

## Prayers for Thursday 28 July 2022

**Pause**     *slowing my breath and relinquishing my worries, I open my hands to pray*

Come Holy Spirit to my mind  
I receive Your comfort

Come Holy Spirit to my heart  
I receive your peace

Come Holy Spirit to my soul  
I receive the Father's love for me

**Rejoice**     **How good it is to sing praises to our God  
how pleasant and fitting to praise him!  
The Lord builds up Jerusalem;  
He gathers the exiles of Israel,  
He heals the broken-hearted  
and binds up their wounds.  
He determines the number of the stars  
and calls them each by name.  
Great is our Lord and mighty in power;  
his understanding has no limit...**

**His pleasure is not in the strength of the horse,  
nor his delight in the legs of the warrior;  
the Lord delights in those who fear him,  
who put their hope in his unfailing love.** Psalm 147: 1-5 & 10-11

***'Do not fear for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name;  
you are mine'*** Isaiah 43: 1

**Ask**     Lord, we ask for wisdom to discern, in the midst of all the issues that reach us in the news. We hear so much that alarms. Help us to bring these concerns to you, knowing that You grieve for the brokenness of this world, the lives that have been lost, hopes crushed through inept or corrupt governments, homes and livelihoods ruined through natural disasters or war, and lives disturbed by disease or social injustice.

***'Father, I pray for our world torn apart by conflict and distressing news. I pray for the places of sin and destruction that foster gossip, bitterness and any place where truth is silenced. I pray that men and women of faith would rise up with a gentle but bold voice of truth in times of chaos.'***

- **Food security** - Northern and Eastern Africa, especially the Horn of Africa, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Yemen, Syria and Central America. Lord, you know how much the hungry people in these countries need the grain stored in Ukrainian and Russian silos. We pray for the fragile agreement brokered to ensure safe passage through the Black Sea. We thank you that some shipments of grain have got through already. May this still go ahead despite more bombing of port areas. We pray for the first world countries to generously fund adaptive agricultural strategies in third world countries in order to ameliorate the effects of climate change. We pray they fulfil their promises of aid.

***I am He, I am He who will sustain you, I have made you and I will carry you, I will sustain you and I will rescue you.*** Isaiah 46:4

*Open prayer*

***'Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed'*** Isaiah 54: 10

- **War torn areas in the world** – Lord you gave us Your 'peace'. 'Peace' in our hearts, 'peace' in our families and communities, 'peace' in our world. Lord we give thanks for your 'PEACE'. Help us to bring peace to our loved ones, our communities and our spheres of influence in the world. We pray also for people in leadership who will bring peace between countries in the world. We pray for more voices calling for peace, and for those who lead by example in villages and communities in their countries.
- We remember the people of Myanmar struggling to shake off the control of the military junta. We pray for those grieving the execution of four democratic activists in detention this week. Lord, we pray for those men in power, intent on supreme power, and resorting to brutality to break the spirits of those without power, but sustained by a strong vision for the future.

We remember before you these countries where there is war –

**Ukraine** continuing to endure, for those who have left, and those who cannot leave. We pray for those in Australia trying to organise long term visas, not knowing when their men will join them. Lord we beseech you to make a way forward for peace.

**Ethiopia** where there has been civil war, deprivation of basic needs, and suffering. Lord we pray for a change of heart and a will to live together in harmony.

**Countries in South America**, where drug lords, hungry for money, and power are intimidating communities in the trafficking of evil drugs. For Haiti where children are killed in gang warfare on the streets. Lord cast out these evils we pray.

**The people of Taiwan** who fear that they may be subjected to an invasion.

*Open Prayer*

***The LORD is gracious and righteous; our God is full of compassion.*** Psalm 116: 5

**Sickness** – Lord Jesus Christ, as we pray today the new BA.5 subvariant threatens to overwhelm hospitals and healthcare services in a COVID weary world. We are sobered by the expected doubling of cases in Australian hospitals in the next month. We pray for all those making vital public health decisions and for public and private hospitals already pressured. Lord, we pray for those who are suffering, at home or in hospital with debilitating side effects and those in isolation in Aged Care facilities.

**Lord we pray for healing. Bring comfort and a sense of your Love.**

We pray for the reform of governments in countries where corruption and incompetence are causing the collapse of **health services** and the resultant spread of preventable diseases especially:

- **Afghanistan** where young children, already weakened by hunger, are dying of measles
- **Venezuela** where hunger is at disaster point, there are no medical services, and children are dying of hunger and preventable diseases.
- **Yemen** where war has depleted all health supplies
- **Horn of Africa**
- **Sri Lanka**
- **Lebanon**

**Government uncertainty** - We pray for a stability in Great Britain as the Conservative Party works towards electing its new leader. We pray for your will to be done in this process. We pray for stable government in Sri Lanka and the many challenges of its people.

### **Natural Disasters**

Lord we pray for the suffering people in the world where natural disasters have devastated populations:

- Kentucky in the USA where floods have destroyed homes and livelihoods
- Afghanistan earthquake victims
- Phillipines where an earthquake has caused widespread destruction
- Brazil – mudslides
- US - heatwaves and wildfires

### *Open Prayer*

We pray Lord for people in this country who find themselves struggling to find somewhere to live as a result of difficult situations at home, rising rental prices, floods or any other economic or personal reasons. Lord we pray for your mercy and compassion. Help us, our government and community groups to provide meaningful assistance to people in need.

***Holy Spirit, when I feel alone, I am comforted because You pray with me. When I am silenced by suffering, I am grateful that You pray through me. And Jesus, when I feel helpless, You are with the Father right now praying for us. (Romans 8:34)***

### **Yield**

***Loving God you are gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love.***

***Gather us together as one family.***

***Envelope us in your goodness and generosity that we too, may recognise that bond that unites us and the dignity and worth of each human being.***

***Sustain all health workers in their expertise, their patience and perseverance.***

***Strengthen our faith, trust and obedience, envelop all in justice and peace.***

***Prosper the work of our hands that your shalom reigns.***

**Blessing - *Let the goodness of God, eternal majesty, incarnate word and abiding Spirit embrace all creation, still our fears and bring us peace. Amen.***