

Gloucester Cathedral

Prayers for Peace and Justice

GLOUCESTER
CATHEDRAL



7 April 2020

Luke, Chapter 11, verses 1 to 4

He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, 'Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.'

He said to them, 'When you pray, say:

Father, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

Give us each day our daily bread.

And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial.



Lord God, you have promised to hear us as we pray in faith.

Grant us the strength of heart and mind to look beyond ourselves and to address the needs of others here and throughout the world and to care for your creation.



On this World Health Day, we pray for our brothers and sisters all around the world who are suffering the effects of COVID-19.

Lord, we ask you to hold in your loving embrace: the terminally ill; all those in intensive care and in other wards in hospitals all over the world; and all those who are suffering from COVID-19 outside the hospital system. We also ask your continued blessings on all the doctors, nurses and support staff, and on all those in the caring professions and the volunteers who are supporting them.

God of our bodies, minds and spirits,

Hear our prayer



We pray for those experiencing homelessness and those who come alongside them; for an end to the growing disparity between the rich and the poor, and for the grace and courage to strive for economic justice.

Lord, we ask you to hold in your loving care those in need in our City, especially our homeless and vulnerable brothers and sisters; for the work of the Charity HaVinG; the work of the Cathedral Breakfast Club, the work of Gloucester City Mission; and all the other organisations working with our homeless and vulnerable brothers and sisters, especially, Gloucester County Council and Gloucester City Council.

God of all gifts and blessings,

Hear our prayer



We pray for mental health and well-being, for the sick, the aged and the infirm; for those with physical or mental disabilities; that all may have access to proper health care; and that God's loving embrace may be felt by all who suffer.

Lord, we ask you to sustain the work of St Mary de Lode, and its work with those suffering from dementia, and the work of MindSong and the charity MIND, and for all those working to help those suffering with mental health issues.

God of comfort and healing,

Hear our prayer



We pray for all children and families, that young people may fulfil their potential; and particularly for the orphaned, neglected, abused, and those who live in fear of violence or disease, that they may be relieved and protected.

Lord, we ask your blessings on the work of the Cathedral Education Centre and on the work of the Junior Voices Project, especially when they resume after the current situation, and on Gloucester Young Carers. We also ask your blessing on all those working to overcome food poverty amongst children and vulnerable families.

God of children, young people and families,

Hear our prayer



We pray for our care of creation; that we will have the will and the means to conserve the environment; that we will use its bountiful resources in the service of others; and that we will become better stewards of all that has been entrusted to us.

Lord, we ask for wisdom in the world's leaders in the care of creation, for all those seeking to reduce the impact of climate change, for measures to reduce our carbon footprint, and for initiatives to reduce the use of plastics.

God of nature and the universe,

Hear our prayer



We pray for all nations, that they may live in unity, peace, and concord; for an end to conflict and bitterness, and that all people may know justice and enjoy the perfect freedom that only God can give.

Lord, we ask your blessing on the work of the United Nations, and on all those seeking to bring peace to a troubled world, especially those involved in conflict resolution.

God of peace and gentleness,

Hear our prayer



We pray for all prisoners and captives; that a spirit of forgiveness may replace vengeance and retribution; and that we, with all the destitute, lonely and oppressed, may be restored to the fullness of God's grace.

Lord, we give you thanks for the freedoms we normally enjoy and we ask your blessing on all those who are held captive or imprisoned unjustly and on the work of Amnesty.

God of absolution and mercy,

Hear our prayer



We pray for an end to prejudice throughout our country and the world; that we will respect all people as precious children of God; and that all forms of discrimination will be forever banished from our hearts, our society, and our laws.

Lord, we ask your blessing on all those seeking to bring about harmony and end discrimination on grounds of race, gender, colour or creed, and we ask you to hold in your loving arms all people suffering from discrimination, and we ask that you use us to work with others to banish intolerance and hate.

God of fellowship and equality,

Hear our prayer



We pray for all immigrants, refugees, and pilgrims from around the world, that they may be welcomed in our midst and be treated with fairness, dignity, and respect.

Lord, we hold in our hearts all those who have been dispossessed and we ask your blessing on the work of GARAS and on all those who work to ensure that refugees have shelter, water and food.

God of outcasts and wanderers,

Hear our prayer



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Hear our prayer



We pray for the reconciliation of all people, and for the Church throughout the world, that she may be an instrument of your healing love.

Lord, we ask your blessing on all those working for reconciliation, especially on the work of Coventry Cathedral and churches everywhere that seek to bring about mutual understanding and respect of other people's positions, and on all peoples everywhere that they may come to a common understanding and know your unbounded love.

God of outreach and restoration,

Hear our prayer



We pray for all who have died as a result of violence, war, disease or famine, especially those who died because of human neglect or hardness of heart.

Lord, we remember before you all those who have died as a result of the spread of COVID-19, especially those who have died separated from their loved ones. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

We pray too for those who mourn at this very difficult time, remembering all those who could not be with someone they loved as they left this life for life eternal with you; and for all those who cannot attend the funeral services of those they have lost.

Lord, during this Holy Week, and the agony of the cross, and the joy of Christ's resurrection at Easter, we commend all those who have died, knowing that they too will rise again in glory.

God of eternal life and resurrecting love,

Hear our prayer



At this point, we usually include a time for silence and open prayer. Today, I ask you, in the stillness of where you are, to pray for all those on your hearts, especially those not covered by our previous prayers.

Silence and stillness



Concluding Prayers

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, and no strength known but the strength of love: So send abroad your Spirit, that we, with John the Baptist and all your people, may be gathered together as children of one Creator; to whom be dominion and glory, now and for ever.

Amen



Almighty and everlasting God,
who in your tender love towards the human race sent
your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ
to take upon him our flesh
and to suffer death upon the cross:
grant that we may follow the example of his patience
and humility,
and also be made partakers of his resurrection;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen



Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God



