

Lord, we come before you in prayer, sharing our concerns for our world, our church, our neighbours and friends and ourselves. We don't ask lightly; we accept you may call us as part of the answer, and we trust that you will give us strength and courage to stand up for justice and to make a difference. Creator God, you formed this earth, with all its beauty and abundance, ensuring provision for all and charging humankind to be stewards of creation. We pray for all who go hungry or thirsty or who are impoverished through the greed of others; for those close to home needing food banks and those further away needing emergency aid. The rising cost of living, natural disaster, climate change, war, governmental policy – all may contribute to increasing poverty. We remember those who are homeless or living in unsatisfactory accommodation. We pray that those who have enough may receive your spirit of generosity. Equip us to speak out and act for a more equitable distribution of resources.

Lord, where there is injustice, **grant us courage to make a difference.**

Loving God, you created humankind in all its diversity, calling all to live in relationship with you and with one another. Nationality, ethnicity, appearance, sexuality, gender, age, economic status, mental health: there are so many ways we judge and label people as different. Lord, we pray for those who experience prejudice or persecution, hostility or isolation. We pray for places where there is division, especially where those with power or influence use the media and social media to promote distrust or hatred between neighbours. At this time we pray especially for Iran, Sudan, Gaza, America and we pray for our own country.

Lord, where there is injustice, **grant us courage to make a difference.**

Parent God, you welcome all to be part of your family, the church. Through their faith, equip people to work together to fulfil your calling to justice, mercy and love. We pray for the work of those Christians and others who take brave steps to protect the rights of others, whether at risk of ridicule or at risk to their own lives. We pray for the persecuted church in countries such as North Korea, Somalia and Iran, and for those imprisoned for their faith.

Lord, where there is injustice, **grant us courage to make a difference.**

Compassionate God, who cares for each one of us and whose plans are to prosper and not to harm us, we pray for all those in need of your loving care this day. We name before you in our hearts those known to us who are in any kind of trouble. We pray for all those whose needs are known only to themselves and to you. And, trusting in your mercy and love, we bring before you our own needs and concerns. We ask our prayers in the name of Jesus.

Amen.