

In the sorrow of the city, let the love of Christ be felt.
We are standing with the broken, and the bridges can be built.
We are praying for forgiveness, for the hurts that we have made.
In the breaking of his body, he will heal and he will save.

With the people of the city, let the love of Christ be shared.
Let us give the invitation to the feast he has prepared.
For his table it is open, let our hearts be open too.
In the loving of his body, he our cities will renew.

(David Hill)

Closing Affirmation

When greed shapes the walls of our structures,
when callousness hinges the doors of decision:

Let the foundations be shaken and God's realm begun!

When ruthlessness reigns in the stairwells of power,
When deception is basic because control is the key:

Let the foundations be shaken and God's realm begun!

When prejudice is stored in our hallways of habit
When denial shelters the hearth of our fears:

Let the foundations be shaken and God's realm begun!

(Keri Wehlander - from Wisdom Calling 1999)

**And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost be with us all now and for
evermore. Amen.**

*Extracts from:
Wisdom Calling: An Anthology. Ed G Duncan. Canterbury Press 1999
CHRistians In Secular Ministry (CHRISM) Occasional Paper 9 2005
(www.chrism.org.uk)*

BCUIM 2009

Worship: 'Hands'

St Theresa of Avila



Exodus 15:17-18:

You brought them in and planted them on the mountain of your own possession,
the place, O Lord, that you made your abode,
the sanctuary, O Lord, that your hands have established.
The Lord will reign for ever and ever.'

HYMN

(Tune: Cruger 'Hail to the Lord's Anointed')

The Earth, the sky, the oceans, and all that they contain,
The world with all its secrets, They are our God's domain.
To rule this great creation, God shares with humankind
The gifts of strength and courage And an inventive mind.

To us from birth is given Our stewardship and brief:
To search for truth and purpose, To find the heart of life.
God calls us to adventure With work of hand and brain;
To share with all the people The profits we may gain.

For quest and exploration, our God has given the key
to free the hidden forces and wealth of soil and sea.
To new advance in science, research to conquer pain,
to growth in skill and knowledge We are by God ordained.

We pledge ourselves to service, that with the help of Christ
we may be able stewards Of all things that exist.
Whatever we discover, on earth or out in space,
God grant that we may use it To bless the human race.

(Fred Kaan)

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

(From CHRISM Occasional Paper 9)

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

Hymn:

(Tune Hyfrydol 'Alleluia sing to Jesus')

On the streets of every city, let the love of Christ be seen.
And then let us gladly follow, to the places he has been.
We will mount the steps of tower blocks, we will ride the busy train,
In the frailty of his body, he will walk the streets again.

Through the power lines of the city, let the love of Christ be heard.
We are speaking to the powerful, it is time to heed his word.
We are singing songs of justice, bringing good news to the poor,
In the protest of his body, he will speak for evermore.

To the faithful of the city, let the love of Christ be known.
Let us join our hands together, by whatever names we own.
We must celebrate our cultures, we must dance and we must sing,
In the sharing of his body, he will all his glory bring.

Lord, in our daily lives: **May we build your kingdom.**

We give thanks for the design and order of your world. We pray for people who organise and administer, who develop procedures, attend to detail and maintain the structures of our society. May we who do these things respond to your direction, and be gentle in our dealings with others.

Lord, in our daily lives: **May we build your kingdom.**

We give thanks for the example of service you gave us in your Son. We pray for people at work and at home who deliver the services on which we depend, often working long and awkward hours so we may live easily. May we who do these things know that we are building community in Jesus' name.

Lord, in our daily lives: **May we build your kingdom.**

We give thanks for your care for all your people, leading, feeding and sheltering them. We pray for those who care for others, who teach or heal, listen, encourage or console. We pray for those who are without work and seek support and comfort. May we who do these things be upheld by your love, and receive the strength to be strong for others.

Lord, in our daily lives: **May we build your kingdom.**

As we recollect our church communities, we pray for all who they serve. We rejoice with those who meet together for study, prayer and worship. We give thanks for the support they bring to each other and their communities.

Lord, in our daily lives: **May we build your kingdom.**

We give thanks for the variety of our gifts. We bring to you in prayer all the work of human hands and minds, to be inspired and hallowed by your spirit. Transform us in your service, and renew us for the work you have given us to do.

St. Teresa of Avila's Prayer

Christ has no body on earth but yours;
no hands but yours;
no feet but yours.

Yours are the eyes through which he looks out-
compassion to the world.

Yours are the feet with which he is to go about doing good.

Yours are the hands with which he is to bless others now.

Responsory Prayer of Praise

In the beginning, before time, before people, before the world
God was

Here and now, among us, beside us,
Enlisting the people of the earth for the purposes of heaven
God is

In the future, when we have turned to dust
And all that we know has found its fulfilment
God will be

Not denying the world, but delighting in it,
Not condemning the world, but redeeming it,
Through Jesus Christ, by the power of the Spirit
God was, God is, God will be.

**Each day, Lord, I hold out my hands to you,
I give you back the gift of today.
In your mercy, redeem today's mistakes
and rescue its good intentions
so that what I am may reflect your life in me. Amen.**

(From CHRISM Occasional Paper 9)

Rom 8:22-25

We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Heather Pencavel writes:

God, you have always seen planet earth as a globe.
You made it that way,
spherical, on purpose, to dance and spin
to the rhythm of the universe.

It is we who have been flat-earthers
afraid of falling off the edge,
afraid to venture far outside
the walls we build
of colour, race and culture, creed and custom,
always persuaded that our ways are best
evangelical in promoting western ideas -
Big Macs and big Bibles - everywhere.

Help us, God of wisdom and mercy,
to trust your wisdom and believe your Word,
who made the heavens and the earth to be
one universe
beautiful beyond imagination
founded of covenant, love and justice.

Show us how to build a global community
redeemed and restored by that same love
expressed in justice and mutual care.

(From Wisdom Calling 1999)

A Litany of Hope

God of all hope
Hear our prayer

When money becomes a prison
Free our hands to choose life

Where wealth turns into addiction
Free our hands to choose life

When income determines worth
Free our hands to choose life

Where poverty equals invisibility
Free our hands to choose life

When economies deepen injustice
Free our hands to choose life

Where greed invents new oppressions
Free our hands to choose life

When finance rules every decision
Free our hands to choose life

Where consumption replaces compassions
Free our hands to choose life

(Keri Wehlander - from Wisdom Calling 1999)

Prayer of Intercession

Lord, in our daily lives: **May we build your kingdom.**

Father, we give thanks for our opportunities to share in your work of creation. We pray for people who make and build, who cultivate, maintain and repair. May we who do these things be always conscious of your presence with us, and work for your glory.