

Intercessions for 22nd November 2020 Christ the King

Let us pray for the Church and the community in our homes, our city, our nation and our world.

Christ our loving King, you loved the world you came to and you told your disciples to love one another; we pray for your Church that it may reflect your love in the world.

As the Church of England launches its programme of *Learning in Love and Faith*, inviting us all to listen, learn and engage with issues of sexuality, gender and relationships, we ask that our hearts may be open to those who suffer through our ignorance and prejudice and that our minds may be open to the thoughts of others.

We pray that we can discuss and reflect together with love and respect, to be a powerful testimony to our oneness as the body of Christ.

King of glory, **let us serve you - in everyone**

Christ our hungry and thirsty King, you knew hunger in the desert and you fed the crowds; we pray for those who are hungry and thirsty in our world, for those who struggle to feed their family, and for those who walk miles for clean water.

We ask your blessing on those who give time, money and goods to food banks and to those who provide irrigation where water doesn't flow.

King of glory, **let us serve you - in everyone**

Christ our stranger King, you were a refugee in Egypt and were despised in your own community; we pray for the strangers in our midst, for those who seem different, for those who have fled from oppression or violence.

We ask that they may feel welcome, and we give thanks for the contribution they wish to make to society.

We ask your blessing on those who work to get to know them, and on Wolverhampton City of Sanctuary.

King of glory, **let us serve you - in everyone**

Christ our unclothed King, at your trial you were stripped of your clothes, and yet you taught us to wear the wedding clothes for your heavenly banquet; in a society that regards clothes as throw away items, we pray for those who labour to make our clothes, often in sweatshops at home and abroad, and paid only a few pence for each garment they make.

We ask your blessing on those who campaign for fair wages and decent conditions for workers who supply our lifestyle, remembering the work of Christian Aid and Fairtrade.

King of glory, **let us serve you - in everyone**

Christ our healing King, you experienced pain and suffering, and you healed those who were desperate; we pray for those who are sick in mind, body or spirit. We remember especially those who are confused and unable to understand their illness, and their family and friends who feel helpless with their inability to communicate.

We ask for your blessing on those who care for the sick, whether in the healing and social professions or as family or neighbour.

And we ask you to bring wholeness and healing to those who are sore from the loss a loved one, whether through sudden illness, accident or after a long life together.

King of glory, **let us serve you - in everyone**

Christ our imprisoned King, you were arrested, scourged and mocked and you came to set people free; we pray for those who are in prison, for those who are anxious for rehabilitation programmes and especially for those in places where they are imprisoned because they oppose the current regime.

We pray also for those who are physically, emotionally or psychologically imprisoned by gender based or domestic violence, and we ask your blessing on those who are working to reduce this evil and provide support for victims, remembering the work of the Mothers' Union and of The Haven.

King of glory, **let us serve you - in everyone**

To finish, we say together the words of the hymn:

**This is our God, the Servant King,
he calls us now to follow Him,
To bring our lives as a daily offering
Of worship to the Servant King.
Amen**