

Hinckley United Reformed Church.  
Prayers for week beginning September 4<sup>th</sup> 2023

Father, we thank you for being so ready to forgive us whenever we turn to you and honestly acknowledge your power and our own need.

We praise you for the joy of knowing that no matter who we are or what we have done or failed to do, we can experience the joy of forgiveness and beginning again.

Father, we thank you for the fellowship of your church, the community of those who have confessed their sin and are receiving your promise of life made whole.

Thank you for every person who shares your love with us and for every person who demonstrates the reality of the love of Jesus in all they say and do; for every person whose offer of forgiveness has set us free to begin again and has been a sign to us of your love, which is always reaching out to us in Christ, the true source of all thankfulness. Amen

Father, we pray for your creation. You gave us responsibility for all that you made. We have allowed the earth to become polluted by our greed. Forgive us that we have neglected those responsibilities and give us a renewed urgency to fulfil the tasks you gave us.

Lord in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Father, we pray for governments around the world, for those whose decisions will affect the whole of your creation and its people. We pray for those who ignore the implications for future generations. Not just for the planet but for the feeding, the health and the education of your children. May all act justly and with wisdom.

Lord in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Father, we pray for ordinary men and women, for those we work with and those who share our lives. For those finding life really hard at the moment, those struggling to find work or pay bills. Those struggling with health issues both physical and mental.

We hold before you Lord, in short time of silence those we love in need of your comfort and strength.....

Lord, in your mercy *hear our prayer*

Father, we pray for peace, justice and harmony in this world that you entrusted to us. Grant us wisdom, courage, gentleness and mercy, faith and love, to be more like you in our everyday lives so we might glorify your kingdom and grow nearer to you.

Lord, in mercy *hear our prayer.* Amen

I'd like to share the Gaelic blessing we had at my mum's funeral:

"May the road rise up to meet you. May the winds be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face; the rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand. Amen