

October Prayers

Creator God

Creator God, so often we find ourselves overwhelmed by the suffering of this world, so often it seems to question your existence, so often it seems to eclipse your presence. But you are the Creator of heaven and earth, Your Spirit hovering over the waters of Chaos.

Creator God, too often we feel the distress caused by break downs in relationships. Especially where marriages have failed, we see the pain inflicted upon whole families, especially upon children. We pray that your comfort would not only be a truth to which we point, but a reality that we mediate. May your radical comfort be a living experience for those in the darkest of places. Creator God – let there be light.

Creator God, too often on our television screens, we see hungry children, embraced in the loving arms of helpless mothers, and we feel we can do nothing. Where the principalities and powers seem to have the last word, where international economics cripple a country from the outside, and poor leadership cripple it from within, the powerless are crushed. Cause your church to open its eyes, to take effective action both in its politics and in its generosity. In the darkest corners of our world, let there be light.

Creator God, too often we hear warnings of our planet's future, of the destruction of our environment, and we feel there is little we can do. As ice sheets melt, flood waters rise and species disappear, airports expand, traffic increases and pollution rises. It seems impossible to fix the problem, and easier to ignore or deny it. Show your church how to live responsibly, and to have a truly prophetic voice. Creator God, where the end of the tunnel is dark, let there be light.

Lord God of all creation, we praise you because you did not wind this world up and leave it to tick. We thank you that you are intimately involved in this world, in our lives, and in this church. Lord God who creates, and recreates, remake our lives that day by day, we might more faithfully reflect the image of a loving God.

James Chapter 4

God of grace, who opposes the proud and gives grace to the humble, we pray for our world, in need of your grace but reluctant to receive it.

We pray for those who have failed. As people, as professionals, in relationships and at work. We pray for all who carry the wounds of failure and humiliation. Lord, oppose the proud, give grace to the humble.

We pray for the victims of bullies, in the playground and in the shanty town, in the workplace and in the refugee camp. Lord, oppose the proud, give grace to the humble.

We pray for politicians whose ends can never justify their means. For those so intent on staying in power, on winning votes, and pleasing the crowds, that any thought of fighting for justice is beyond all thought and desire. Lord, oppose the proud, give grace to the humble.

We pray for ourselves, wanting to be humble, but closing our ears to those who bring us discomfort. Refusing to hear those who bring your challenge for us to change our minds, to change our habits, to

change our lives. Teach us to listen, encourage us to be transformed by your living presence. Lord, oppose us when we are proud, grant us your grace when we are humbled.

Come, Lord Jesus

Come into our world, come into our neighbourhood, come into our church.

For the leaders of nations, whose decision at high powered summits affect the meals the drinks, the lives and the deaths of millions who know nothing about those meetings.

For homeless people in our streets, who are desperately trying to find a decent bed for this night, For young people are treated with disrespect. For vulnerable, lonely, and workaholic people. Come into our world and establish your freedom.

For our church, that we will find a prophetic voice, a compassionate way of acting, model true Christian community and learn to love one another in thought and word and deed. Come into our world and establish your freedom.

For ourselves, when we fear to love, when we wonder from you, when anxiety triumphs, when pride disables. Come into our world and establish your freedom.

Loving God, sovereign Lord, Helper, Healer, Counsellor, Friend, Disturber, Prophet, Challenger, King.

Come into our World and establish your freedom.

One World Week: Oct 23-30

Lord God of hosts, who breaks the bow and shatters the spear,

We pray for nations which are threatened from outside, living in fear of those who seek the power or the excuse to attack.

We pray for nations which are being devastated from within, torn apart by civil war, whose people have lost homes and families, whose children are left without food or drink or peace.

We pray for the nations with power to cause or prevent war; for the leaders who declare their enemies to be 'evil' and themselves to be 'good'; for those who seek knee-jerk military solutions to social and relational problems.

Lord God of hosts, who breaks the bow and shatters the spear –

May those living in the shadow of fear receive true hope.

May those driven by hatred, suspicion or greed encounter living faith.

May those obsessed with protecting their own interests experience sheer grace.

May your people be active peace-makers, locally, socially, politically, globally.

Lord God of hosts, be exalted among the nations.

Be exalted in the earth.