

Prayers for our World and the Church

including Prayer of Confession

23rd June 2024

Ps 61:1-2 *Hear my cry, O God, listen to my prayer;
from the end of the earth I call to you
When my heart is overwhelmed, lead me to the rock that is higher than I*

We come now to a time of prayer, to acknowledge God's greatness, His perfection, to confess our imperfection, and to bring our requests to Him Who alone is able to effect lasting change, according to His purposes for the world and for us within it.

Adoration

God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Creator of all that is, we Your creatures dare to come before You only because You are merciful, faithful and righteous. From everlasting to everlasting, You alone are God, all-powerful, all-seeing, all-holy and altogether just! If we were to rely on Your justice, we would be lost, for we are fallen, warped by sin into self-centredness, so that of ourselves we would not seek You out.

Confession

But because You are all-loving, and graciously merciful, we are not destroyed. We look back upon our week and recognise the times when we have failed, when we have not been holy as You are holy, when we have sullied the Name of Jesus our Saviour, when we have put down another person, thinking less of them and more of ourselves, when we have given in to temptation. We are ashamed of our thoughts, words and deeds and freely confess them to You now.

Thanksgiving

Yet, we thank You that You have not abandoned us to our condition but rescued us from oblivion. We thank You for the special grace of salvation: while we were still sinners, Jesus came as the Sinless Perfect Son of God and Son of Man to take our place and suffer the penalty which we deserved, dying in our stead so we could go free.

We thank You that You raised Him up on the third day, defeating death and sin, and beginning the restoration of what was Your perfect creation. We thank You that there will be an end to sin when Jesus returns and institutes the new heaven and the new earth. Thereafter, we Your redeemed people and Your restored Creation will show forth Your glory without limit, forever and ever.

Supplication: The Wider World

In the wider world, we continue to pray for a world which has lost the understanding of justice and mercy. We see hatred, but we pray for the peace of Jerusalem. We hear of disasters or famine, but we pray for agencies like Barnabas Aid bringing relief – food, clothing and shelter. We see that some people are treated as less than human, but we pray for them to be respected as people made in the image of the God Who loves them and wants them to be saved.

... and the wider Church

We can be overwhelmed by the things we see and hear – of war, oppression, refugees, of Your people persecuted in Myanmar, Burkino Faso, Lebanon, and many other places. We pray for courage in the face of opposition, perseverance as they seek safety.

Supplication: Ashburton

Here in Ashburton we pray for Suzanne and the Oakes family, that they continue to know God's loving presence, leading and strength as they grieve and adjust to life. We pray for ourselves to know Your goodness as we come to terms with the loss of Barry. Strengthen us to put one foot in front of the other as we continue with our daily routines. Remind us of the solid foundation we have in the Rock Who is Christ, still with us.

We pray also for John and Gaye as John continues his weekly treatment program. We thank You for the medical facilities we enjoy here, and for John's progress in battling this cancer.

We pray for Callum, Steph and Levi. We thank You for Levi's progress, and ask Your wisdom for the medical team as they seek to provide him with whatever assistance is available to encourage his development.

We thank You for the new Board members, and pray for both the Board and the Session as they work for the congregation under the leadership of Jesus the Great Shepherd. We pray for Douglas Milne and the elders to have Your wisdom as we go through these difficult days.

May we individually take responsibility for our own spiritual growth so that we are transformed by the renewing of our minds. As we take Your living Word deep into our hearts, we pray that You would change us so that our lives are more and more in conformity to that Word. We pray that our fellowship continues to grow stronger each week, both in Sunday worship and in our community groups.

Finally, we pray for ourselves in the service of the Kingdom. Help us, Lord, to look outward, beyond our own four walls, to the needs of others in this community. We thank You that we are a part of the work of spreading the Good News. May we grow to show the character of our Risen Lord so well that others will see Him rather than us. In Jesus Name we pray, Amen.