

A PRAYER FOR EASTER 2023

God's Comfort

*"In my world of turbulence – he is my anchor,
My rock in the stormy sea;
My oar in the deepest ocean,
And close to shore, a sheltered haven."*

Anon

We have no idea who wrote the original Welsh englyn, literally translated above, nor when, nor why, nor where – anonymous by name, anonymous by nature!

However the opening line could easily have been written today, or yesterday, or last week, as we reflect on the disorder and destruction, the hatred and the fighting, that we see around us in all corners of our world today.

Is it our indifference, our apathy that allows these conflicts to prevail?

How often do we acknowledge that it is the sale of weapons of war produced in our factories that create such devastation to mankind?

How often do we acknowledge that neighbouring countries seeking to gain advantage over one another also leave an inevitable stain within our communities?

How often do we challenge without question the bribes offered for electoral gain, with truth often dislodged by lies?

We pray for strength to create a world where it is not the cunning, the selfish nor the cruel that determine the direction in which we travel in life.

We also know that on occasions, planet earth itself can lose its temper, sometimes quite violently – we see weather changes, we hear rumblings and roars, we see homes and communities destroyed. That is when we see humanity at its very best, oozing with consideration and love.

Assist us to ensure that our care for those that flee from dangers is warm and genuine.

And may our concern for those that suffer continue when the dust has settled with those affected still in need of help as they face one problem after the other whilst the rest of the world carries on with normal life.

As we look at the remaining lines of the englyn, we see an individual seeking God's comfort. We don't know the circumstances, but that individual could well be fragile and in need of assistance – and in his or her hour of need God is described with conviction as an anchor, a rock, an oar and a safe and sheltered haven.

All who feel that their world is a world of dependence, all who feel lost and without purpose, all who feel anger at what life throws at them, may they experience "God's Comfort" and receive His help.

And may the message of Easter this year be an opportunity for light and hope to shine in a world of darkness.

AMEN