

*Have mercy on us, O Gracious One  
according to your steadfast love*

Ps 51 (Nan Merrill)



Image source: [cof-interspiritual-mindfulness.blogspot.com.au](http://cof-interspiritual-mindfulness.blogspot.com.au)

***PERSONAL AND COMMUNAL PRAYER***

***GOD'S HEALING MERCY IS FORGIVENESS***

## Gathering Hymn:

“Make me a channel of your peace”

or

"Plea for Africa"

Give a thought to Africa  
'Neath the burning sun.  
There are hosts of weary hearts,  
Waiting to be won.  
Many lives have passed away,  
And in many homes  
There are voices crying now,  
To the living God.

Chorus

Tell the love of Jesus  
By her hills and waters.  
God bless Africa  
And her sons and daughters.

Breathe a prayer for Africa.  
God the Father's love  
Can reach down and bless all hearts  
From His Heav'n above.  
And when lips are moved by grace,  
They so sweetly sing.  
Pray for peace in Africa  
From our living God.

Chorus

John Knox Bokwe

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XCnpirfF6nU>

## **Welcome into the Circle of Prayer:**

We come together in prayer to consider what God says to us about mercy and forgiveness. Granting forgiveness to someone who has wronged us is a struggle. However, when asked how many times we should forgive Jesus said “seventy times seven.” That doesn’t mean 490 and we stop. It means we’re required to forgive again and again. This is not an easy thing to do. But through forgiveness we create opportunities for healing and growth. May our prayer help us to be instruments of mercy and advocates for the sacredness of all life in our world.

## **Reading**

May we heal the fissures and cracks in our collective soul  
May we see ourselves from a different point of view  
May we let go of outmoded beliefs  
May we recognise the opportunities our stories offer for growth and  
acceptance  
May we release the love  
May love replace fear  
May we accept our personal responsibilities to make a difference  
May we see that there is enough for everybody  
May we eradicate poverty consciousness from our destiny path  
May we be open to receive abundance from the law of sharing  
May we dedicate ourselves to Earth and her changes  
May we make the leap of faith into a new way of relating to our planet  
and her people  
May we stand in our truth and not be afraid to dream big  
May we acknowledge that each person has something beautiful to  
offer  
May we not be blind to these sacred gifts  
May we not put limits on our Creator

May we remember our true purpose  
May each soul be like a bead strung on the necklace of co-operation  
and teamwork  
May humility have it's way  
May we experience balance and beauty  
May we commit ourselves to peace  
May we celebrate our diversity in the oneness of love  
May we be ourselves and flower freely  
May we resonate and glow  
May we take the next step

*Michael Copley*

### **Time for Personal Reflection and Sharing**



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## **A Litany of Forgiveness:**

V: Generous God, you give us so many gifts in life, yet sometimes we forget to share them. And so we say...

R: We are sorry.

V: Faithful God, you are with us in one another, yet we sometimes refuse to recognize you. And so we say...

R: We are sorry.

V: God of gentleness, you ask us to bring peace to our family and to the world, yet sometimes we spread anger and trouble. And so we say...

R: We are sorry.

V: Gracious God, you give us a voice with which to sing, and words to speak, and yet sometimes our words are hurtful. And so we say...

R: We are sorry.

V: Loving God, help us to have hearts of compassion and love.

R: Hear our prayer

V: Merciful God, help us to bring healing to all those lives touched by violence, crime or neglect.

R: Hear our prayer

V: Compassionate God, help us to nourish a culture of life that respects the dignity of all.

R: Hear our prayer

## **Closing Prayer:**

Circle us, O God, encircle us with your presence.

Keep joy within, keep bitterness out;  
Keep generosity within, keep greed out;  
Keep love within, keep self-seeking out;  
Keep light within, keep darkness out.



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