

A Prayer for a Shared Future

God of past,

present

and future,

be with us as we take our next steps as nations together.

May we strive to love

our neighbour as ourselves

Listening and speaking

with respectful kindness,

embracing difference.

Remembering how much all have been forgiven by you,

May we offer friendship,

grant mercy,

And Seek peace and justice

in our shared future. Amen

God of our borders and our belongings,
In these days of incivility,
So much of our talk to one another is hard.
Talk of breaks and splits and broken relationships.
Of cliff edges, and disorderly withdrawals.
Even words which should be soft
Aren't.
Our Union is disunited. Our Community is coarsened.

I confess that it's hard to rejoice in the richness of your blessing
If my enemy isn't impoverished at the same time.
I confess it's difficult to celebrate my freedoms won in Christ
If my opponent isn't permanently disadvantaged.

So forgive me if my face is flushed with anger
And the hand of my friendship
is twisted into a cold fist of opposition.

So I pray,

Bring comfort to troubled spirits
Whose futures are uncertain
Bring peace to conflicted hearts
Whose loyalties are torn.
Bring wisdom to confused minds
Whose decisions are momentous

Teach all of us grace and generosity
in this time of discourtesy
Guide us in how to enjoy the liberating work of Jesus
Without the need to see God's vengeance worked on others.

For the sake of our witness to You
For the sake of our neighbours.
For my sake.

Amen

God,
who in Jesus,
broke down all barriers,
between people of different races
rich and poor,
male and female,
Jew and Gentile,
between heaven and earth,
we worship you.

God,
at this time of heavy responsibility,
as decisions about future relationships
with our neighbours in Europe are being taken,
we pray for our leaders:
that they will lead wisely;
that they will listen attentively;
that they will exercise grace;
and that they will know peace
in their deliberations.

God,
at this time of uncertainty,
within our nations and communities,
we pray for ourselves:
that we will remain open to the stranger;
welcoming to the neighbour;
and committed to those who struggle.

God,
we pray for your church of which we are a part:
that we might be a place of honest reflection;
respectful dialogue;
open friendship;
humility and reconciliation.

We pray that
we might be a community that points to heaven,
and shows ways in which heaven is glimpsed on earth.

God,
who in Jesus,
breaks down all barriers,
between people of different races
rich and poor,
male and female,
Jew and Gentile,
between heaven and earth,
we worship you.

AMEN

Living Christ,

You are present with us in all times, sharing the brightness of our joy and walking with us through times of darkness.

You speak words of wisdom into our folly,

You speak words of reassurance into our fear,

You seek out those who are lost and looking for the way.

In these times of confusion, uncertainty and fearfulness about our nation's future, we need your wisdom, your reassurance and your compassion.

Speak to all of us now, leaders, citizens, fearful residents, those with a voice and those whose voices seem never to be heard. We lay before you the life of our nation and long for your gentle rule to be established amongst us.

As our leaders try to make decisions that will address an impasse,

Give them wisdom and a true capacity for discernment, that at the forefront of people's minds is not political advantage but the wellbeing of all people.

As people feel fearful of what the future holds, help us to build a community in which all feel welcome and heard and a truer sense of belonging to one another is established.

As we witness heated argument that could so readily turn to aggression,

*Sooth us and inspire in us all your gentleness,
that we may curb attitudes that lead to strife.*

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ who sought to welcome the stranger, to bind up the broken hearted and to pave the way for costly peace making.

Amen.

God's love endures forever based on the sentiment of Psalm 136

God You are here,
You are in the midst of all of life
And Your love endures forever.
In our stillness and in our busyness, our coming and our going, opening and closing –
God's love endures forever

In our belief and in our unbelief, our faith and our certainty, doubt and apathy –
God's love endures forever

In our times of feast and in our times of famine, our too much and our too little, enough
and not enough –
God's love endures forever

In our anger and in our angst, our passion and our pain, joy and jealousy, delight and
denial –
God's love endures forever

In our wounding and in our healing, our making and our mending, coming
together and drifting apart –
God's love endures forever

In our giving and in our grudging, our receiving and our resenting, accepting and
rejecting –
God's love endures forever

In our lifting up and in our tearing down, our building and our destroying,
welcoming and hostility –
God's love endures forever

In our living and in our dying, our hoping and despairing,
in all of our beginnings and all of our endings –
God's love endures forever. AMEN

Kiss

... righteousness and peace will kiss each other.
~ Psalm 85:10 ~

Meditation

The pressing and parting of lips,
the joining and pulling away of two.
Electricity running between two poles.
The platform we stand on,
between arriving and departing,
greeting and leaving,
meeting and parting,
past and future,
the now and not yet.

The touching place between then and now.
The first encounter
between who we were and who we are going to be,
between expectation and realisation,
between us and another.
A kiss does not fuse solid,
does not solder two things or two people together;
rather, it is a current
that allows energy to pass in-between.

If righteousness and peace kiss each other,
it is an intimate connection
requiring the crossing of only a short distance –
the live wire,
where the push and pull
between what is right and what is peaceful
is learned.

Morning Prayer

As our feet kiss the earth,
as our lips press together
to shape words and thoughts,
help us realise that it is in this tension,
in the push and pull,
that we grow and develop.
Help us to see that the right answer
can emerge between two things,
in the touching and parting.

A tentative offer of acceptance,
exposed and vulnerable,
open to rejection.
Protect us as we make ourselves vulnerable
to the kiss of another. AMEN

Evening Prayer

The point of no return:
life is never the same before or after the kiss.
As we grow and learn, we decide what we accept

and what we reject,
what defines us and what restricts us.
Heal the kisses that have hurt us,
that betray us or betray how we feel,
and help us to kiss in friendship,
in love.

Help us bring together the parts of our lives
that we have kept separate.
Just as the first kiss is a headlong rush out of safety,
be with us as we step into the unknown
where we risk bringing different people,
and situations, together.
May we kiss well and boldly,
as when righteousness and peace kiss. AMEN

Scripture Readings

Psalm 85 *Righteousness and peace kiss*
Luke 15:11–32 *The father kisses the prodigal son*

Blessing

May our day be full of kisses,
electrical charges of possibility,
where heaven and earth meet. AMEN

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