

PRAYER LETTER OCTOBER 2026

Dear Beloved ones in Christ,

“Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month, and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. “

Revelation 22: 1- 2 NRSV

Depending on whether we are in the Southern or Northern hemisphere – the Spring (Vernal) or Autumnal (Fall) Equinox has recently taken place. This is the second time in the year when the Sun is exactly above the Equator; marking the beginning of spring in the Southern Hemisphere and the beginning of autumn /fall in the Northern Hemisphere.

Wherever we are in God’s world most of us will be aware of the natural world around us at this time – the changing of the light, the new moon etc and perhaps the growing bright leaves of Spring bursting upon the earth or the glorious changing colours and dropping of leaves in the Autumn. This is a threshold time, a thin place, when we can become more aware of our connection with God and God’s wider and beloved world!

The writer of the book of Revelation speaking of the vision of the New Heaven and New Earth tells of the Tree of Life and of its leaves being for the healing of the nations. When we look around at the nations and their various communities– we see some are enduring the costs of climate injustice whilst others act as if ‘it’s nothing to do with us’; others where violence, conflict and war are so commonplace the wider world has ceased to pay full attention or care; and almost everywhere we see how the dignity of personhood is no longer honoured as a basic human right but is judged by one’s gender, sexual and/or ethnic identity, place of birth, educational qualifications, earning power and how much is in our bank account! There is no doubt that this is a time when the nations and our communities need these leaves!

In hymnwriter Fred Kaan’s (1929-2009) hymn ***‘For the healing of the nations’*** we read:

(full text can be found https://hymnary.org/text/for_the_healing_of_the_nations)

‘For the healing of the nations...we pray...

Show us how through care and goodness- fear will die and hope increase.’

Kaan calls us to understand what ‘true prayer’ involves: alongside prayerful contemplation and intercession, there must be a prayerful alternative action and resistance to the dominant narratives of ‘them and us’, of competition and othering.



PRAYER LETTER OCTOBER 2026

‘Stop waging war and start washing feet.’

This quote comes from the late author and blogger Rachel Held Evans (<https://rachelheldevans.com>), and came up recently on my Facebook feed: in the original comment she said: ‘*I’m ready to stop waging war and start washing feet*’ and it was a part of a reflection on Christians of different persuasions and how our conflicts within the Christian community keep us from being attentive and active with God’s great work of love in and to the world!

At this threshold moment in the earth’s natural life may we pray ‘*we are ready*’ to be open to holy opportunities in God’s work in the world and of our invitation to join in!

‘For our growing in your likeness- bring the life of Christ to mind:

That by our response and service- earth its destiny may find.’ Fred Kaan

“In your service, O Christ, let our pace be swift, our step light and our feet unswerving. Let us rest in you securely, serve you joyfully and follow you faithfully. Amen. “

St Clare of Assisi (1194-1253)

Blessings and prayers

Karen

Deacon Karen McBride is a member of the Methodist Diaconal Order a religious order and an order of ministry in the Methodist Church in Great Britain and a member of DRAE and WDF exco.