

We are Christ's Hands and Feet on Earth

Opening Prayer: Loving God, there is much disquiet and unrest in this world you created driven by struggle and greed. We, as human beings are fragile, sinful and vulnerable, yet we are all you have to build your Reign. As we gather help us to remember that you know us and our limitations, and to trust that your will can still be done through us.

Reflection: We have all seen the statistics. They tell us that the gap between rich and poor is growing. But statistics are faceless. They deal in numbers, not people, and are easy to ignore. But people, unlike figures on paper or a computer screen cannot be filed away. Their presence is real just as Christ's presence is real. We encounter him in the faces behind the statistics. We need to continue to work for a change of priorities, [for a global society where the needs of the poor and powerless come before the demands of the rich and powerful. We need to remember when we make our everyday choices; how we shop, what we say, how we vote, about how they will effect the poor. Poverty and hunger are not inevitable, they are the outcome of society's choice to favour the rich over the poor. As the prophets of old challenged the rich to think of the needs of the poor, we too are challenged by those who live in poverty to change. We can make a difference through our prayers, our attitudes and our actions.

Prayer: Let us pray for those who till their pockets with stones and whose fists are clenched, for those who, because they have not loved have not been loved and now hide their hearts from love's touch.

Let us pray for those who ruin innocence with reckless force and for those who get stuck in bitterness and throw punches and insults that hurt and damage.

Let us pray for those who will not be happy and will not become what they had hoped to be.

Let us pray for those who cannot live with themselves, who constantly run and find refuge in drugs, alcohol or live on our streets.

Let us pray for those individuals and groups who use their positions in society to exploit the weak and manipulate systems to their advantage.

Let us pray in hope that the Christ will shed his light amid this darkness and invite all to life and healing.

Concluding Prayer: Lord, supreme being of this universe, give us the strength to continue to do that which we do best, that we may add something to the transformation of our world. Let us have the passion and spark to ignite others in joining in our endeavors and give us the wisdom to make good choice about future works and activities that build your Reign. Together let us create a world where love is manifested through political and economic policies of justice and caring, where right relationships are acknowledged as crucial in society, where all people are safe from poverty, violence and abuse. Let us play our part in freeing our planet from the corporations who want to exploit its resources and in so doing destroy people and native communities. Help us to live each day in such a way that we can say 'that we have been all we can be' for those less fortunate than us and for our planet.

Sources adapted: Celebrating our World, (1998). (eds) Jones, L, Shilson – Thomas, A & Farrell, B. Prayers for a Thousand Years, (1999) . (eds) Roberts, E. & Amidon, E.