**The Prayers of the People**

*Celebrant*

Lest the Word of God return empty to the heavens, let us turn our hearts to the needs of others and plant the seeds of justice, saying: In mercy, hear us.

*Intercessor*

For the Christian churches throughout the world;

for Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury;

for Michael, our Presiding Bishop; and Wayne, our own Bishop;

for Marvin, our Rector; and Paul and Sue, our Associate Clergy;

for our Staff, Wardens, and Vestry;

for the Church in Okinawa (Japan), and David, their Bishop;

for vocational work in our companion Diocese of Lui, and Darius;

for St. Paul’s Church (Sikeston);

that together we may harvest compassion in an abundance of mercy, we pray:

**In mercy, hear us.**

That leaders of government refuse to worship Mars, the god of war, but rather attend to Christ’s call of peace, we pray:

**In mercy, hear us.**

For farmers, harvesters, and migrant workers, and for an end of injustice toward those who work the land, we pray:

**In mercy, hear us.**

That people of the earth may honor and respect the natural resources of the planet, and for an end to the consumerism that encourages ravage, we pray:

**In mercy, hear us.**

For the catechumens in our communities, that fertile in faith they may be a soil rich in receptivity, we pray:

**In mercy, hear us.**

For all the sick, especially those we now name either silently or aloud *(please allow 20-seconds of silence for Parish intercessions)*, and for all the oppressed, that the reign of God will hold sway in all human life, we pray:

**In mercy, hear us.**

For those observing birthdays this week:

Derrick Coley, Leslie Corey, Ellyn Neise, Elliott Barnes, Heidi Gioia, Anthony Horrell,

Timothy Johnson, Florrie Kohn, Frank Kohn, Lydia McCullough, and Ron Batty;

and for those celebrating anniversaries:

Val & Paul Michael;

that their lives may be for us examples of grace and love, we pray:

**In mercy, hear us.**

*Celebrant*

Blessed and praised are you, O God, for the word of your mouth. In your mercy, listen to all who call to you in faith. Along with blessed Benedict, blessed William, and all of the saints, let your word find root in our lives. We pray in the name of your child Jesus, who lives with you in the power of the Spirit, for ever. **Amen.**