

PRAYERS FOR ST MATTHEW'S – 23 AUGUST 2020 – Melonie Hambly

Gracious God, in love You created us,
and in love You sustain us, day after day.
So it is with confidence that we bring our prayers to You,
knowing that You hear us, and will respond.

We offer our prayers for the world around us.
We pray for those who find themselves in bondage:
 those forced into slavery or prostitution,
 those oppressed by governments or economic systems,
 those enslaved by personal addictions.

We pray for those who struggle to raise their children
in the midst of violence or poverty;
those who can only stand by and watch as their sons or daughters die
 of starvation or malnutrition,
 of preventable disease,
 or from gang violence.

We pray for those who refuse to participate in violence, injustice, or racism
 who courageously stand up for what they know is right,
 regardless of the personal consequences.

We also pray for those who oppress others,
 who are unable to break free from cycles of violence and anger,
 who are no longer able to empathize with their victims.

We pray for all who suffer this day,
 whether physically, emotionally, or spiritually.
May Your presence surround and sustain each one,
 so that they may know your love and live.

Finally, God, we pray for ourselves—members of Your Body here on earth.
Break down the barriers that divide us from one another.
Unite us in our common allegiance to You as Lord and Saviour.
Grant us compassion and humility in our relationships.
Release the gifts You have given to each one, so that in us and through us,
 Your kingdom might come and Your will be done,
 on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.