

Prayers for our World and the Church

15th February 2026

Micah 7:18-20

[18] Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love.

[19] He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.

[20] You will show faithfulness to Jacob and steadfast love to Abraham, as you have sworn to our fathers from the days of old.

Let us pray...

Confession

In this present age, we are so like the nation of Judah, where so many have turned away from You, to revel in self-interest and sin, to deny the truth, to turn right on its head and instead to celebrate wrong.

We confess that we live in a time when it is not easy to remain faithful because there is so much pressure to follow the crowd, away from the Cross and the empty tomb. We know that we could not be perfect as You are Perfect, for we are sinners and in trouble in this world.

Thanks to God

Lord, we thank You for Micah asking the impossible question: "Is there any god like You?" We thank You that there is none like You, patiently forgiving sin, always seeking our highest good, which is to be restored in relationship with You as Your redeemed sons and daughters.

We thank You that our iniquity has been pardoned by Your grace and mercy alone, that our transgressions have been passed over, and we have been set free from sin. We thank You for sending Jesus to save us.

We look back to the Cross and the Resurrection, remembering what Jesus did to secure our salvation. Micah was looking forward to Bethlehem where the Saviour would be born, where Your promise to Abraham would be fulfilled.

The Wide World... and the Wider Church

We pray for this world where we so often hear bad news, but rarely do we hear the Good News of people being saved, coming to faith, and worshipping You.

We pray for those close to us, who do not know the Truth. We pray for the many churches where Your Word is faithfully preached and lived, and ask that You would strengthen Your people to stand firm but with grace, against the lies so popular today.

Ashburton

We pray for our work here at Ashburton, committing ourselves afresh to the work of the Kingdom. We ask You to lead us as we form up in community groups, to study your Word, not just academically, but in order to apply it to our lives, and to care for and pray for one another.

We pray for the work of the Selection Committee as they seek Your wisdom, and Your will, so that Your purposes prevail when we call a new minister of Your choosing, to lead and guide this work. We pray for ourselves to support them as they serve on our behalf in what could be a lengthy process.

We continue in prayer for those in need of Your healing hand – for Alan, Diane, Levi, Steph and Callum, and others affected by illness, injury, or anything else that would slow us down in our daily walk with You.

We thank You for Your Word, and for Oli Blythe as he preaches today. We pray that You would guide us by Your Holy Spirit, so that we take it in, and make our daily lives conform more and more to the character of Jesus, Our Lord and Saviour,

In Whose Precious Name we pray, Amen.