

The City Church, New York

The Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession – Sunday August 6, 2006

Alfred, Lord Tennyson, was born on this day in 1809. Toward the end of his life, he wrote:

“For tho’ from out our bourne of Time and Place
That flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my Pilot face to face
When I have crossed the bar.”

Let us pray.

Good Pilot of our onward way:

Although we’re still en route and far from Home, thanks to You, we’re on our way. Our long journey has passed through storms of sin, and the turbulence of temptation yet lies ahead. But thank You for the confidence we have in the One who pilots this ship. Thank You for the promise that we’ll complete this trip and arrive, safe at last, at our Father’s House. The landing lights are already lit, they’re shining with the warmest of welcomes.

While we’re still en route, keep us faithful. May we not grow weary. Give us patience to refrain from the childish whine: “Are we there yet?” Lord, of course we’re not There yet. How, in this world, could we think we were There? But You are here with us, even now, so, bound for Your Home with You, we have a foretaste of that Land. Still, it’s hard to wait for this trip to end in New Beginnings, to see our faithful Pilot face to Face.

On the way, Lord, we’re all in need. So where there’s pain and illness, help us to be kind and to give a healing touch. Where there’s loneliness, may we reach out with true comfort and loving embrace. Where there’s anyone who’s misunderstood and dismissed out of hand, marginalized and demeaned, may we understand, identify, and be kin to him or her. Help us to take better care of each other. Help us to see You in each one in need and do for each person as we would want another to do for us – as You have done for us.

We pray for the welfare of this fallen world – especially given the sad news we see and hear every day. May the Golden Rule, common to traditions of all who mistreat each other, be called to mind and heart for radical obedience. Give wisdom, courage and compassion to all who can make a difference, that what’s right might be done. Heal our cynicism, our bickering party spirits, our blaming and self-centered collection of grudges. Restore us to our rightful minds to join in common cause around Your will for us all.

Thank You for answered prayer as we add the prayer Jesus taught us to pray, saying:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.