

Sunday 6 September – Festival of Creation in Christ

Prayers written by Jenny Cass

Dear Lord and Heavenly Father

We are spending time today thinking about Christ in Creation. We thank you for creating this wonderful world for us to enjoy but acknowledge that we are all caretakers and need to play our part in looking after your world.

We pray for a world in crisis and a church learning to respond. We pray for communities on the frontline of climate change, for those losing land to rising seas, for those whose harvests fail in drought, for those whose lives have been devastated by floods and fires they did nothing to cause. We give thanks for all those who are on the front line working so hard to rescue and bring relief and comfort to all those who are in need.

Let us continue to pray for our political leaders – for courage and wisdom, to choose justice over short-term growth, for ears that are open to the cry of the earth and the cry of those with lived experience of poverty and suffering.

Give your wisdom, too, Dear Lord, to us as we seek to live differently and more sustainably.

Lord in your mercy... Hear our prayer

We give thanks for our local neighbourhood and all who serve us. Our emergency services, the refuse collectors, our medical centre, local shops and businesses, for the Foodbank and Community Hub and the many voluntary organisations.

We pray for our children and young people as they start a new term at schools and colleges and universities. Bless and give wisdom to all the teaching staff. Help our young people to recognise the urgency and importance of looking after your world.

Thank you for St Luke's and for all that goes on here. For all who are working so hard during the Vacancy, our Ministers both lay and ordained, our Churchwarden and members of the PCC, for those working with children and young people, those who look after the maintenance of our buildings and churchyard, arrange the flowers, serve coffee, offer a welcome and serve you here in many ways. We ask that you will guide the right person to be our new Rector to apply.

Lord in your mercy ... Hear our prayer

Dear Lord, we thank you that we can talk to you about our worries and concerns knowing that you are always listening. This morning we bring before you those we know who are unwell, sad and lonely and need to experience your healing touch. We pray for Jericho Hasieber, Sarah, Jean, Graham Chislett and Faheem.

Let us spend a moment praying for those known to us individually, that they will be reassured of your love and healing presence.

Heavenly Father, we pray for those whose hearts have been saddened by the death of someone close and dear to them, for members of our families who have died and whose anniversary we recall. We remember Andy, Bill Anderson, Sarah Pannett and Ruth le Poidevin.

From our Memorial book – Nicki Kinsman and Frank Lester.

Help us to experience the comfort of the Holy Spirit within us and the fellowship of the church family around us until we are reunited once more in your heavenly kingdom.

Lord in your mercy... Hear our prayer

As we witness the growing fragility of creation, renew our commitment to care for one another and for the earth of which we are a part.

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