Praying for the nations - in Luton
Using the Living God’s Love prayer

Jesus said: My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations. (Isaiah 56v7 & Matt. 21v13)

And so in the context of our multicultural town, where people from all the nations of the world live together, we pray:

**Draw us deeper into your love,**
Jesus our Lord, send us to care and to serve,
**Holy Spirit, make us heralds of Good News,**
**Stir us, strengthen us,**
Teach and inspire us to live your love
**With generosity and joy,**
**Imagination and courage,**
For the sake of your world
And in the name of Jesus, Amen.

**Prayer for loving respectful relationships.**
God’s Law says: The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the LORD your God. (Lev. 19v34)

So we pray:
We thank you that when we were still far off, you met us in your son and brought us home.
We are members of your family, we are citizens of heaven
We are recipients of your love.
**Heavenly Father, draw us deeper into your love,**
Jesus our Lord, send us to care and to serve,
A time of open or silent prayer for the building of respectful and loving relationships:

- for good relationships between colleagues
- for friendships between neighbours
- for organisations that are fostering goodwill and good relationships between people of different cultures and religions.

For instance:
Black and multicultural churches; Luton Town Centre Chaplaincy; The University chaplaincy; Multifaith prayer rooms at the L&D and university; Grass roots; Precious Pearls; Luton Council of faiths; Oasis; Near Neighbours and for others that you know…

**Prayer for honest dialogue.**
Hear the word of the Lord:
To answer before listening— that is folly and shame. (Proverbs 18v13)

In your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be ready to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect. (1 Peter 3v15)

Be wise in the way you act to outsiders, making the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace and seasoned with salt so that you may know how to answer everyone. (Colossians 4v6)

Lord fulfil your word in our time and in our town.
Time of open or silent prayer for careful honest dialogue.

As we share with others who are very different to ourselves:

Teach and inspire us to live your love with generosity and joy, imagination and courage, for the sake of your world, Amen.

Prayer for peace.
The Lord will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore. (Isaiah 2v4)

Jesus said: Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called sons of God. (Matthew 5v9)

Time of open or silent prayer for all those involved in working for peace between diverse peoples.

We pray for: Luton Borough Council; Peter Adams and the Luton Council of faiths; the Police; others who you know…

Prayer that people will hear the gospel and respond.
Jesus said: Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. (Matthew 28)

Lord fulfil your word in our time and in our town.
Time of open or silent prayer for those who are witnessing to people of other faiths and cultures, and sharing the Good News with them.

- Pray for courage, imagination and sensitivity.
- For strength and perseverance, generosity and joy.
- For people to respond to the gospel and find salvation through Christ.

The Lord says: “It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you alight for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.” (Isaiah 49v6)

Holy Spirit, make us heralds of Good News,
Stir us, strengthen us,
Teach and inspire us to live your love
With generosity and joy,
Imagination and courage,
For the sake of your world
And in the name of Jesus, Amen.

May God be gracious to us and bless us.
And make his face shine upon us,
That your ways may be known on earth
Your salvation among all nations.
May the people's praise you, O God,
May all the people's praise you
May the nations be glad and sing for joy
For you rule the peoples justly
and guide the nations of the earth.