

**PRESIDER**

Dear friends, Jesus' words are truth and life. Responding in faith, let us give voice to the needs and hopes of the world.

**READER**

We pray for the church, global and local. May Christian communities everywhere testify to the power and wisdom of the crucified Christ. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

We pray for an end to the terrible bloodshed persisting in so many places around the world. May heartless perpetrators repent of their brutality and lay down their arms. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

We pray for women around the world, especially in societies that deny them freedom. May this week's International Women's Day (8 March) strengthen their hope for fulfilling lives. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

We pray for children and parents undertaking preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. May they all grow in awareness of God's loving mercy. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

We pray for the work of Caritas Samoa in providing clean drinking water to island residents. May our support for Project Compassion help them sustain this initiative. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

We pray for the recently deceased . . . and for those whose anniversary of death occurs around this time. May they enter the heavenly sanctuary that is the risen Christ. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

**PRESIDER**

God of all wisdom and love, you raised your Son from death that we might live in him. Help us share his life with the world. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.