

June Prayers

Refugee Prayer

In July 2009 the Conference of European Churches declared in Lyon: "As churches in Europe we commit ourselves: to remember those who have died on their journey to find a dignified life in Europe, through an annual day of prayer." Churches and human rights groups in several European countries will commemorate together on the same day, 26 June 2011, the lethal consequences of the sealing off of the external borders of the EU.

Father God,
We worship you as one whose own son was a refugee;
We worship you as the God whose people fled slavery in Egypt,
We worship you as the God whose people were dragged into captivity in Babylon.

And we pray for those today who have fled their homes and their loved ones.
Through hardship...
Through disaster...
Through persecution...
Through war...

Lord, for those whose hearts are as broken as their homes; whose hope has all gone; who find themselves unwelcome wherever they seek help - show compassion.
Show it through us.
Show us what real hospitality looks like when it is a gift.
Teach us how to welcome the stranger in our personal lives and our politics.
Let the glory of your love break through your church and into the structures that govern our society.

Environment Sunday (5th June)

Creator God, we worship you as the One who creates and re-creates his people.

In a world that is slowly waking up to its duty of care for the creation, slowly becoming aware of the damage we inflict upon the planet, beginning to fear for the future of the earth, let the disturbing truth become ever more clear, in order that a deeper hope may become ever more real.

In a world where talking about our environment fails to lead to action, where bold pledges are shallow publicity stunts, where urgent steps are postponed because of their political cost, let our lives reflect our claims in order that our promises ring true.

In a world where guilt or indifference or despair prevent us from being stewards of the creation and worthy heralds of the Gospel, let us worship our Creator in Spirit and in truth, in order that our lives and the life of the world may be remade.

Lord God of heaven and earth, who was creating and is creating, make our lives into signs of hope that point to you, the Creator and Redeemer of the world.

Peace:

Lord God of hosts, God of power and might, we pray for peace.

In a world where 'Might is right' and victims are unheard, where powerful nations use war as a political option rather than a last resort, where the crimes of battle are hidden from all but the victims,
Guide us in the way of peace.

As our own nation budgets for war, as our government considers its nuclear defence, as we fear the nuclear threat from other nations,
Guide us in the way of peace.

In our lives, when we adopt a critical spirit, when we allow bitterness and hatred to take root, when we tolerate gossip and slander,
Guide us in the way of peace.

God of peace, may your church be a powerful agent of a peace which the world cannot grant, and may its members be active peace-makers who bring harmony and reconciliation in all areas of daily of life.

Poverty Sunday: (26th June)

Lord teach us to be wealthy, and teach us to be poor.

Help us to live as though wealth is determined by how much we need, rather than how much we have.

Teach us to realise the wealth in which we live, the luxuries we take for granted, the friendships with which you have blessed us.

Teach us to be alert to the world beyond our doorstep, to understand our place in the world, to see ourselves as others see us, and as you see us.

Teach us how to be wealthy by needing less rather than by wanting more.

But teach us also to be poor. Teach us to feel such compassion for those without the basic necessities of human life, that we identify with them at the deepest level.

Teach us how to pray, 'give us this day our daily bread'.

Help us to challenge the principalities and powers, both here and abroad, that keep poverty in place.

Open our hearts to the needs of real people who live every day at the far end of statistics and policies.

In a time of economic hardship, make it true for your church, that 'we are all in this together'.

God who blesses the wealthy and the poor; show us again who we really are in your eyes.

Show us again, who you call us to be.

By your grace, make us ever more that person, make us ever more that church.