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A confessional form of intercession

INTERCESSIONS 1

We pray for the use of God's gifts to his Church, saying
Jesus, Lord of your Church,
in your mercy hear us.

God our Father,
you give us gifts that we may work together
in the service of your Son:

Bless those who lead,
that they may be firm in faith,
yet humble before you:

Jesus, Lord of your Church,
in your mercy hear us.

Bless those who teach,
that they may increase our understanding,
and be open to your word for them:

Jesus, Lord of your Church,
in your mercy hear us.

Bless those who minister healing
that they may bring wholeness to others,
yet know your healing in themselves:

Jesus, Lord of your Church
in your mercy hear us.

Bless those through whom you speak,
that they may proclaim your word in power,
yet open their ears to your gently whisper:

Jesus, Lord of your Church
in your mercy hear us.

Bless those who work in your world today
that in the complexity of their daily lives

they may live for you, fulfil your purposes,
and seek your kingdom first.

Jesus, Lord of your Church
in your mercy hear us.

Bless those who feel they have no gifts or value
and those who are powerless in this world's eyes,
that they may share their experience
of the work of your Spirit.

Jesus, Lord of your Church
**hear our prayer,
and make us one in heart and mind
to serve you with joy for ever. Amen.**

INTERCESSIONS 2

Jesus said: 'Even the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve'. God our Father, as we thank you for the willing service of your Son, we pray that we, with all your Church may have the servant mind of Christ.

Jesus, Lord of your Church
In your mercy hear us.

Grant to each of us the humility and courage to serve one another within this congregation and parish. As Christ has served us may we show your love and your compassion.

Jesus, Lord of your Church
In your mercy hear us.

Bless all who serve your Church in ordained ministry as bishops, priests and deacons. Strengthen and equip our Bishops, George and Tony; those who serve in this parish; and those who are ordained this weekend.

Jesus, Lord of your Church
In your mercy hear us.

As we seek to serve you, help us to discern your will and purpose for our lives. Continue to call men and women to ordained ministry. Guide all those who advise, select and train. May the Holy Spirit guide the Church of England as decisions are made on the ordination of women to priesthood.

Jesus, Lord of your Church
In your mercy hear us.

Give vision to your Church to serve your world, that we may be eager to proclaim the gospel and may show your love to all that you have created.

Jesus, Lord of your Church
In your mercy hear us.

Give your grace, to all who serve those who are in need - the sick, the sad, the lonely and the fearful. Give them the patience, gentleness and love of Jesus. Especially we pray for

Jesus, Lord of your Church
In your mercy hear us.

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So let us learn how to serve,
and in our lives enthrone Him:
each other's needs to prefer,
for it is Christ we're service

or

Teach us, good Lord, to serve thee
as thou deservest; to give and not
to count the cost; to fight and not
to heed the wounds, to toil and not
to seek for rest; to labour and not
to ask for any reward, save that of
knowing that we do thy will;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

This is our God, the Servant King
he calls us now to follow him,
to bring our lives as a daily offering
of worship to the Servant King.

Merciful Father

Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

INTERCESSIONS 3 (from 'Enriching the Church's Year')

In the power of the Spirit, let us pray to the Father.

Lord, you called your disciples to take up their cross and follow you. Give to your Church the same boldness to follow you, not counting the cost. May we have that same faith and trust so we too may answer your call and boldly proclaim your Kingdom of righteousness and truth.

LORD IN YOUR MERCY

HEAR OUR PRAYER.

Lord, our God, you have chosen ministers to serve you in your Church, and have given them a perfect example in the person of your Son; pour your blessing on your servants, that by word and deed they may proclaim your saving love, and so enable all people to grow in the knowledge of Christ, who is alive and reigns for evermore.

LORD IN YOUR MERCY

HEAR OUR PRAYER.

God our Father, guide those who have responsibility of discerning your will.
Bless the work of those who, through their teaching and example, prepare men and women for ministry. By the power of your Holy Spirit make your will known where you would have us serve you, that the Church may be strengthened and your Kingdom come.

LORD IN YOUR MERCY

HEAR OUR PRAYER.

Let your blessing, Lord, rest on those preparing to be ministers of your Word and Sacrament.

Give them a true understanding of the needs of your people and a sure faith in Jesus Christ to fulfil those needs. Keep them steadfast in their calling, in their preparation, and in their faith.

LORD IN YOUR MERCY

HEAR OUR PRAYER.

