

Third Sunday of Lent

Prayers of the People | Anglican Prayer Beads

March 20, 2022

The Cross

“Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.”

~Luke 13:35

O God, be not far from us.

Come quickly to help us, O God.

The Invitatory

Return to God with all your heart;

Our source of grace and mercy.

Cruciform 1

We pray for the world, for those at war, for the oppressed, for captives, for refugees, and especially, for our neighbors in Ukraine who are suffering and dying

How do we pray for peace from half a world away?

How can words salve and soothe real wounds, assuage real fears, wipe tears from real eyes?

God of endless compassion, transform our prayers from words into bridges that span the distances between us, uniting our hearts with yours.

Every time we turn our keys in a lock, may we remember all who are losing their homes.

Every time we step in our cars, may we remember all who are having to flee.

Every time we embrace our children, may we remember all who are trying to shield theirs from war.

May our besieged sisters and brothers be drawn into the arms of the suffering Christ, and may our cry be heard as one voice, ringing out from every corner of the earth: **God of endless mercy, grant us peace. Amen.**

~Cameron Bellm

Week 1 (the 7 beads between cruciform beads)

Open our hearts, Lord,

And fill them with your grace and mercy.

Cruciform 2

We pray for guidance, Jesus, in the ways of your peace that we may seek and serve your Beloved as you would.

We pray this day:

for all who have a song they cannot sing,
for all who have a burden they cannot bear,

for all who live in chains they cannot break,

for all who wander homeless and cannot return,

for those who are sick and for those who tend them,

for those who wait for loved ones and wait in vain,

for those who live in hunger and for those will not share their bread,

for those who are misunderstood and for those who misunderstand,

for those who are captives and for those who are captors,

for those whose words of love are locked within their hearts

and for those who yearn to hear those words.

Have mercy upon these, O God,

Have mercy upon us all. Amen.

~Ann Weems

Week 2

Open our hearts, Lord,

And fill them with your grace and mercy.

Cruciform 3

What I Forgot

Sometimes I wish I was the fig tree.

No fruit here, just soaking up the sun,

growing roots, turning green, stretching out my branches until I can hug the horizon.

Sometimes I wish I was the fig tree,

because she doesn't produce,

and she's not exhausted, and she probably gets eight hours of sleep at night.

And her branches, unlike my shoulders,

are not heavy with work—pulled toward the ground, threatening to break.

**And her trunk, unlike my spine,
is not fighting to stand tall
while holding it all together.**

Sometimes I wish I was the fig tree
because she knows what I forgot
many years ago.

**You are still worthy even
if you don't produce.**

~Poem by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed

Week 3

Open our hearts, Lord,
And fill them with your grace and mercy.

Cruciform 4

For all who have asked for our prayers; for our families, friends, and neighbors; for those who are suffering or lost or lonely; and for those who have died especially ...

Name aloud or silently

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life especially ...

Name aloud or silently

Week 4

Open our hearts, Lord,
And fill them with your grace and mercy.

Concluding Prayer (Return to Cruciform 1 Bead)

We pray for the Church, for the body of Christ, to remember that we are Christ's hands and feet and voice in this world, and to seek the courage and wisdom to act as Christ's disciples.

Ours are the eyes through which Jesus looks with compassion on this world.

Ours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Ours are the hands through which he blesses the entire world. Ours are the hands, ours are the feet, ours are the eyes, and we are his body.

~Prayer of St. Teresa of Avila adapted

The Dismissal (Return to Invitatory Bead)

Blessed be the God of grace and mercy.
Thanks be to God.

The Cross

May the almighty and merciful Lord bless us and keep us. **Amen.**

Almsgiving

Episcopal Relief and Development

www.episcopalrelief.org/church-in-action/worship-resources/bulletin-inserts-2/help-ukrainian-families/

Unicef

www.unicefusa.org

Doctors Without Borders

www.doctorswithoutborders.org/what-we-do/countries/ukraine

Simpson Youth Academy

<https://simpson.edu/campus-life/campus-ministry/simpson-youth-academy>

The **Anglican Prayer Beads** were designed by Mary Clare Evans - daughter of St. Timothy's first rector Bob Hedges - which reflect different elements of our sanctuary. She chose the large dark, porous beads to represent the beams; the glass beads reflect the colors of the brick; the medallion is stamped with our cornerstone cross.

With assistance from her husband Dan, Mary Clare lovingly hand-stamped over 250 medallions along with packaging the beads.

With much gratitude and love for your presence in my life, I assembled the Anglican Prayer Beads while holding each of you in my heart and prayers.

~Mary+

For more information about Mary Clare's craft, go to www.etsy.com/people/marylclareevans

For more information about Anglican Prayer Beads, go to <http://kingofpeace.org/prayerbeads.htm>