

Old Hills Malvern Churches

Intercessions for the Third Sunday of Epiphany – 21st January 2024

Year B

Almighty God, today finds us in the midst of the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**; help us to listen to your voice still calling us to unity in our diversity. We pray for church leaders across the Malvern and Upton area, especially the Churches Together in Malvern grouping as we all meet together to worship at St Joseph's RC church on Sunday. May the church leaders work together and promote unity among Christians. We pray as we are given the good chance to pray together this coming week, each evening via Zoom.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Lord, you made us to be one body and of one spirit and so we pray that we might establish friendly relationships among Jews, Christians, and Muslims, and tear down the walls of indifference and hatred making our unity visible and bringing healing to the world. We pray for the humanitarian crisis in the Holy Land.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Creator God, we pray for all who work for justice and solidarity, and for all world leaders that they will continue to seek for an end to the suffering caused by war and violence, injustice and inequality, disease and prejudice, poverty and hopelessness and bring healing to the world. We pray especially for the winter war affecting all in The Ukraine and the military incursion into the Red Sea and Yemen.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Generous God, as we remember the presence of your son Jesus Christ at the Wedding at Cana, we pray for all we know who are preparing for marriage and those who are beginning their married life together. We pray for those that recently contacted us to get married in church this year, as well as praying for those couples we are already supporting. May they experience the love of God, the support of family and friends. We also pray for any we know amongst our families and friends who are experiencing marital problems that they may find a way forward through their present difficulties.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, we raise before you this morning those who are sick, sad, or lonely and those who are brave and patient when things are going wrong. We pray that they may be aware of your comforting presence and know that in your hands they are safe and loved. In a moment of stillness, we name those now before God:

(add names of those requesting prayer). Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Father God, we pray for those who have departed this life and ask you, through your loving kindness, to have mercy on their souls. Be with the bereaved in their loneliness and give them the faith to look beyond their present troubles to your Son Jesus Christ who died and rose again and who lives forevermore. We pray for the families of the recently departed as we support their funeral arrangements for:

Stanley Charlton, Robert Chadney, and Don Hill

May they rest in peace and rise to you in glory. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Faithful God, as we prepare for the weeks ahead help us to remember that we are sisters and brothers in Christ. Help us overcome our conflicts, our divisions, and our self-seeking, and to be united to one another by the power the Holy Spirit.

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

Introduction to Christian Unity Week – 18th-25th January 2024

This year's theme for the week of prayer is *You shall love the Lord your God... and your neighbour as yourself (Luke 10:27)*: Loving God and neighbour in the midst of a security crisis.

The resources are provided the Chemin Neuf Community from Burkina Faso in the Sahel region of West Africa.

Try reflecting on this theme personally, as a church family and as a country in this troubled world.

Nightly prayer opportunities exist via Zoom from the 18th January, including over the weekend. Check Headlines for joining instructions