Heavenly Father, bless the work of all Theological Colleges & Courses; that those who teach in them may have wisdom and understanding, thus enabling their students to grow and mature in the love and knowledge of your Son Jesus Christ.

LORD IN YOUR MERCY

HEAR OUR PRAYER.

INTERCESSIONS 4

MINISTERING TO OTHERS

God of love,

We pray for all those in our society
who minister to the needs of others.

We think of those in our hospitals,
the caring professions,
and the emergency services -
doctors, surgeons, nurses and ancillary staff,
paramedics, firemen, police,
psychiatrists, therapists, counsellors,
hospice, nursing home and special-needs workers -
these, and so many others,
upon whose skill, compassion and dedication
we depend on in time of need.

Support them in their work,
and show your love through their ministry.

We think of caring organisations -
those like Oxfam, Christian Aid and UNICEF
who work overseas,
like Shelter, Barnardos and Sue Ryder homes
who work in our own country -
a host of aid and relief agencies who bring hope to the poor,
support to the sick,
help to the homeless,
and comfort to the dying,
working in different ways
to support those facing times of crisis.
Support them in their work,
and show your love through their ministry.

We think of individual carers -
Those who offer their time and energy as volunteers,
who look after elderly parents, disabled children
or terminally ill loved ones at home,
who each day perform small but vital acts of kindness
for friends and family,
neighbour and stranger -
their acts unnoticed except by a few
yet so valuable for those they care for.
Support them in their work,
and show your love through their ministry.

We think finally of the family of the Church -
Of those entrusted with full-time pastoral responsibility;
of chaplains in hospitals and hospices,
industry and commerce,
prisons and the armed forces,
sport and education;
of missionaries offering their skills abroad;
and of individual believers seeking to express their faith
through caring words and deeds.
Support them in their work,
and show your love through their ministry.

God of love,
we thank you for all who minister to the needs of others.
Inspire us through their example,
Equip them in their continuing efforts,
and enrich the lives of many through the service they offer.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*From "Responding to a World in Need - 100 Prayers of Intercession"
and "Prayers for all seasons by Nick Fawcett. Reproduced by permission of Kevin
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A CONFSSIONAL FORM OF INTERCESSION

Forgiving God,

We confess that we are not in the habit of listening for your call in our lives.

We get so busy and our lives get so full that we become distracted
by the noise and confusion of daily life.

Help us take the time to listen for you.

Forgive our deafness and help us to hear your still, small voice
calling us to minister in your name.

Lord in your mercy....**hear our prayer.**

Gracious God,

We confess that we are not in the habit of listening for your call in our lives.

Even though we may hear you, it's easier to pretend that we don't.

It's easier to put off responding until later.

We prefer the security and comfort of the life we know
to the risk and challenge of the new life you call us to.

Help us take the time to listen for you.

Remind us that we can do all things with your help.

And grant us the courage to respond to your call and follow you into new life.

Lord in your mercy....**hear our prayer.**

Forgiving God,

We confess that we stop listening for your call in our lives.

We are afraid of what you will call us to do and to be.

When we turn our backs on you and deny your call, turn us back around.

When we don't feel worthy, remind us that we are made in your image.

When we don't feel up to the task, remind us that we can do all things through
you.

Help us take the time to listen for you.

And grant us the courage to hear and respond to your call to minister in your
name. Lord in your mercy....**hear our prayer.**

We admit we are tempted to avoid the pain in the world by escaping into fantasy
or private holiness.

Loving God, break us open to your wonder and involve us in working for peace.

We admit we are tempted to limit our love and care by focussing on the needs of
those closest to us.

Compassionate God, shake us to the foundations and send us to tend the hurts
of strangers.

We admit we are tempted to preserve our own health by keeping a balance between stress and rest.

Healing God, enable us to use our wounds to learn how to heal all who are diseased.

We admit we are tempted to stay in safe surroundings by doing what we know and meeting those like us.

Friendly God, show us how to use the differences to celebrate the variety of other peoples and cultures.

We admit we are tempted to avoid causing trouble by being soft-spoken and inoffensive.

Wonderful God, give us the courage to dare to be courageous in the cause of justice.

Release us from our fear and wake us to the wonder of working with you in the name and the Spirit of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Living Lord, you have called us, gently, graciously, lovingly to live a life so full and free,

to live in the company of love, to live free of hurt and stain.

Forgive us that we hesitate and choose what is empty, embrace what imprisons us,

and ignore the liberty offered to us.

We turn again to you, away from death to life, from darkness to light

And trust in your kindness and your love to welcome us home. Amen.