

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE.

December 9th. 2018

Ruth Oliver

At this busy time of year and as the candle of peace is lit for the second week in Advent, let us reflect on peace in the world, peace amongst ourselves and peace in our hearts.

Let us begin with the Coventry prayer of peace and reconciliation which we pray every Friday at noon on the Cathedral steps, knowing that peace starts in our hearts and we have all fallen short of the glory of God.

All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

The hatred which divides nation from nation, race from race, class from class,

Father, forgive.

The covetous desires of people and nations to possess what is not their own,

Father, forgive.

The greed which exploits the work of human hands and lays waste the earth,

Father, forgive.

Our envy of the welfare and happiness of others,

Father, forgive.

Our indifference to the plight of the imprisoned, the homeless, the refugee,

Father, forgive.

The lust which dishonours the bodies of men, women and children,

Father, forgive.

The pride which leads us to trust in ourselves and not in God,

Father, forgive.

Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in

Christ forgave you.

We continue with the prayer of St Francis.

"Lord, make me an instrument of your peace; where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy.

"O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console; to be understood, as to understand; to be loved, as to love; for it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life." Amen.

At this time we pray also for the peace of the souls of the departed especially for Paul Lesser and George WH Bush. We pray also for peace to their loved ones at this difficult time and for all those who mourn especially during this season.

Finally a prayer for peace in our hearts:

Lift up our souls , O Lord above the weary round of harassing thoughts to your eternal presence. Lift up our minds to the pure , bright, atmosphere of your presence, that we may breathe freely, and rest there in your love. From there, surrounded by your peace may we return to do or to bear whatever is best pleasing to you.

We commend these prayers to the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ.

Amen