

**PRAYER FOR OTHERS 14 October 2018     Ian Bogue**

To start: a prayer from St Peters Episcopal Church in Monroe, Connecticut.

Dear Heavenly Father,  
You created us.  
All of us  
You sent your beloved Son to redeem us.  
All of us  
You sent the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, to us.  
To comfort all of us.  
Please fill our hearts with love, so that there is no room for hate.  
Fill our minds with understanding, so that there is no room for fear.  
Fill our eyes with wonder so that we may see only uniqueness, and not strangeness.  
So that we may love, understand and enjoy our fellow brothers and sisters to your glory.  
All this we ask in the name of our heavenly Brother, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

And now for ourselves and our church – Our God, we try to be accepting, loving and inclusive as Jesus was, but often we fail. We are too ready to see the faults in others, but not in ourselves. We know that we need to be more forgiving as Jesus exhorted those who heard him. Help each one of us in this, we pray. We pray that our own church, the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand, at General Assembly, Presbytery and parish levels will return to being as tolerant, accepting and inclusive as it once was. We pray that the love of Jesus will help more and more of those who profess to be his followers to see the lack of love shown by using selected parts of the Bible out of context and out of time to exclude others and justify prejudice.

We think now of all people who are suffering this week – refugees in several places around the world, such as Syria and Honduras, who are no longer safe in their own homes and often have nowhere to turn, many forgotten by the world and the media. We thank you that some find a new life in our country and are being helped to rebuild their lives. We feel for the victims of natural disasters like the terrible storm damage in Florida. We remember the very old in their own homes and in rest-homes, losing control of their lives and pray that they will still know that you love them, and their families and friends love them. We thank you for their carers, for some the only outward sign of your love. We pray also for continued strength for those of our own membership with children or grandchildren who need extra care and attention because of health and disability needs. Help us to stand by them.

Help us all, we pray, to learn more and more from the teachings and example of Jesus so we can support one another as we follow his way together and witness to his way to our neighbours, our friends and our colleagues. This we pray in Jesus' name, Amen