

Intercessions, Sunday 13th September 2020

Our prayers today use as a response words of the Lord's prayer from the King James Bible

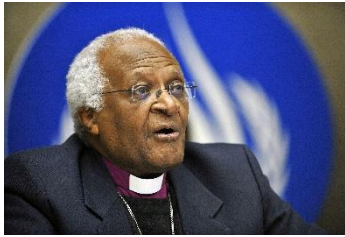
Lord, we pray that your church may be welcoming and open.

Do not let us be judgemental, and yet let us stand firm in our love for you and for your will.

Teach us to be forgiving towards others as we seek forgiveness from you.

In a moment of quiet we bring to you those people whom we need to forgive, possibly those whom we find hard to forgive, recalling the words of Archbishop Desmond

Tutu:



“It isn't easy, as we all know,
to ask for forgiveness
and it's also not easy to forgive,
but we are people who know that
when someone cannot be forgiven there is no future”

Pause

Father, forgive us our debts,

As we forgive our debtors

Lord, the hardest debts to deal with are often those of a nation, a community, a cultural group.

We recognise that our prosperity is often at the expense of the debts of others.

We pray for countries and peoples that are deep in unsustainable debt, especially as a result of the pandemic.

We pray that our government will pursue justice and fair dealings in trade as it negotiates our future.

pause

Father, forgive us our debts,

As we forgive our debtors



Lord, some of us have been shocked to discover that in the past many of our families were paid considerable compensation for giving up the slaves they owned.

Help us to bring about reconciliation within our communities by ensuring that prevention of poverty, access to justice and opportunities for betterment are equally accessible to all.



Let us understand that many aspects of our society are innocent symbols to us, but are seen as reminders of oppression by others,
And help us to show our communities that 'black lives matter' is so much more than just a slogan.

pause

Father, forgive us our debts,

As we forgive our debtors

Lord, we give thanks for what you have given to us.

We pray that what we have may be neither hoarded nor squandered,

that we may share for the relief of the needy and to the building up of our world.

We give thanks for all who have been generous to us, and pray that our homes may be places of grace and generosity.

pause

Father, forgive us our debts,

As we forgive our debtors

Lord, we pray for all whose relationships have broken down where forgiveness seems a long way off.

We remember before you all who are in trouble or in need

We pray for those in sickness.

We give thanks for all those departed who in their generosity have spent their lives in the service of others.

pause

Father, forgive us our debts,

As we forgive our debtors

We finish our prayers with an anonymous poem:

“O you, forgive your mortal foe,
nor ever strike them blow for blow;
for all the souls on earth that live,
to be forgiven must forgive;
forgive them seventy times and seven,
for all the blessed souls in heaven
are both forgivers and forgiven.”

Merciful Father,

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