

Prayers of Intercession

We begin with a period of silent reflection while Isabelle plays a verse of *Holy, holy, holy*, the hymn by Reginald Heber.

Music: *Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!* by Reginald Heber

“In the beginning when God created the heavens and earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, ‘Let there be light; and there was light.’” (Genesis 1: 1-4)

Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
Be beside us when words fail us, when our intellect and reasoning disheartens us and you are beyond our understanding and comprehension. Quell and calm our fears and remind us that you know us better than we know ourselves. You created and ‘knitted us together in our mother’s womb.’ You know our every thought and every breath. Let us take comfort in your presence and rest there.

We see your beautiful, magnificent creation all around us and we give thanks. Open our eyes to the greatness and majesty that we are presented with before our eyes each day. May we appreciate all of creation from the great arch of the skies stretching above us to the most infinitesimal butterfly with its gloriously bright display of colourful wings.

Help us to remember it is our world to care for entrusted to us by you. Allow us to see you and your good works in your creation all around us and protect and preserve it for future generations.

Emily’s prayer:

Dear God,

You are the Creator of this wonderful world

Of the trees so tall that touch the sky

Of the magnificent birds that fly so high.

Of the amazing animals that live on grasslands wide

On desert sands, huge rainforests and the ocean tide.

You are the Creator of this wonderful world.

Thank you for everything that you made and help us to look after it. **Amen**

We pray for action to be taken against plastic pollution in our oceans.

We pray for an end to the destruction of our rainforests.

We pray for all organisations working in your name to help conserve this planet.

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.” (John 1: 1-6)

Evelyn: Heavenly Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

You sent your precious Son as our great Redeemer born into humanity. We give thanks for the example of Jesus’ life, the guidance of his teaching and how freely he gave his life on the cross.

We pray that the light of his love shines out in our lives and is visible to others.

Jesus did not turn away from people who came to him for help. We offer our prayers for all those who are in need of your help today:

A prayer for peace in this war-torn world especially in Israel.

A prayer for humanitarian aid organisations and particularly for the work of Christian Aid.

A prayer for fellow Christians in countries where there is persecution.

A prayer for children who are not provided with any form of education.

A prayer for those who are ill in hospital and those who are recovering at home.

A prayer for those who have died and those who are left behind lonely and grief stricken.

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

“And the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." (Luke 3:22)

Sustainer God,

When the Holy Spirit rested on Jesus during his baptism and you spoke to your Son, the connection between Father, Son and Holy Spirit was truly visible in this world. We pray that we may open our minds and hearts to know you better. For a moment, suspend all of our earthly struggles and concerns and strengthen our faith in you.

We thank you for the coming of the Holy Spirit to your disciples, filling them with power, knowledge and love. May we recognise that same presence working within our lives. Be our comfort and strength and teach us to love. We pray for all of those we hold dear and those we know of who do not yet recognise the power of your love.

We now pray a prayer written by David Adam:

Glory in all our seeing
Glory in all our being
Glory in all our speaking
Glory in all our seeking
Glory in all our hearing
Glory in every appearing
Glory in all our feeling
Glory in God's revealing
Glory of the Mighty Three
Glory entwining round thee
Glory in the opening day
Glory in the rocky way
Glory in the morning light
Glory in the darkest night
Glory there for beholding
Glory ever us enfolding.

Glory of God, Hand above.

Glory of Christ, Heart of love.

Glory of Spirit, Covering dove.

We end with another period of silent reflection while Isabelle plays a verse of Holy, holy, holy.

Music: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty! by Reginald Heber

Merciful Father,

Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son

Our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.