

## **Prayer of intercession 28<sup>th</sup> July 2019**

**Rev Peter Fox**

(based on the scripture reading: 1 Corinthians 9:24-27)

Living Lord, Ancient of Days, God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the Alpha and the Omega, Blessed Saviour, Eternal Spirit, Precious Redeemer,

Breathe through the heats of our desire that move us to create and to destroy, to nurture and to exploit, to reconcile and to retaliate, to love and to hate.

In your Grace and Mercy, give us the resilience and persistence to press through the surface of things, to know, without fear, what lies beneath the surfaces. Position us then away from self-protection, self-delusion, self-determination, and past our shame and base instincts, for revenge that isolates us from others who are different from us. Be with us, as those layers, vulnerably and nakedly in our being, drop away from us, keeping us in training to win the race and the prize—a wreath that does not wither or fade and a mind grounded and rooted in loving kindness, at one with God and humankind.

In the arena and theatre of the action of our lives at home, at work and in society, lift us from our cynical realism and shake us free from our naïve idealism and keep within us the inner flame burning, and alive.

Lord, beneath our clever analysis and tightly held opinions of our political and social views, ensuring that we are in separate silos, using our truths as swords—teach us, a new way of relating, that is struck from non-defensive listening and a willingness to hear and see hidden needs as the basis of true engagement in relationship.

We thank you for those who live from this intention in all spheres of our common life. We pray for your consolation for those who mourn family members killed in the Cape Flats gang and drug wars. Visit your judgement against the forces that feed gangsterism and drug abuse so that such forces are neutralized. We pray for those in the army and police, that the instinct to protect and shield are to the fore, and not the instincts to violence and fear and hate. We give thanks for generous rains that fill our dams while

remembering those, whose lives, in poverty and homelessness, are made worse by the rains.

We pray for leaders who in integrity of purpose will win our trust and for the muting of those who in their egos strut arrogantly, causing division. Teach us a new dialect where relationships in humility and teachability are the way forward and not exclamations of moral superiority.

Silent prayers for those we love and struggle with and for ourselves

God, our Comforter, show us how you guide us through our life, not only in our joys and virtues, but even when we choose the wrong and are weak. Give us hope, that in the midst of denial and darkness, your Love still holds us readily and securely ,guiding us home.

**Amen**