

Before Lambeth

Inclusive God, with those gathered at the Lambeth Conference,
we pray for people we feel are strangers.

They do not behave like us;
they do not read the scripture like us;
they can feel like enemies.

We would proclaim your justice,
for you invite all to your table.

We would live your love,
opening our hearts to your grace
that those who are strangers
may become friends. Amen

20 July: Sunday celebration in Canterbury Cathedral

All-loving God,
we give thanks for the rich diversity of your world,
and especially the diversity within our Anglican Communion.
Help our bishops, and each one of us
to use our differences as a source of inspiration,
keep us humble and open-hearted,
willing to learn from one another.
And may all our conversations be seasoned with Christian love.

21 July: Celebrating Common Ground: the bishop and Anglican identity.

All-loving God,
your Son said that it is by our love
that the world will recognise us as his disciples.
Help our bishops to love one another,
even when they disagree passionately.
And may their conversation be a witness to their faith in Christ.

22 July: Proclaiming the Good News: the bishop and evangelism

All-loving God,
we thank you for the Good News of your love for us,
and we thank you for those that proclaim that love.
Help us not to build walls around the Gospel
- walls to make us safe, walls to exclude others.
Give us the vision to break down every barrier
that divides us from one another and from you.

23 July: Transforming Society: the bishop and social injustice

Lord Jesus, we talk glibly about your suffering but rarely stop to think what it involves.
It was not so easy to imagine the physical, mental and spiritual suffering you had to
bear on our behalf. You underwent all this in the company of your Father, although at
a time you felt abandoned but not forsaken (Psalm 22).

The physical, mental and spiritual anguish we are going through in Zimbabwe, meted
by non-God fearing police officers and their superiors is not hidden from you. We
believe that we are with you here on earth as in heaven.

We believe that those who believe in you are never forsaken.

Send your Holy Spirit to guide and strengthen us as we go through the challenge of
being denied to meet together in your name. Your Kingdom come. Amen.

+ Sebastian Harare

All-loving God,
Christ was born not among the rich
but with the poor and homeless.
Christ did not limit his hospitality to the righteous
but shared his bread with sinners.
Christ did not live with the respectable
but with sinners and outcasts of all kinds.
Help us never to forget
in our prayers
and thought
and actions
all of your children who are in need.
Grant us tender consciences,
inspired minds
and willing hands.

24 July: London Day (the Bishops will visit Lambeth Palace and by Her Majesty the Queen at Buckingham Palace)

All-loving God,
we pray for all people in sacred and secular authority.
Help them to make just and merciful decisions.
Help them to resist the temptations that come with power,
rather following the example of Christ, our Servant King,
who washed even the feet of Judas his betrayer.

25 July: Discerning our Shared Calling: the bishop, other churches and God's mission

Eternal God You created all that is good and holy, be close to those gathered for the Lambeth Conference, enable them to reach out lovingly to everyone, help them to show awareness and understanding, comfort and consolation, justice and equality, so that we participate fully in the abundance of your life.

May we always witness to the ministry of Christ who welcomed all regardless of age, gender or ethnic background. Every person is created by God, each one of us is loved by God and nobody should be diminished by the words and actions of another.

Amen

26 July: Safeguarding Creation: the bishop and the environment

O loving God, we bow before you in penitence for our misuse of your creation. We ask that you look in mercy on us as we endeavour to live in accordance with your Holy Will.

May your Holy Spirit guide, strengthen, empower and sustain us to use aright the resources you have given us so that your world will be an acceptable portrayal of your Kingdom.

Dear God, help us to see in each other the image of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ and to show forth your love that unites us all as one.

In the name of Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.

All-loving God,
we thank you for rich diversity of life
with which you have blessed your creation.
Forgive us when we are ungrateful, uncaring or wasteful.
Inspire us to defend these blessings
from all that threatens them.
May our bishops voices be heard
as they remind us that the world belongs to you,
and we are but stewards for a season.

27 July: Canterbury Day

Eternal God
In you justice and mercy have embraced for Love has no boundaries,
except the ones we make.
Help us to follow in the steps of the one
who shows the Way to Life.
Amen

28 July: Engaging with a multi faith world: the bishop, other religions and Christian witness

Father and Mother of us all
In this broken world may we pray not for
Moslem, Christian or Jew
Palestinian or Israeli
rich or poor
young or old
gay or straight
torturer or victim
saint or sinner
but for ourselves that we may not divide them
but hold them together in our hearts as your children
for whom Jesus died and in whom he lives.

29 July: Equal in God's sight: when power is abused. This day will be held jointly with the Spouses' Conference.

Great God of all, who has created us all alike in your image and called us equally to your service: we ask that all who seek to serve you in the ministry of your church may be free to do so to the fullest extent of their calling.

We pray for those who struggle to bring light and freedom into your church by prising open closed doors and shuttered minds, dismantling barriers and overturning old prejudices. Give them strength to continue their work with courage, tenacity and an unquenchable sense of purpose and justice.

We pray for those who have been wounded on the way, asking you to restore their hope and dignity and continue to lead them in your service.

Especially we pray for those who restrict the freedom of others through their own ignorance, fear, greed or arrogant certainty. Soften their hearts and widen their understanding, so that they may see that allowing others to play a full part in building your kingdom does not threaten or diminish their own contribution.

Hear our prayers, O God, which we make with all the women who have witnessed and worked for you through the ages, and in whose glorious tradition we stand, through your son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

All-loving God

we thank you that all people are equal in your sight.

In you our petty divisions become so small,
divisions of wealth, gender, sexuality, age, race, and ability.

God look with mercy on those who dare deny the equality of your children,
and lead them to see all people as our sisters and brothers.

May our bishops use their authority with courage and gentleness,
and may all your church use its influence wisely
and for the flourishing of your Gospel.

30 July: Living under scripture: the bishop and the bible in mission

All-loving God,

We give you thanks for your Holy Word.

Give us open hearts and minds as we read Scripture,
give us willingness to be changed by our reading,
and make us hungry for new truths.

Help us to be generous with those who interpret the Bible differently,
and save us from cold certainty.

31 July: Listening to God and each other: the bishop and human sexuality

All-loving God,

All-loving God,

Your Son challenged us, asking

if we cannot love our brothers and sisters who we can see
how can we love our God whom we cannot?

Forgive us when we lack love.

Do not let our hunger and thirst for justice drive out love.

Even when we are hated, may we love in return. Make us more like Jesus every day.

Ending

Heart of our own hearts, in these days we have been invited over the threshold of our fears and into the warmth of your love, we have been embraced by justice and mercy, as we travel may we remain forever in your love and follow in the steps of the one who shows us the Way to Life.

Amen