

## **Easter Season / The World in his hands**

Lord, in this season of Easter / Lord of Resurrection, we celebrate your purposes prevailing, the powers being dethroned, the whole world being in your hands.

But if you have the whole world in your hands – why are there so many children in this world who will eat no food today? Why will thousands of bullets fly from gun barrels? Why will countless people weep with grief? Why, if the whole world is in your hands?

Lead us again into the empty tomb. Open our eyes again, to the darkness and stillness and death that surround us. Give us the courage to see this world as it is, and to see ourselves as we are. Like many, we want to hold on to you when you call us to follow you.

So lead us again into the world as it is, the world you love, the world in your hands.

And may we seek you in others so that we feel what others feel, so that the powers that starve children are challenged, so that governments that use violence unjustly are undermined, so that grief and loneliness and death do not have the final word.

In the quiet, we look at the world around us, in all its darkness and death – and we pray for new life.

Show us how to live and love and be channels of your grace – as though the world really is in your hands.

Summon us again, from the empty tomb, to enter the world as it is, as your witnesses.

If the whole world is in your hands, give us the powerlessness to change it, in accordance with your will.

Lord, in this Easter Season / Lord of resurrection, bring new life and new hope, in our world and in our lives.

## **Bastille Day**

Regime Change...

Lord where injustice rules, where oppressors are too powerful to be opposed, where governments favour the wealthy and devalue the poor, we long for regime change.

Where the hungry are kept hungry, where prisoners are denied a fair trial, when peaceful demonstrations are answered with violence, we long for regime change.

In our lives, when forces beyond our control inflict pain upon us, steal our hope, and assassinate us with criticisms; when we do all these things to others because we have not acknowledged you as Lord; in our lives, we long for regime change.

In our church, when we are preoccupied with petty concerns, governed by trivia and distracted by that which is not you, we long for regime change. We long for your kingdom to come.

## **Independence Day**

God of freedom, God of grace.

God of nation and person,

We praise you for your love at work in our world, for your care for individual and nation.

As we remember today the birth of a nation, we pray for the nations of today that struggle under tyranny.

For those whose governments seem to care little for their own people.

For those governments who idolize their own people, and care little about those of other nations.

For governments who hide their tyranny behind clever words that sound caring.

We pray for international rules of trade, justice and environmental righteousness, that will bring meaningful independence to many in our world today.

Where crippling debts and unregulated trade, keep the powerful in power and the poor in poverty, we cry, O Lord, for independence.

## **Climate Chaos**

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.