

**Week ten: Monday 6 November**

**A prayer for those working to build tolerant and loving communities  
From Thames North Synod**

Loving God

We are here to worship you,  
responding to our knowledge  
that we are children of your love.

Thank you for welcoming us;  
for receiving us  
as we are in this moment.

Thank you for accepting us  
with all our flaws and humanity;  
with all our longings and regrets.

Thank you  
for loving us unconditionally;  
for delighting in us;  
for helping us find space to focus our attention on you.

As we worship

assure us of your presence in our conflicted world  
where people want peace, yet do not work towards it;  
where people want to live in harmony, yet are not prepared to love as you love us.

Assure us that you are with us  
bringing creation out of chaos;  
and good out of evil.

Assure us that you care for the smallest aspect of our lives  
and are glad to receive our struggles and the things that burden us  
or cause us to worry.

In our unburdening may we know the delight of forgiveness.

The awe of becoming aware of truth.

The gift of being restored by your peace.

Give us hearts that overflow with gratitude  
for the enormity of your gifts  
of faith and grace.

As we receive those gifts  
may we respond with our own desire to give  
our very best today.

Our most honest selves,  
our most present attention,  
our most heartfelt praise.

Bring us into a deeper relationship with you;  
blessing us with a realisation of who you are

that bubbles up within us and overflows with desire  
to create tolerant and loving communities that reflect  
your values;  
your willingness to give and not count the cost;  
your way of putting the last first.  
Whatever that may mean in our community today.

May there always be a place at our table for those the world rejects.  
May there always be a loving acceptance of those who expect to be ignored and abused.  
May we embrace the broken, unlovely and lost we find in our communities.  
May you pour your life-giving living water for us and through us,  
That there may always be warmth in our hearts;  
Welcome and hospitality in our ventures;  
Patience and perseverance;  
a willingness to give and not count the cost;  
a willingness to lose our lives to gain our lives as you call us to do.

We pray for all who are willing to walk your way  
And share this vision  
Of earthy kingdom communities  
For all.

As children of your love  
May we reflect  
The glory you entrust to us  
That the world may glimpse your face in ours  
For Jesus sake

Amen.

### **Some questions and actions for this week**

**Monday:** What does it mean to you to be a child of God's love?

**Tuesday:** Where do you see God's presence in our conflicted world?  
How do you work for peace and harmony – in your own family; place of work; church; community?

**Wednesday:** Spend some time with God today counting your blessings and allowing your heart to overflow with gratitude and praise.

**Thursday:** Reflect on the enormity of God's gifts of faith and grace.  
What do these gifts mean for you? How have you seen these gifts impact your community with tolerance and unconditional love?

**Friday:** Ask God to show you the reality of lives of those Jesus came to save in your community today. Their lives are often chaotic, and it is difficult to accept them as they are. What has been your best experience of God's gloriously messy kingdom communities? What marked it out as authentic and real?

**Saturday:** Take time to pray for your community and what God is doing there; for the people involved and for the part God has for you. Ask God for the grace and humility to reflect his glory.

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