

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost
(Proper 19 A)

Intercessor Confident of the gracious and ever-widening mercy of God, let us pray for the Church and the world, saying, *Creator God, hear our prayer.*

For the Church: especially Michael our Presiding Bishop and Kevin our bishop, that as we proclaim the love of Christ in words and deeds, we may be signs of your peace and instruments of your reconciliation. ***Creator God, hear our prayer.***

For this parish family, that we may bear witness to God's unconditional love by opening our hearts to a deeper relationship with Christ. ***Creator God, hear our prayer.***

For greater care of the earth, that we may be inspired to heal the damage done to the ecosystem, be freed from narrow vision, and work to change the ways that we misuse God's gift of nature. ***Creator God, hear our prayer.***

For the people of Libya and Morocco, that God will hold them close, comfort the grieving, protect them from further harm and speed the assistance that they need. ***Creator God, hear our prayer.***

For all who have experienced terrorism, violence or war, that God will help them break the cycle of violence and help them choose paths of justice and peace. ***Creator God, hear our prayer.***

For communities in strife, that God's Spirit will open opportunities for dialogue in places of violence, bring an end to injustice, and help all to respect the dignity and value of every person. ***Creator God, hear our prayer.***

For all who live with poverty, injustice, isolation, or sickness, remembering especially that God will comfort them, give them hope, and raise them up. ***Creator God, hear our prayer.***

For all the departed, remembering especially, that having died to the Lord, they may live with him forever. ***Creator God, hear our prayer.***

Lifting our voices with all creation, with Mary the God-bearer, Matthew the Apostle and Evangelist and all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ. ***To you, O God of all creation.***

Celebrant God of infinite mercy, hear the prayers we offer this day, bring your merciful forgiveness into our lives, and free us from all division and pride, that we may become your instruments of pardon and peace, in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**