

Prayers of the People - MDG

by The Reverend Paul Roberts Abernathy

Presider Brothers and sisters, Jesus was crucified in faithfulness to the cause of love and justice that all might be reconciled in peace. Let us pray that through the Cross of Christ his example may be realized in our world and our lives.

Silence

Leader As Jesus was lifted high upon the cross of self-sacrifice that he might draw the whole world to himself, may we take up our cross and follow him in pursuit of the work of reconciliation in the world.

God, in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Presider Let us pray for the poor, hungry, and neglected, that their cries for daily bread may inspire works of mercy among those to whom much has been given.

Silence

Leader Jesus calls us to offer food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted. May God's Spirit so move our hearts; that, following in the steps of Jesus, we may give of ourselves in the service of others until poverty and hunger cease in all the world.

God, in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Presider Let us pray for an end to the divisions and inequalities that scar creation,

particularly the barriers to freedom faced by God's children throughout the world because of gender, sexual orientation, race, class, or creed; that all may have equality in pursuit of the blessings of creation.

Silence

Leader O God, in whom there is neither male nor female, Jew nor Gentile, slave nor free: unite the wills of all peoples that the walls which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; so that all may live together in justice and peace.

God, in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Presider Let us pray for an end to pandemic disease, particularly the scourge of HIV/AIDS; that the plague of death may no longer fuel poverty, destabilize nations, and inhibit reconciliation and restoration throughout the world.

Silence

Leader O God, the strength of the weak and the comfort of the suffering: Grant your saving health to all who are afflicted by disease. Bless the labors of all who minister to the sick and unite the wills of all peoples to seek an end to the pandemics of our age; that sickness may be turned to health and sorrow to joy.

God, in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Presider Let us pray for an end to the desecration of God's creation that creation's fruits might be shared equally with all.

Silence

Leader Almighty God, you created the world and gave it into our care: Inspire us with wisdom to share the riches of creation that all may be empowered to seek freedom from poverty, famine, and oppression.

God, in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Presider Let us pray for the departed, especially our sisters and brothers who have died as a result of poverty, hunger, disease, violence, or hardness of the human heart.

Silence

Leader Almighty God, through the resurrection of Jesus, you revealed that death is never your last word. We commend to your mercy all who have died as a result of the brokenness of our world; and we pray that all may share in the joy of your heavenly reign.

God, in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader All are invited to offer petitions, intercessions, and thanksgivings, ending with, "God, in your mercy," to which the community will respond, "Hear our prayer."

The Concluding Collect

Presider Eternal God, in your kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered together and reconciled under the banner of your love and justice.

People Amen.

-- Adapted by Father Abernathy from "A Bidding Prayer for An End to Global Poverty and Instability, based on the UN Millennium Development Goals;" provided by The Episcopal Church + Office of Government Relations.