

Hinckley United Reformed Church Prayers for week beginning October 9th

Recently I wanted the words for the Hymn “Let us build a house... Because it was not in Mission Praise I searched for the words on my laptop. The 3rd page that came up was from a Newsletter of Woking URC and it was published during the pandemic.

Their Minister is Lucy Brierley and she normally writes the first page, “Lucy’s Letter” Only in this edition the Church secretary, Keith Bradley, had written the front page letter. At the end of the article were the words for the Hymn I was searching for. Keith likes going to theatre, and on one recent occasion the programme included a request that the audience should NOT sing along with the music. Keith makes a comment about that happening in Church, Fancy not singing in Church?

Keith points out that singing has been part of worship in many faiths. The Jewish/Christian faith has 150 Psalms with themes of praise, petition and lamentation and were sung by Jesus all His life.

At the end of the Last Supper we read the words, They sang a hymn and then went out to the Mount of Olives. Matthew 26. Consider what went in there.

We have modern words of Psalm 23 The Lord’s my Shepherd by Stuart Townend.

“I will lift my eyes to the quiet hills... Psalm 121 by Timothy Dudley Smith

Bernadette Farrell’s “O God You have searched and you know me... Psalm 150

Another Hymn by Bernadette goes...Christ, be our light, shine in our hearts, shine through the darkness, Christ be our light, shine in your church gathered today. May Christ shine in our hearts...

Think for the day about Isaac Watts hymn “When I survey. It ends with the line... were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small, love so amazing so divine demands my soul, my life, my all!

Welcome! Whoever you are, and wherever you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here at Hinckley URC. This is the phrase Woking use in their welcome.

And finally, to Let us build a house where love can dwell...A Church, a Heart, a Life where love can live, a love that we can share with all we meet and greet.

Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine, and wheat:
a banquet hall on holy ground where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that free us:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Written by **Marty Haugen** (of the United Church of Christ in the USA)