

Hinckley United Reformed Church
Prayers for Week Beginning Monday 17th July 2023

I subscribe to Fresh Expressions Monthly Newsletter and what follows was part of July's Newsletter

Join us in this Franciscan Benediction:

May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships, so that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression and exploitation of people, So that you may work for justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, hunger, and war, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and turn their pain into joy.

And may God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in the world, so that you can do what others claim cannot be done to bring justice and kindness to all our children and the poor.

Amen

As we journey through July, may the spirit of compassion and justice guide our actions. Together, we can create a world where love and transformation thrive.

Prayer for the week.

Lights in the World... Written by Elizabeth Knox. Taken from the Prayer Handbook

All powerful God,

We are troubled and at times, frightened by the terrible news of events in our world. It is as if journalists, sifting through massive amounts of information, we strain out everything about You, Lord, and show nothing of what you are accomplishing on the earth.

Whenever Your world is feeling like a scary place, help us to turn to You and to be encouraged in Your presence. As the world appears to grow increasingly dark, remind us that You are the Light of the World.

Help us to ponder Your awesome glory and power, to find courage through remembering who You are and to delight in Your unfailing Love. May we rejoice that we are on an adventurous journey with You, in which our ultimate destination is Heaven.

May we not waste energy worrying about things over which we have no control. Instead, may we focus our energies on doing what we can to brighten the place

where You have put us. May we use our time, talents and resources to push the darkness and shine Your light wherever we are.

In the precious Name of the Living Lord Jesus, Light of the world.

Just a few verses of scripture to read during the week...

And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. ⁴God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night."

The LORD is my light and my salvation— whom shall I fear?

Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴In him was life, and that life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood [£] it.

⁶There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. ⁸He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. ⁹The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. [£]

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."