

## PERSONAL PRAYER FOR JULY 31 2022

Just as we are together or apart we are drawn to the presence of God ,  
to hear God's word,to acknowledge our need,to share God's love and to offer  
our thanks and praise.

STF 727 "God in His love lent us this planet" [H&P343]

Gracious God you invite us to share in the treasures of the kingdom  
yet so often we covet the wealth of the world and impoverish our spirits.  
Open our hearts to hear your word afresh,that we may let go of all that holds us back  
from being kingdom people,and be blessed with riches beyond our deserving.  
Inspire in us a longing for true wealth ,generous hearts,discerning minds and lives that  
long to receive and share the treasures of your good news  
We ask this in Jesus' name .Amen

The Lords Prayer

**GOSPEL READING LUKE CH12 V 13-21**  
**EPISTLE READING COLOSSIANS CH3 V1-11**

### REFLECTION

Are you worried about tomorrow or do you take tomorrow for granted. What matters to you most today? In Luke's Gospel two brothers have obviously argued about the inheritance left by their father. The older one would be expected to inherit according to the law and yet the younger one expects Jesus to contradict this. But Jesus tells a parable .Don't take tomorrow for granted like the rich farmer.

The fields yielded a bumper harvest so he made plans to tear down the barn and build a bigger one. He would store the grain and make a fortune to retire on. A land of plenty for himself and a chance to make profit on his neighbours.

In other parables such as the Good Samaritan Jesus defines who is my neighbour but in this one the rhetoric is all about what the farmer will do with no reference to neighbours. But who helped the farmer sow reap and harvest the grain ? Who carried the loads to the store? In this time of plenty did the workers benefit as would be expected in Jewish custom? In this time of plenty were the poor allowed to glean the margins?

We can see from this Summers experience in Russia and the Ukraine that the storing of grain in the wartime blockade has increased the price and increased the hardship of hungry people around the world. Full grain stores will prevent future harvests.

Self interest will create self destruction.

The farmers self interest was based on his world of self but who benefits unless his barn was filled with the world of God.?

Jesus tells us to live for today but don't be defined by what you have in terms of wealth or status even if life seems good. Tomorrow brings another day shared with others.

Paul's letter to Colossians talks of another day. The time to change into the likeness of Christ to be one with Jesus looking beyond the selfish values of material expectations.

Then brothers will not fight over inheritance everyone is included in Christ and the heavenly inheritance

## **STF 544 'Be thou my vision o Lord of my heart'**

Prayer of Intercession

Generous God

for those who have too much we pray generosity  
for those who have too little we pray relief  
for those driven to own more we pray wisdom  
for those who share sacrificially we pray gratitude  
for institutions entrusted with the lives of others we pray integrity  
for those who lose their lives today we pray peace  
for one another and for all creation we pray thy kingdom come  
Amen

Prayer for Wealth Wisdom

Gracious generous God ,giver of all good gifts

We give you thanks for all that we enjoy

Give us the wisdom to deal prudently with what we have

We watch those who flaunt their possessions and we want more

We fear the troubled times and we hang on to what we have

We observe the successful and wonder about ourselves

Help us to be satisfied with what we have

Kind to neighbours and generous to those in need

so that we live as those ready to meet you

Our Maker and our Saviour

Amen

## **STF 706 'Christ be our Light'**

Blessing

As a Christ-like community Christ is all in all

We go trusting in him and his heavenly riches

Go and radiate his love

Show Christ speak Christ be Christ

Amen