

Our prayers today use the Celtic imagery of being circled by the loving, protective presence of God. Not isolating us from the world, but praying that the qualities of God's love are the ones that permeate into the world.

Circle us, Lord.

Circle your Church with the light of the Gospel.

May we understand more of our faith, and why we believe it.

May we understand more of our doubt, and not be too hard on it.

May we commit ourselves to following you

in the small details of our lives;

in our congregations in the parish

in our covenanting churches,

and in the opportunities we have when meeting other people.

Circle us, Lord.

Keep light within, keep darkness out...

Circle us, Lord.

Circle our nation with the values of the Gospel.

Give to our national institutions – Government, the law, the health service, education, corporations, the Church – give them the values of justice, fair representation, concern for the weak, equal opportunities for every person.

And may the sheer generosity of your presence infuse our national life with hope and encouragement.

Circle us, Lord.

Keep hope within, keep despair out...

Circle us, Lord.

Circle all people with your indiscriminate love;

Strengthen those who see rejection, intolerance and oppression all around them;

Awaken those of us who do not see the effects of our own privilege;

And may people, of whatever race, colour or creed, be treated equally as your children.

Circle us Lord.

Keep acceptance within, keep prejudice out ...

Circle us, Lord.

Circle our family and friends with the love of the gospel.

Keep them in peace and security.

Guard those of our loved ones who are vulnerable;
strengthen those who are struggling;
encourage those who are having to cope with change.

We hold these, our special people, in our hearts now:

pause

May the deep peace of the Prince of Peace keep them all.

Circle them, Lord.

Keep love within, keep danger out...

Circle us, Lord.

Circle the sick and the bereaved in your healing presence.

There are some we know who are simply not well;
some who are fearful and in pain; some who are on their last journey.
Circle them now Lord, the very people we name in our hearts, circle them in the
healing presence of Christ:

pause

May the touch of Christ be for them the touch of wholeness and healing.

Circle them, Lord.

Keep peace within, keep fear out...

Circle us, Lord. Our hearts, our homes, our church, our nation, our world.

Circle us and never let us slip outside the enchantment of your grace,

Merciful Father,

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