

Pause

Come down, O Love divine
Seek thou this soul of mine
And visit it with
Thine own ardour glowing:
O Comforter, draw near,
Within my heart appear
And kindle it
Thy holy flame bestowing. *Hymn #257, The English Hymnal*

Rejoice

You are love,
You are wisdom,
You are humility,
You are endurance,
You are rest,
You are peace.
You are joy and gladness,
You are justice and moderation,
You are all our riches
And you suffice for us.

You are beauty,
You are gentleness
You are our protector,
You are our guardian and defender.
You are our courage.
You are our haven and our hope

You are our faith,
Our great consolation.
You are our eternal life,
Great and wonderful Lord,
God Almighty, Merciful Saviour.
St Francis of Assisi

Ask -

Blessed are those who trust in the LORD,
whose trust is the LORD.

⁸ They shall be like a tree planted by water,
sending out its roots by the stream.

It shall not fear when heat comes,
and its leaves shall stay green;

in the year of drought it is not anxious,
and it does not cease to bear fruit.

Jeremiah 17: 7-9

We pray for the restoration of peace and the installation of good government in the troubled countries of the world, including:

- **Ethiopia**, where blockading of aid to the Tigray region is causing widespread famine exacerbated by the interruption of the importation of grain from Ukraine and drought conditions causing loss of food crops.
 - **Yemen** dealing with a broken economy, an inadequate medical system and the threat of renewed warfare. We pray that the ceasefire will hold and diplomacy will succeed in bringing in a stable government. We pray for the many children suffering from malnutrition.
 - **Afghanistan** where western sanctions, the failed economy and repressive government are causing widespread misery and hunger in the population.
 - **Sri Lanka** with a broken economy, a corrupt government, serious disruption to normal life, and huge price rises.
 - **Zimbabwe** where corrupt government is causing millions to live in dire poverty, with a collapsed health system, and drought conditions.
- Lord, raise up fearless leaders who will bring about governmental reform, restore essential services, and protect their people from the ravages of poverty, we pray.**

Open prayer

We pray for Ukraine:

- We thank you for the spirit of the people who are fighting so bravely to protect their country from the invaders and for their charismatic leader who is inspiring the world to act in unison to provide assistance.
- We pray for the soldiers at the front, the families who have remained to face the danger and devastation of their villages.
- For the brave people who are risking their lives to remove the bombs planted as the Russians withdrew. Keep them safe we pray.
- For the farmers facing danger each day to continue to grow their crops, and we pray for the release of the grain in stores held by the Russians and needed to feed so many countries of the world.
- For the safety of the soldiers who have surrendered from the steelworks and taken captive by the Russians. May they be treated with respect in accordance with the international standards and safely returned to their families.
- For the African students who have been living in Ukraine, that they might be welcomed as refugees in the neighbouring countries.

Open prayer

There is no fear in Love, but perfect Love casts out fear

1 John 4: 18

We pray for the new government of Australia:

Lord as we see the disfunction and corruption of governments around the world, we thank you that our election has been conducted with civility and stability.

We pray -

- That the new prime minister is able to bring about bipartisanship in all the major points of principle that affect our country
- That fairness and equity are delivered in the standard of living for all.
- That truth and integrity are the hallmark of good governance for this government.
- For peace in the Pacific as the world order changes.

Prayers for the Covid situation throughout the world

We bring before you Lord all those suffering with COVID today in our country and in the world.

- Especially for the people of North Korea, where the people are already undernourished, unprotected by vaccination, and where the health system is badly neglected.
- For the elderly and the vulnerable
- For the medical profession who are exhausted and understaffed, for the overcrowding in our hospitals as the flu season hits.

Prayers for all those suffering from disasters caused by global warming:

- Floods in Eastern Australia: we pray for compassionate support for all those suffering from the loss of homes and livelihoods in the wake of these disasters.
- We pray for the people of Pakistan and other parts of south Asia who are experiences extremes of heat and drought, causing death and starvation.
- For the people of the Horn of Africa suffering from drought – Lord bring them relief.

Open Prayer

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanks-giving, present your requests to God. Philippians 4: 6.

Final Reflection Desmond Tutu with Douglas Abrahams - *God has a Dream: A Vision of Hope for our Time*

All over this magnificent world God calls us to extend [God's] kingdom of shalom—peace and wholeness—of justice, of goodness, of compassion, of caring, of sharing, of laughter, of joy, and of reconciliation. God is transfiguring the world right this very moment *through us* because God *believes in us* and because God *loves us*. What can separate us from the love of God? Nothing. Absolutely nothing. And as we share God's love with our brothers and sisters, God's other children, there is no tyrant who can resist us, no oppression that cannot be ended, no hunger that cannot be fed, no wound that cannot be healed, no hatred that cannot be turned to love, no dream that cannot be fulfilled.

Yield -

Dear God

We give thanks for places of simplicity and peace. Let us find such a place within ourselves. We give thanks for places of refuge and beauty. Let us find such a place within ourselves. We give thanks for places of nature's truth and freedom, of joy, inspiration and renewal, places where all creatures may find acceptance and belonging. Let us search for these places in the world, in ourselves and others. Let us restore them. Let us strengthen and protect them and let us create them.

May we mend this outer world according to the truth of our inner life and may our souls be shaped and nourished by nature's eternal wisdom.

Amen

Leunig: A Common Prayer

Blessing -

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13)