

22 Intercessions Year C Easter 4 Apr. 17

Asked if he is really the Christ, Jesus directs his questioners to look at his life in action and see for themselves that he and the Father are one.

As members together of the body of Christ, let us pray to the true and living God.

Today's congregational response, as printed in the bulletin, is (pause)

Direct our hearts, O Lord: **to love you more and more.**

We pray for the nurture of each member of the Church; for the newly baptised and for all in ordained and lay ministry, that our love for one another may show as we work for the coming of the kingdom. (pause)

Direct our hearts, O Lord: **to love you more and more.**

We pray for the gift of discernment, so that we recognize God's presence, and reverence his face in the faces of those we meet. (pause)

Direct our hearts, O Lord: **to love you more and more.**

We hold before you our monarchy and all those who govern our country and make laws,, that they may act responsibly and with compassion, attentive to real needs and values. (pause)

Direct our hearts, O Lord: **to love you more and more.**

We pray particularly for homes filled with suspicion and envy, and ask for the healing of old hurts, together with hope and perseverance as people set out on paths of reconciliation. (pause)

Direct our hearts, O Lord: **to love you more and more.**

We pray for those whose capacity for trust and love has been damaged by other people's sin. We long for your healing so that all who are imprisoned by their past may walk freely into your future. (pause)

Direct our hearts, O Lord: **to love you more and more.**

We give you thanks and praise for the salvation and restoration that is now possible for us through Christ's victory over death..

Merciful Father, accept these our prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen