

IDEAS FOR SERVICES

FIVE PERSONAL THINGS



Hymns (from *Caneuon Ffydd*):
841, 816, 843, 837

Suitable readings:
Psalm 25:4-6 and 8-12; James 2:14-18
Matthew 22:34-40

Individual prayers for the Five Personal Things (below)

Prayer - Food *(Leader and congregation)*

Lord our God, Creator of everyone and everything, we thank you for the amazing wealth you have given us in our world, and the wonderful variety of food and drink available to us. We are thankful for the privilege of being able to enjoy nutritious food every day, and for the fact that we rarely, if ever, go without.

We are thankful that the planet we live on is such a rich and fertile place, and thankful for its potential to feed all the people of the world. But we acknowledge with shame that we have often treated food in a selfish way, with no concern for those who produce it, or the impact of the low prices we pay on others. We pray for a change of mindset, so that caring for others becomes a priority, and the earth's resources are used to feed those in need.

Help each one of us to better appreciate our food, Lord, and to give sincere thanks for the efforts of those who work to produce and distribute it to us. Make our food choices caring choices, prioritizing the well-being of others and the future of the planet, so that the food we eat not only provides us with sustenance, but is also a blessing to others, and becomes a sign of our desire to follow Jesus. Amen



Prayer - Energy *(Leader and congregation)*

Lord our God, we thank you for our comfortable homes, and the fact that we have so many gadgets and machines that make our lives easier. We realise that we are privileged in this, but help us not to use the resources in our homes thoughtlessly or inconsiderately. We know that a huge amount of energy is wasted every day, and we ask for your forgiveness for sometimes using energy selfishly, contributing to the predicament our world is in now, with global warming and sea levels rising.

Help each one of us to be more considerate in our energy use, Lord, to turn our backs on wasteful habits, and to educate ourselves about the climate crisis and the harm carbon emissions create. Make our energy choices caring choices, prioritizing the well-being of others and the future of the planet, so that our approach to how we use energy becomes a sign of our desire to follow Jesus and be better stewards of your creation. Amen



Prayer – Travel *(Leader and congregation)*

Lord our God, we are aware that travel has become an integral part of the lives of so many of us, and that we are no longer, unlike previous generations, confined to our local area and the things that are within easy reach. We are thankful for the opportunities that we have been given, in terms of getting to know other countries, and meeting new friends in different parts of the world. We are also thankful for all the options available to us because we can travel so easily. But whilst being grateful for these privileges, we also acknowledge that because travel is so easy, we now take this convenience for granted, and are at times lazy and ready to jump into the car without thinking, or to travel further to do something, without considering whether it is really necessary to do so.

Help each one of us to be more considerate when travelling, Lord, and not to be wasteful in our use of the resources available to us. Make our travel choices caring choices, prioritizing the well-being of others and the future of the planet, so that our approach to travel becomes a sign of our desire to follow Jesus and be better stewards of your creation. Amen



Prayer – Clothing *(Leader and congregation)*

Lord our God, we thank you for the fact that we are privileged in terms of the clothes available to us. All of us have been able to pick something out this morning so that we are well-dressed coming to the service, and we have a wardrobe full of clothes. We are aware of our privileges, but at the same time, we are also aware that the garment industry hides many horrific working conditions, unfair treatment, and modern slavery.



We acknowledge that we have sometimes bought cheap clothes and items that will go to waste in no time without giving any consideration to the harm caused to the planet or the terrible cost to the people who produce them, and we pray for a change of mindset in the clothing industry, so that the well-being of people and the creation becomes more of a priority than giving the customer the cheapest price and the supplier the maximum profit.

Help each one of us to be more considerate when buying clothes, Lord, and to educate ourselves about the background of those who work to produce them for us. Make our clothing choices caring choices, prioritizing the well-being of others and the future of the planet, so that the clothes we wear become a sign of our desire to follow Jesus. Amen

Prayer – Caring Choices

(Everyone to join in this prayer)

Lord God, who created the world as a home for us, we want to be better stewards of the creation, and we present the caring choices we made during the week as a sign of our love and care, and also of our desire to do more to reverse the damage humanity has caused to your creation. We know that some caring choices are easier for some of us than others, but we are thankful for all the steps taken in the past week, both large and small. We also pray that each of us will be brave enough to make more choices that show love for our neighbour, so that we can work together, individually and as a church, to care for the planet you created, which is such a beautiful home for us. Amen

