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# Chelmsford Circuit Prayer Day

## 18<sup>th</sup> May 2024

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US IN A DAY DEVOTED TO TIMES OF PRAYER. EACH HOUR SUGGESTS A THEME AND YOU CAN PRAY IN YOUR OWN WORDS OR WITH THOSE PRINTED ALONGSIDE.

9 A.M.	<p>We pray for the hidden treasures across our Circuit</p>	<p>God of all that is, seen and unseen,          At the beginning of this day,          make me attentive to the treasure you have in store          and give me grace to be surprised.</p> <p>When the way is dark or unclear,          be the glint to guide me on.</p> <p>In the midst of this day,          enable me always to work towards your light          and give me strength to be patient.</p> <p>When life is difficult and progress slow,          help me to know how much I am treasured by you.</p> <p>At the end of this day,          show me again the treasures you and I have unearthed together          and give me a thankful heart. Amen <i>(Pru Cahill)</i></p>
10 A.M.	<p>We praise God for all creation</p>	<p>I lift my eyes to the trees.          Majestic canopy in city square, flourishing in a field hedge, thorn on a rocky outcrop.          I shuffle leaves, pick fruit and plant acorns.          But I like wood floors, beams in cathedrals and old ships.          Forests are fought over and industrial logging endangers all life.          Yet as biblical people met God under landmark trees, all creation meets heaven on the Cross.          That tree of life, love, death and hope.          Forever attractive to artists, trees yield new truths to science every day; their rings tell secrets of the long past; their roots talk along a web. Home to diverse creatures and, best of all, they capture carbon.          Creator God, turn my awe for trees into respectful living. <i>(Helen Caine)</i></p>
11 A.M.	<p>We praise God in and for the Celtic tradition</p>	<p>Father above me,          Son beside me,          Spirit within me'          The Three all around me.</p> <p>Who is before me?          Who is behind me?          Who is beneath me?          God and the Lord <i>(Carmina Gadelica)</i></p>

12 NOON	We pray for and with children and young people	<p>Dearest Father who lives in heaven, may your name be kept pure.          Let peace reign and everyone be equal on earth as in heaven.          Provide us with our daily needs as well as our spiritual needs.          Please forgive us the things we have done wrong as we will forget the bad things others have done to us.          Help us not to be tempted to hurt you and keep Satan away from us.          Because you made the earth and heaven and everything in it and you are all powerful and we should give you glory through all eternity.          We all agree with this! <i>(from North India, written at a children's camp)</i></p>
1 P.M.	We pray with and for people living with dementia	<p>Dear Lord, you have wonderfully led me through all my years. Help me to trust you to lead me through my present difficulties. You are faithful and I trust in you. Amen</p>
2 P.M.	We pray for the work and witness of our Circuit	<p>God the Holy Spirit, through the ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us that the kingdom of heaven is like hidden treasure in a field. Strengthen and deepen our commitment to revealing your kingdom through our lives and by our prayers. Grant us, we pray, wisdom to discern signs of your kingdom in the world around us, wherever grace, mercy and truth are present. Enable us to discover, even in unexpected places, the beauty of holiness revealed in personal acts of compassion and sacrifice. Empower all people of goodwill to work towards establishing social structures and relationships that embody justice and peace. Through the faithful endeavour of us and all your people, may your kingdom come, your will be done. Amen <i>(David Chapman)</i></p>
3 P.M.	We pray that we will see God's love in all things	<p>God of mystery and imagination, help us to see you in both the unexpected and the familiar, for surely you are present in all things.          The stranger who, from nowhere, stops to help; the beloved friend who speaks a word of comfort; the stone when lifted reveals the life beneath; the child who marvels at such a world of tiny beings, unnoticed and essential – all these display the wonders of your love, ever present if not always known. Remembering the stars are always there but that it takes the darkness to reveal them. Amen <i>(Sheryl Anderson)</i></p>