

### **Introduction to the Prayers of Intercession:**

Today is the Sunday in the Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity. Former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, writes:

“the Church is united not by any institutional framework as such but by the urge and the *urgency* of the Holy Spirit making us hungry and thirsty for God’s justice and compassion to prevail on earth.”

So we pray for the Church, for the world and for ourselves.

Lord God, we thank you for calling us into the company of those who trust in Christ and seek to obey his will.

May your Spirit guide and strengthen us in mission and service to your world;

For we are strangers no longer but pilgrims together on the way to your kingdom;

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### **Prayers of Intercession:** *(also courtesy of Revd. David Hinchliffe)*

God of the past and of the future,  
we bring to you in prayer those people and places on our hearts today:

We remember the parts of the world  
where people are being killed, oppressed and displaced.

We pray especially for the people of Tigray in Ethiopia,  
for the people of Darfur in the Sudan,  
for the Uighur peoples in China.

May those in power leave behind violence and follow your call to peace.

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

Lord Jesus, you called your disciples from the work they were doing  
so we pray for all those who struggle to make a living,  
for all those facing the complexities of new legislation  
and the challenges of extreme weather.

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

We pray for the people of America as Joe Biden begins his term as President, and for Kamala Harris and all those entrusted with the responsibility of re-shaping and re-uniting the states that make up that vast nation, so divided by race and politics and so ravaged by Covid.

Help them to leave behind ambition and follow your call to serve.

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

We pray for one another,  
for our church families, our communities, and our loved ones,  
for those who feel overwhelmed by the challenges of each day,  
for those adapting to new ways of living,  
for those who are ill,  
for those close to death,  
for those who are grieving.

*Pause*

Help us all to leave behind all that separates us from you and from one another and to follow your call to trust and to love –  
in Jesus' name, we pray. **Amen.**

### **Lord's Prayer**

*Introduce the final hymn: O Jesus I have promised*

### **Blessing: (based on a poem by David Adams)**

Discard your nets upon the sea, come instead and follow me.  
Forget the past, the deeds once done, turn and face the rising sun.  
Carry no load, and travel light, cast off the shadows of the night.  
Go the way which none have trod, venture out as a child of God.  
There are no maps for the road ahead, but by my hand you shall be led.  
Leave your nets and follow me, then my disciples you shall be. Amen

