

TOMORROW'S CALLING

The Mission and Discipleship Council would like to thank The Very Rev Dr Lorna Hood for providing this prayer as part of 'Tomorrow's Calling'.

"The Lord's name be praised from the rising up of the sun to the going down of the same, blessed be the name of the Lord from this time forth and for evermore".

God our Father there has never been a time,
When praise to you was silent.
In every generation women and men have witnessed to you,
Singing your praises and speaking your word.
Your word has been spoken from mighty Cathedrals
And in the loneliest of prison cells.
Your name has been praised by massed choirs singing in perfect harmony
And by a solitary voice searching for words.
Sometimes witness to you was barely audible
Above the competing cries of the corrupt and the wealthy;
Sometimes it was almost drowned out
By the noise of battle and the clamour of evil.

But always your truth has stood and continues to stand
And still your witnesses will not be silenced.

We pray for this Decade of Ministry.
We give thanks for the vision that inspired it
And pray for the hopes and dreams it embraces for the future.
We pray that your call will be heard by women and men today
As it has been heard by so many prophets and teachers
Down through the generations.
May it be heard above the clamour
Of all other competing voices and conflicting priorities.

Speak to those who feel unworthy
And reassure them of the value you place upon them.
Speak to those who are afraid
And calm them by your promise to be always by their side.
Speak to those who are hesitant,
Struggling to discern your will
And convince them by the urging of your call,
Your Spirit working gently within them.

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We pray for those who have heard your call;
The joy and excitement; the worry and fear.
Strengthen them as they step out in faith.
Support them when their certainties are challenged.
Reassure them when they have more questions than answers.

Through this Decade of Ministry
May your whole Church
Become a more effective sign of your active and enlivening presence in our world.
Help us all as your people,
To be signs to each other of your power
To change lives, increase hope, and establish peace.

Though Jesus Christ our Lord we pray.

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