John 3. 14-21

God of justice, whose Son is both victim and victor,

May your ways be known among all nations on earth.

Grow in us your spirit of love so that we may share this same love with those who suffer. Grant us the courage to stand in solidarity with victims of violence, injustice and oppression and to challenge unjust structures in this world.

You call us to be bearers of truth and light,

Help us to shine brightly in the darkness and herald the hope that comes through Christ Jesus.

God of Grace,

**Hear our prayer.**

God of peace,

Teach us to listen to one another and to work together for the good of all.

Your Son Jesus teaches us that violence is not the answer. Remind us afresh that an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth do not bring peace, but further pain and unrest. Let us be filled with the presence of your great compassion toward ourselves and toward all living beings.

God of Grace,

**Hear our prayer.**

God of life,

Your son shows us that you desire abundant life for the world and all that is in it, not condemnation. When the church is quick to condemn, forgive us. Fill us with compassion and stir us to love, that your church may be a sign of healing in a broken world.

We remember all who are carrying heavy burdens at this time. Help us to be the body of Christ, attuned to their need.

God of grace,

**Hear our prayer.**

God of the saints and the prophets,

In his teaching, your son, Jesus Christ drew on the wisdom of the ages, the prophets and stories of old. Help us to recall the saints, the prophets, and the stories that have shaped us.

We particularly remember those who have died recently \_\_\_\_\_, may we live our lives as if we have learnt from them.

God of grace,

**Hear our prayer.**

God of reconciliation,

who sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to break down the walls that divide us from each other: grant that peoples of all nations may work together to heal brokenness and wounds caused by things said and done. Shape our global community into one of care and compassion for our shared future; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **Week Five**

### **5. Protect, care for and renew life on our planet**

Gospel: John 12. 20-33

Creator God, you formed us from the dust of the earth, and your fingerprints are on all of creation. Teach us your deep wisdom in the order and beauty of all that you have made. When our care for your creation is found wanting, reprove and reform us, so that our footprints may be gentle on the earth, tending and keeping it as your own handiwork.

God of all life

**Hear our prayer**

God of the mountains and the seas,

Help us to know that all things are connected in this world you have made. Forgive us for the times where we have exploited the resources of the earth and caused imbalance and harm. Help us to learn from these mistakes and to nurture the gift of our environment so that it may continue to sustain and bring life.

God of all life

**Hear our prayer**

God of the birdsong and gentle breeze,

As we live in comfort while others strain to hear creation's song over war and violence, help us to be mindful of your desire to "draw all people" to yourself.

God of grace,

**Hear our prayer.**

God of diversity,

Your creation works in harmony, forgive us when our actions and attitudes create discord. Help us to learn from the earth what it is to live interdependently. May we, as the church in this place, value unity.

God of life,

**hear our prayer.**

God who hears the earth's cries,

open our ears to hear, and move us to action. Where creation is captive to our greed, may we remember your call to unbind it and let it go. For all who are bound by sickness, loneliness and despair, we pray your peace be with them.

God of life,

**Hear our prayer.**

## **Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday**

Gospel: Mark 11. 1-11/Mark 14.1-15.27

### *A prayerful reflection*

On this day we remember Jesus upon a donkey, humbly entering Jerusalem. We remember the crowds shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord-- the King of Israel!" Here we stand, singing our Hosannas, our songs of praise.

On this day we remember that in the shadow of the cross you gathered your disciples, taking bread and wine, and saying, "this is my body", "this is my blood", do this in remembrance of me.

On this day we remember how quickly those shouts of praise turned to shouts of condemnation. We remember you condemned, betrayed, abandoned, crucified, dead. We lament.

On this day we do not forget the empty tomb, for we know the story goes on - we hold both death and resurrection, we partake in bread and wine, we remember.

As we move now into the breaking of the bread, may we remember those who today face abandonment, betrayal, violence, and death. Move us into action that we may participate in your mission in the world – that the world may know abundant life.

### *An invitation to reflect on the words of Teresa of Avila (1515–1582)*

#### *Christ Has No Body*

*Christ has no body but yours,  
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,  
Yours are the eyes with which he looks  
Compassion on this world,  
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,  
Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.  
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,  
Yours are the eyes, you are his body.  
Christ has no body now but yours,  
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,  
Yours are the eyes with which he looks  
compassion on this world.  
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.*