

# Prayers for our World and the Church

7th February 2021

**2 Chronicles 14:11** *Then Asa prayed, "Lord, there is no one besides You to help in the battle between the powerful and those who have no strength; so help us, O Lord our God, for we trust in You, and in Your Name have come against this multitude. O Lord, You are our God; let not man prevail against You."*

## Thanks to God

O Lord our God, we thank You that we are able to meet together again. We come into Your Presence with thanksgiving and into Your courts with praise. You have drawn us together as Your people in this place, more than a gathering of individuals, for You have made us into the Body of Christ. You have knitted us together in love, and strengthened the bonds of fellowship between us. As we celebrate the Lord's Supper later in the service we pray that You would continue to grow us together – supporting each other and encouraging each other to love and good deeds.

You did this while we were rebels against Your Word, offending You with our sin. We were darkness, but now we are light; we were enemies but now we are adopted sons and daughters in the family of God; we were dead but now are alive as branches of the True Vine. How great is Your grace and mercy to us who deserve no mercy at all.

We thank You that Jesus is the One Who brought this about by His sacrifice on the Cross on our behalf. He is the Perfect Lamb Who was slain in our place, so that we could go free. Having been raised up to life again, He is seated in the heavens as King of Kings until all is subdued under His righteous rule.

On a day which You have appointed, we look forward to His return to make manifest His position as the King of Glory ruling over all of Creation. Until then, we live and work for the sake of the kingdom, for we are saved not for our own sake but to serve, and to see the Kingdom expand, to reach the uttermost parts of the Earth, so that all men may know Who Jesus is.

## The Wider World..... and the wider Church

We recognise that the Covid-19 situation has become even more complicated as Western Australia ceases its lockdown but Victoria has another outbreak. We continue to pray for effective quarantine measures and treatments so that we may again enjoy the freedoms we knew from times past.

We are greatly saddened that the Victorian government has passed new laws which aim to prohibit so-called conversion therapies but which directly attack the church in its work of prayer and counselling. We pray that the church will rise up against the work of the activists behind these measures, so that the impact of this law will be defeated. We pray that the church can freely continue to counsel, pray and apply Biblical truths to help people confronting complex dilemmas of life.

Nothing is beyond Your control, and nothing escapes Your notice. In these dark times we face an enemy who appears to be overwhelming. We do not like what we see but like king Asa, we trust in our God Who rules all from heaven. We pray that You will bring glory to Your Name even in this.

## Ashburton

Here in Ashburton, we pray for needs within our number. We thank You for Newton's recovery, and continue to pray that Sandra and Newton can continue their lives with minimal disruption whilst their home is restored. We also continue to uphold Margaret Sanders, now taking stronger medication for trigeminal neuralgia. We pray also for students resuming school – some moving up into tertiary study. We pray that the stresses of last year may be left behind as they work towards their goals and as they seek to honour You in their studies.

We pray for Barry as he commences a new preaching series. May we all understand more of Your grace and favour as we submit to Your Word in the books of Ezra and Nehemiah.

Knowing that the weapons of our warfare are not worldly but mighty through God, we pray for the work of the Kingdom, to see the glory of the Lord cover the earth as the waters cover the seas, Amen.

We come now to acknowledge God's goodness to us in material ways by returning to Him our freewill offerings.

We appreciate our visitors present and online, and stress that there is no obligation upon you. This is for the members of the local congregation who give in support of the work here and elsewhere.

We encourage online giving by bank transfer – details are available in the church bulletin and on our website. But if you haven't done that, the duty managers will now wait on you for your offerings.

Let us pray:

Father God, we thank you that we live in a prosperous country and our needs are readily supplied. We recognise that all these blessings are from Your hand and by Your grace to us.

We pray that our possessions will not own us, but that we will hold all things as trustees and stewards on Your behalf, so that all we have and all we are may be dedicated to the work of the Kingdom and in true service to the King of Kings.

Bless these offerings, we pray. May they be managed wisely and well so that they achieve all that You purpose in this work. In Jesus Precious Name we pray, Amen.