

Prayers for our World and the Church

16th March 2025

Psalm 80:17-19

"[17] But let your hand be on the man of your right hand, the son of man whom you have made strong for yourself! [18] Then we shall not turn back from you; give us life, and we will call upon your name! [19] Restore us, O Lord God of hosts! Let your face shine, that we may be saved!"

Thanks to God

O Lord, we thank You that we can gather today to bring You our praises, both here in person and online for those who can't be with us. We continue to give thanks for the gift of our salvation because Jesus came as a helpless babe, lived the perfect life which we could not, and then won the victory over sin and death for us in the Cross and the Resurrection. He is truly the Son of Man at Your right hand, our Supreme Shepherd of the flock.

The Wide World... and the Wider Church

We began this year seeing so much trouble, division and unrest, and we look again this far into the year to see still much turmoil around this world. Yet we remain hopeful because You are God Who restores. Your face still shines on this world. We continue to pray for the peace of Jerusalem, and for peace in Eastern Europe. We give thanks for various peace efforts, ceasefires, and negotiations instead of outright warfare.

As well as man-made disasters, we see weather disasters too. We thank You for the easing of the force of Cyclone Alfred, so that the damage was not as serious as was expected, and we pray for the clean-up that has begun. We also pray for the churches and congregations affected by the storm and flood waters. May You strengthen and encourage them as they face the wearying task of cleaning up, drying out and replacing what was lost.

Ashburton

Here in Ashburton, we pray for ourselves as we seek to demonstrate Your grace to one another, keeping the unity of the faith and encouraging each other. We continue to pray for Alan Freer, and his recovery rehabilitation after his operation. We thank You for Jan's care for him and pray that Alan can quickly regain full use of his legs as he becomes accustomed to the replaced hip joint. We Give thanks for the medical care we enjoy in Australia, while we recognise that You are the True Healer and sustainer of our health.

We pray for the Selection Committee and the search for a new pastor for the work here. Psalm 80 speaks prophetically of Jesus but we also see that You appoint men to the office of teaching elder, and we continue to trust that You have a man appointed to take up the vision for kingdom service here in Ashburton.

We thank You for Your Word which calls us to see beyond our present situation, and to fix our eyes on eternal things. Help us we pray to look up to You and remember the great salvation You have provided in Jesus, and how lowly He became to secure for us a place with You in heaven. We pray that we will have ears to hear and hearts to understand and apply Your Word as Mook brings it to us today..

In Jesus Precious Name we pray, Amen.

We don't often do this but let us conclude with the Lord's Prayer as a reminder of our dependence upon God and His grace.

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 that trespass against us.
Lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.

For Yours is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.

Amen.

They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old.

Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun, and in the morning,

We WILL remember them.

Lest We Forget