

# **CHAPLAINCY OF CHRIST, THE GOOD SHEPHERD, POITOU-CHARENTES**

Together in Prayer August 2022

These thoughts and prayers are offered as a complement to your daily Devotions during August

1st. Beloved Lord, today we are overwhelmed by the majesty of our earthly home. Open our eyes to the wonder of your creation and may we be truly grateful.

2nd. Gracious Father, may we revisit the purpose of the Sabbath and carve out of our lives a time in our week dedicated to resting in you.

3rd. Lord, you promise never to leave us or forsake us. May we hold your promise close as we face the rigours of ordinary life.

5th. *“For the glory of God is the human person fully alive; and life consists in beholding God. For if the vision of God which is made by means of the creation, gives life to all the living in the earth, much more does the revelation of the Father, which comes through the Word, give life to those who see God.”*

Irenaeus of Lyon

4th. Lord, help us to be patient, with others who rub us up the wrong way and also with ourselves, who never seem to get things right!

5th. Father, be with those who need you those, who may never acknowledge your name, but nonetheless seek with restless hearts. Open their eyes and ears that they may find and know you in a way that touches their hearts.

6th. Lord, we ask your blessing on political leaders. May your truth and wisdom guide them when they are making decisions which affect the lives of the people they serve. May we hold them up to you Lord rather than adding to the weight of criticism, which is of the world.

7th. Father today may we consider how we worship you. May we recognise that the melody of a hymn, that is in our head all day, can be as glorious as a powerful liturgy sung in a cathedral, if it comes from the depth of our love for you.

8th. Father, may we remember that turning to you each morning opens us to your blessing for the day and encourages us to bless others.

9th. Lord, we all know people who are in physical or mental pain: this day we lift them to you for blessing, strength and healing.

10th.            *Deep peace of the running wave to you,  
Deep peace of the flowing air to you,  
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you,  
Deep peace of the sleeping stones to you!*  
                    Fiona Macleod (William Sharp, 1895)

11th. Father God, help us to change our automatic responses. Instead of half sleeping through the ordinariness of our day may we be alert and alive to each moment and dedicate every simple action in praise of you.

12th.            *May the beauty of God be reflected in your eyes,  
the love of God be reflected in your hands,  
the wisdom of God be reflected in your words,  
and the knowledge of God flow from your heart,  
that all might see, and seeing, believe.*

John Birch, 2021

13th. Father God who invited us to "Be still", may we know the importance of silence and stillness in listening to your voice.

14th. Lord, we thank you that you have brought us safely to this new day. Help us to live it with joy, and in simple acts of kindness.

15th. Lord, we are bound to you by grace, grafted into your kingdom by love. Teach us to embody your loving presence in all that we do this day.

16th. Father, as you make the changing seasons, remind us to continue to plant the seeds that promise tomorrow's flourishing.

17th. Lord, remind us please that when our patience and strength give out and we feel helpless and alone to go and find Jesus, he is ever waiting with arms outstretched.

18th. Father, help us live today as people who await the fulfilment of your kingdom. Bend our knees to the hard work of prayer, worship, repentance, and intercession.

19th. *"Our vocation is to belong to Jesus so completely that nothing can separate us from the love of Christ. What you and I must do is nothing less than putting our love for Christ into practice. The important thing is not how much we accomplish, but how much love we put into our deeds every day. That is the measure of our love for God."* Mother Teresa

20th. Loving Lord, in you we put our trust, the wellspring of our strength. We will not give in to fear but turn to you in all things.

21st. Lord Jesus, many people in this world are prevented from reaching their true potential, by oppression, or lacking confidence in their abilities. Help us show love and value people for who they are, not what they have, or have not, done or been.

>>>>>

>>>>> (21<sup>st</sup> cont). Remind us that you sought ordinary people as disciples and brought out the best in them in order to spread your word of love, peace, joy and justice throughout the world.

22nd. Beloved Lord, help us to enjoy this life of abundance living in you! Remind us that you said "I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." John 10:10 (ESV)

23rd. Lord, raise us up as servants who are willing to bear one another's burdens. Surround us with others who help lighten our burdens. Please help us rest in the assurance that you will not put more on our shoulders than we are able to carry.

24th. Father, we ask that you be with those who need you: the unloved, the friendless, the oppressed, the sick, the dying, the bereaved. Bring your love where we cannot, or will not.

25th. Loving Lord we ask your blessing on the Chaplaincy, its leaders and congregants. May the church be a blessing to the community and love flow forth in endless ripples that your name be praised.

26th. Father, we thank you that when we wake it is a new day, a chance for a new start. Yesterday is gone and with it yesterday's regrets, mistakes and failures. We thank you Lord for today's opportunity to love, give, and be all that you made us to be.

27th. Father, sometimes when we read the news and watch horrors on our televisions we feel small and hopeless; please steady our feet when the world tries to rock and shake our faith. Help us to look for the good and worthy to balance the bad and rotten.

28th. Lord God, you gave us your Holy Spirit to teach us and to remind us of your words. We claim your Spirit's power today to convict us of our sin, to call us to repentance, and to remind us that your mercy enables us to choose you again and again.

29th. Loving Father, we know how often angry, unkind words come to our lips with those we love but can be impatient with. Today may we be mindful before we speak and practice patience and kindness close to home.

30th. Lord, we thank you for the bounty we see all around us in this season of fruitfulness. May we never forget where our blessings come from. We also say a prayer, in gratitude, for those whose labour brought food to our plate and water to our cup.

31st. Loving Lord, help us to honour your love with generous, compassionate hearts. Help us to love beyond family, friends and other Christians and open our hearts to those who we cannot agree with or who we actually dislike.

+++++

Please feel free to pass these prayers to others for their use

If you know of anyone who does not yet receive "Together in Prayer" or *Jubilate*, the Chaplaincy magazine, but would wish to, forward their name and email address to [david.hawken@orange.fr](mailto:david.hawken@orange.fr)

+++++