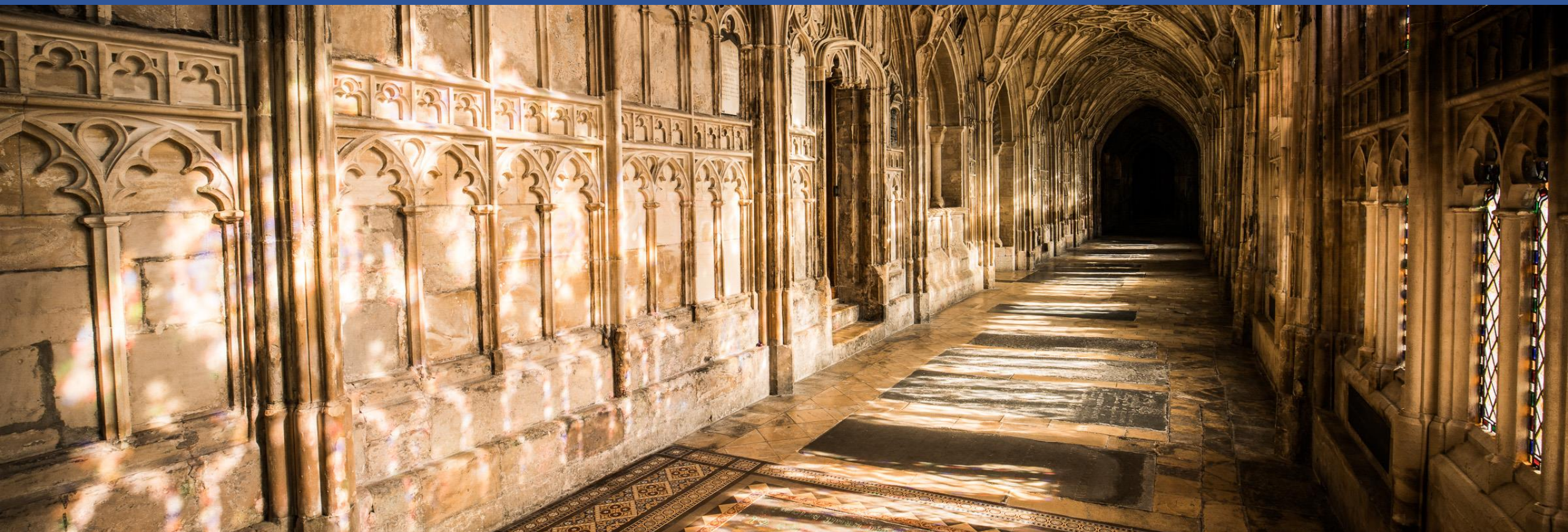


# Gloucester Cathedral

## Prayers for Peace and Justice

GLOUCESTER  
CATHEDRAL



7 July 2020

A very warm welcome to  
Prayers for Peace and Justice  
in a virtual St John the Baptist Chapel  
in a virtual Gloucester Cathedral.

Except for your personal prayers and reflections,  
everything that you need for this Litany  
will appear on your screen.

The responses are in **yellow**.



Let us keep a moment of silence as we prepare ourselves for prayer, and then I will read some verses from Paul's letter to the Ephesians, chapter 3.

***Silence***



## **Ephesians, chapter 3, verses 14-17**

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name.

I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love.



Let us reflect for a moment on this inclusive vision of God as the creator and Father of all, who cares for everyone and for the whole of creation, and who calls us to share in his reconciling and healing work that all may come to share in life in all its fullness.



There are three days this month when we are asked for specific prayers:

July 14 - Disability Awareness Day

July 17 - World Day for International Justice

July 30 - World Day Against People Trafficking

So, in our prayers today, let us be especially mindful of these areas as we continue to pray for a more inclusive society and a more inclusive church.



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.



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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

God of outcasts and wanderers,

**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.

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.

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**



May the God who created a world of diversity  
and vibrancy,  
**Go with us as we embrace life in all its fullness.**

May the Son who teaches us to care for both  
stranger and neighbour,  
**Go with us as we try to be good neighbours in  
our communities.**

May the Spirit who breaks down our barriers  
and celebrates community,  
**Go with us as we find the courage to create a  
place of welcome for all.**



Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



