

## **Sunday 26 October – Bible Sunday**

### **Prayers written by Yvonne Toms**

Let us pray for the church and for the world and let us thank God for his goodness.

Gracious God, rejoicing in your blessings and trusting in your loving care for all, we bring you our prayers. Thank you, that in you we may affirm our heritage and forge new paths. Pour your blessing upon your church as we commemorate the past, seek your will in the present and lay our plans for the future before you. Above all we thank you for the gift of salvation and give thanks that Jesus came to proclaim freedom for the prisoners, recovery of sight for the blind, and to set the oppressed free,

Bring your blessing into this meeting of your people, gathered here today; speak to our hearts through the hymns we sing, the prayers that are said, and the reading and understanding of your word, that we might go refreshed into the world, and through our lives bring refreshment to others.

Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer

On this Bible Sunday we give thanks for God's word and the work of the Bible Society, We thank you for all who have enabled us to learn more about you from your word and we pray especially for those Christians who cannot meet freely and openly to worship you. We give thanks for your Word.

Your Word is the light we see, a guide for our footsteps to where you are found. Your Word is the strength we find when darkness threatens to overwhelm. Your Word is the power we need to become servants of a Heavenly King. Your Word is the reason we live in the sure knowledge you are everything.

Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer

Lord, you have taught us that we are members one of another and that we can never live to ourselves alone: we thank you for the community of which we are part; for those who share with us in its activities and for all who serve its varied interests. Help us as we have opportunity to make our contribution to the community and to learn to be good neighbours, that by love we may serve one another, for your sake and for the growth of your Kingdom

Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer

We pray for peace:

- Give peace to the world.
- Give peace to the victims of war, violence and terrorism. We pray especially for peace in the Middle East and in Ukraine and Russia.
- Give peace to all victims of abuse.
- Give peace to family and friends.
- Give peace in our own divided hearts.

We know that without justice there can be no peace. Let peace come when all people are respected, regardless of race and religion. Let peace come when trading weapons of mass destruction is a crime. Let peace come when the earth's resources are used wisely for the common good. Let peace come when money is used to serve and not enslave the world. Let peace come through the transformation of our lives that we may live in justice, love and kindness and walk humbly with our God.

Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer

Lord Jesus when you walked among hurt and lonely people, you looked at them with understanding and approached them with arms outstretched showing them that they were truly loved.

We remember today all who are troubled in mind, body or spirit,

From our own community we pray for June Dennis, Jericho Hasieber and for Jo and for all known to us alone.

Living Lord, source of light and life, we come to you as broken members of your body. Bind up our wounds and bring us back to the foot of the Cross.

Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer

Loving Father, we thank you that nothing can separate us from the love of Christ. Whether we live or die we are yours and yours eternally. We pray for all who mourn, remembering especially today the family and friends of Eileen Piggott, Peter Morley, Ann Barkham, David Theobald and William Lock.

From our Memorial Book, we give thanks for the lives of Jean Lukokchoo, Lilian Pattenden, Barbara Trussler, Lily Purcell, Shirley Ann Carlile, Roy Caplin and Kenneth Rowell.

We thank you for lives lived well and for love shared.

Christ is the morning star who when the night of this world is past, brings his saints the promise of the light of life and opens everlasting day.

Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer

Almighty God, We thank you for the gift of your Holy Word. May it be a lantern to our feet, a light to our paths, and a strength to our lives. Take us and use us to love and serve all people in the power of the Holy Spirit, and in the name of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, Amen.