

**Here follows Intercessions that may be used this Sunday or on New Year's Eve or New Year's Day [The Feast of the Circumcision of Christ] either in its entirety or partly or just as information to draw from for the Intercessions at the Holy Eucharist.**

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Let us pray

We give you thanks and praise O God for Desmond, a beloved husband, father, grandfather, uncle and friend to many...

We pray for **Mama Leah, Trevor, Thandeka, Nontombi, Mpho** and the wider Tutu Family as they mourn the Arch's Passing. O God, bring them comfort and peace.

We pray especially for Mama Leah who finds herself in bad health. Sustain her through your Holy Spirit in this time of deep grief and bodily weakness. Thank you for their long years together in Christian Marriage and for all they shared as a couple - and that they both could joyously celebrate the Arch's 90th birthday just a few months ago.

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

We give thanks for God's call whilst Desmond was still in his mother's womb; for all who guided and nurtured his faith, spirituality and vocation, especially the profound impression and influence by Archbishop Huddleston as he walked the dusty streets of Klerksdorp and surrounding suburbs.

We give you thanks and praise O God for Desmond's positive response to your call and his submission to the rigours of the discernment processes of the Church; and for raising up a loving priest.

We give you thanks and praise O God for Archbishop Desmond in the many public roles and portfolios he held - especially for the vision and the hope he brought millions of South Africans during his years as General Secretary of the South African Council of Churches, later as Bishop of Johannesburg, and then Archbishop of Cape Town and eventually Chair of the post-apartheid Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Give thanks to the Lord for he is gracious

**His mercy endures forever**

We give you thanks and praise O God for Desmond, beloved first Black Archbishop of Cape Town...

Thank you God for raising him up at a most critical time in our nation's struggle for freedom and democracy; for his fierce, prophetic voice proclaiming that the system of apartheid was evil, unjust, unbiblical and immoral.

Thank you that he spearheaded the divestment campaign with strength and courage despite fierce opposition, that he rallied together thousands upon thousands of ordinary South Africans to march against the evil system of apartheid.

Thank you that he spoke plainly and unapologetically to Prime Ministers, Presidents, the United Nations and others to help facilitate the downfall of such an evil system.

O God, you raised up in Desmond as a prophet for our times. Thank you for his deep love for you, his unwavering faith and spirituality that helped him stay centred to lead our nation to a new day of freedom and democracy.

Give thanks to the Lord for he is gracious

**His mercy endures forever**

We give you thanks and praise for the Arch's humour, for his ordinariness despite his immense stature...

O God, we draw inspiration from the Archbishop's love and recognition of the "small" people who crossed his path, how he earnestly prayed for them, remembered them even long after a first meeting. We give thanks as we remember how he could light up a room, a meeting, a synod with his distinct laughter and naughty humour; how he made children and youth feel they were valued by God and the Church.

We give thanks for his call to many synods to embrace the ordination and consecration of women.

Give thanks to the Lord for he is gracious

**His mercy endures forever**

Gracious God, now we pray for your Church throughout the world; for the Anglican Communion and especially the Anglican Church of Southern Africa – that we may truly show forth the love of Christ; preach the good news of Christ's salvation; care for the poor and needy, the sick and distressed, the sad and lonely, the broken-hearted and those without hope.

We pray for **Thabo** our Metropolitan; **Margaret** our Bishop and for all our Bishops, Priests, Deacons, Parish Workers, Evangelists and Teachers and others who have responsibility for the various ministries within the local parish.

Call many to serve you in religious communities and in the ordained ministry of your Church.

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

God of justice and peace, we pray for nations weighed down due to weak leadership, corruption, poor governance and the devastating effects of the Corona-virus on national economies everywhere. We give you thanks for leaders of governments who exhibit genuine efforts to care for and advance their peoples basic human rights, education, employment opportunities, health and well-being.

Help us to always act with justice towards those on the periphery of community-life, those who have lost their jobs; to profoundly respect and value women and girl-children, those who have no real voice and whose access to rights and privileges are curtailed or denied. Grant that there be greater justice where medical treatments and vaccines are still grossly unequal.

Inspire the peoples of the earth to actively work for lasting peace and economic justice everywhere.

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

And now, Loving God, we pray for ourselves...

Grant us Lord the wisdom and grace to use aright the time that is left to us here on earth. Lead us to repent of our sins, both the evil we have done and the good we have not done, and strengthen us to follow in the steps of your Son, in the way that leads to the fullness of eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

We pray together a prayer composed by Archbishop Desmond

**Goodness is stronger than evil**

**Love is stronger than hate;**

**Light is stronger than darkness**

**Life is stronger than death;**

**Victory is ours through Him who loved us.**

**Amen.**

**Alleluia! Alleluia!**