

### **Prayer for Peace, Hope & Justice**

As I was preparing to lead this prayer, contemplating the enormity of the Covenant which I repeat every year, I stumbled across a post on social media from a mother of 3 who has been struck down by a debilitating illness which her physician thinks was misdiagnosed.

An illness that caused her to be bed-bound and having to learn to walk again.

“Because I don’t have an official diagnosis”, she says, “there’s no way of knowing what meds or supplements I need to take.

Or if I should be receiving extra treatment.

Or what my chances of a full recovery are.

Or whether my pain will ever go away.

So here I sit in the “unknown”.

No answers

No expectations

No idea where this will go.

No closure.

No peace.”

To quote the Dalai Lama: “Peace starts within each one of us. When we have inner peace, we can be at peace with those around us.”

The barbed wire represents every obstacle to peace within: Uncertainty about health, finances, relationships, employment.

The light of the candle reminds us that in the midst of the darkness, despair, uncertainty, there is hope, resurrection hope that liberates.

Let us pray and conclude with the Prayer for Africa and the world.

Creator God, Parent of us all,

We are humbled when we hear the suffering of our neighbour.

We know that we cannot authentically covenant with you without finding our peace within.

We bring before you everything that challenges and torments us.

SILENCE

We thank you that, throughout history, you have offered us a glimmer of hope even in our darkest hour.

You offer light and hope through the power and work of your Holy Spirit in our midst and in our lives:

- Giving sight to the blind

- Healing lepers and paralytics

- Healing a woman bleeding for 12 years

We thank you for those who journey with us and those with whom you have called us to journey to be the light in the darkness. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, Our Lord.

We pray the Prayer for Africa and the world:

GOD BLESS AFRICA AND THE WORLD

GUARD OUR CHILDREN

GUIDE OUR LEADERS

AND GIVE US PEACE. AMEN