

Prayer of Intercession (by Peter Fox)

Jesus, son of Mary, Jesus, discipler and mentor to Mary Magdalene your apostle,

Holy Spirit, quickening recognition of Jesus and John while in the wombs of their mothers,

Father God, whose **mother instincts** reach us in every circumstance of our lives-nurturing, encouraging, sustaining us-

visit is in your Mercy and loving kindness - soften our hardened hearts, strengthen our tired bodies

Re focus and re direct our over busy distracted minds.

Spirit of God brooding over Creation, groaning as we plunder and destroy the forests and soil the oceans,

Groaning as some of us enforce group identities as weapons against each other - reach into our self-destructive instincts and convert us from this insanity.

Jesus, who teaches us to follow the **unitive path of love**, help us gently to put our minds into our hearts,

to know you more instinctively through intuition and revelation, not only through doctrine and dogma.

Cleanse our eyes so that truly we perceive and **clearly hear** your Call to us to follow You,

to trust You, and to let go of our crippling anxieties and fears.

Lord we long for our **praying** to be **as natural and easy** as breathing and eating. Teach us a more instinctive response than the learned taught and familiar formulas,

We listen but do not hear, we see but do not perceive.

We praise you for women who birth words and actions that liberate and empower ,

who speak words that bring forgiveness,

Women who **create beauty** in sculpture, song, dance and in the care of the environment,

women who **speak truth** to power,

women who **nurture and grow** slow changes that transform ,

women who **rise above limitations** in mind, body and spirit.

Lord, we bless you that you teach us about our humanity through the lenses of being male and female.

Jesus, who in your self-giving and self-disclosing love, emptied yourself, giving life to others and showing that we need liberating from our egoic minds,
bring our minds into a softened Heart,
knowing that the path of descent and surrender is the true liberation of Soul.

O God, **bless us with discomfort at easy answers**, half-truths and superficial relationships so we live from deep within our own hearts.
We pray for the back yard dwellers and those in shacks in our city ,diminished and weakened in their humanity, by these circumstances.
We pray that political leaders, who lie and twist truth to suit their selfish agendas, will be converted to the Higher Mind.

Bless us with anger at injustice and oppression and the exploitation of people, so that we may work for justice and freedom and peace.
We pray for the families of Denishe Witbooi and Meghan Cremer who were so cruelly murdered.
As we remember them we hold them to your Light and Grace.
We pray for those who are disabled may we learn from them as they are included in our circles of community.
We remember this month the brothers, uncles, cousins, fathers, sons who were shot down at Marikana. Comfort those who mourn.

Finally **bless us Oh Lord with tears** to shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, hunger and war.
We pray for those who live differently because of illness, poverty and ethnic difference
We pray for those deprived of work opportunity and employment because of economic conditions and poor education

Bless us with enough foolishness to believe we can make a difference in the world, so that we can do what others claim cannot be done,
Bringing kindness, justice and compassion to all.

In your Mercy reach us, in your Grace hold us, in your Presence in us, open us to the fullness of who we can be in You

Amen

(The last few stanzas are a reworking of a Franciscan Prayer)