

Letter from the Bishop of Lincoln

Prayers for Unity

CTBI especially asks that churches, and everyone of faith, to join together over the coming week, beginning this Sunday, in praying for our politicians and political institutions.

In this statement the archbishops of Canterbury and York are quoted as saying:

We echo the call of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland to Christians and all those of faith and goodwill to give time for prayer beginning this Sunday in their local churches or as they choose: praying for wisdom, courage, integrity and compassion for our political leaders and all MPs; for reconciliation; and for fresh and uniting vision for all in our country.

Independent of this initiative, one of the peers who sit in the House of Lords from Lincolnshire suggested that I should share the prayers said routinely in the House of Commons and House of Lords with those who will be leading public worship during this time.

The bishops of Grimsby and Grantham and I hope that these prayers (or the sentiments reflected in them) might be used in public worship, in some way that is appropriate for the particular act of worship, beginning on Sunday.

The prayers are printed below:

The House of Commons:

Lord, the God of righteousness and truth, grant to our Queen and her government, to Members of Parliament and all in positions of responsibility, the guidance of your Spirit. May they never lead the nation wrongly through love of power, desire to please, or unworthy ideals but laying aside all private interests and prejudices keep in mind their responsibility to seek to improve the condition of all mankind; so may your kingdom come and your name be hallowed. Amen."

The House of Lords:

Almighty God, by whom alone Kings reign, and Princes decree justice; and from whom alone cometh all counsel, wisdom, and understanding; we thine unworthy servants, here gathered together in thy Name, do most humbly beseech thee to send down thy Heavenly Wisdom from above, to direct and guide us in all our consultations; and grant that, we having thy fear always before our eyes, and laying aside all private interests, prejudices, and partial affections, the result of all our counsels may be to the glory of thy blessed

Name, the maintenance of true Religion and Justice, the safety, honour, and happiness of the Queen, the publick wealth, peace and tranquillity of the Realm, and the uniting and knitting together of the hearts of all persons and estates within the same, in true Christian Love and Charity one towards another, through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen.