

All are warmly invited to join this faith community in prayers for healing of this world each week. Our pattern of prayer leads us to pause; to rejoice; to give thanks; to request God's intervention in particular areas of concern; to conclude with acknowledgement of God's promises love and blessing. Through 'Open prayer' we are invited into shared or personal contemplation of those things that speak to our hearts of need of prayer



THURSDAY PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD 22 May 2025

PAUSE

**O Bringer of Joy, Awaken my heart;
Pour your love and blessings
through all my being.
Free me from attachments and desire,
that I may become a clear mirror,
reflecting your love to the world.**

Psalm 143 Psalms for Praying, Nan Merrill

REJOICE

**You, O Divine Breath, dwell within our hearts;
With unconditional love you assuage our fears.
You call us to holiness, justice and integrity
To free those bound by oppression,
To bring light where ignorance and darkness dwell.**

Psalm 110 Psalms for Praying, Nan Merrill

GIVE THANKS

- that the prisoner exchange between Russia and Ukraine soldiers enabled the return of 1000 men from both sides to their families.
- for the inauguration of the new Pope Leo and for his offer to host negotiations between Ukraine and Russia.
- that there is a Christian Church revival happening in the UK amongst the 18 – 30 year olds.

We pray for Government: Leaders

- For calm and measured diplomacy in this troubled and often chaotic international climate, that ways of reason and calm will create positive outcomes, setting an atmosphere for peaceful and fruitful negotiations.
- For wise alliances to be forged in the light of the changing international landscape and that Australian strength, stability and independence will be maintained.

- We pray the Australian government, in its incoming term, will lead the country in a path of peace, justice, and fairness for all Australians.

OPEN PRAYER

**What does the Lord require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.
*Micah 6: 8.***

Lord we pray for the Australian people:

- Peaceful, respectful race relations among various ethnic groups, and that while deep scars of past hurts need to be healed in the hearts of many, respect and love for their fellow Australians will encourage peaceful and constructive dialogue.
- Successful ways of combating the appalling rates of domestic violence that so badly affect the lives of the vulnerable. Lord, show those who would inflict violence the way of love and respect.
- Closing the Gap: That known ways of improving the lives of indigenous people, their health, housing, education and employment be funded and enabled by those who can make a difference in the actual lives of these people. We pray for those taking part in NAIDOC week in June, and for fruitful dialogue.
- Youth justice: That the proposed Inquiry into the Department of Families, and the care of children who have been removed from their natural families, will result in some better ways of supporting both children in Foster Care, and the families who provide the care. That ways of providing for children in 'out of home care' may be found that will give them better pathways into mainstream living.
- For continuing support for those suffering from the effects of natural disasters, and especially for those who went through the huge floods in the NSW Central Coast, and have lost businesses, homes crops and cattle, and now face cleaning up.

OPEN PRAYER

**For our loving creator does not turn away from the afflicted
And does not hide from them:
But their cries are heard, and their prayers rise up to heaven.**

Psalms for Praying: Nan Merrill

We pray for countries in conflict:

- For relief for the people of Gaza from the heartless bombing and killing, from the blocking of aid and supplies. Bring food to these poor, starving people. We pray for medical staff whose families were killed in bombing, for safety for hospitals and for Palestinian journalists.
- Lord, make the oppressors listen to the voices of their people and cease.
- For Ukraine and Russia: for Zelenskyyy, for the Christian church in Ukraine, for the faith of weary people of Ukraine to be strengthened. We pray for those families of

men who did not return in the recent exchange and have heard nothing of their loved ones.

- For the people of Russia who have lost loved ones, and for those imprisoned for speaking out about the war. We pray especially for teenagers in prison, and for Ukrainian children still in Russia. May there be ways to bring this war to an end.
- For the growing flood of people in Africa displaced from their homes by warfare, with 21 million Sudanese people displaced. The UN facing its most challenging humanitarian project this century and there is appalling violence in refugee camps in Dafur.
- For the people of Myanmar, suffering from conflict and devastated by the recent earthquake.

OPEN PRAYER

**The nations may be at war, countries left in ruins
Yet is the voice of the Almighty heard,
slowly breaking through the hearts of stone.
The Beloved is ever with us, the infinite Heart of Love.**

Psalm 46 Psalms for Praying: Nan Merrill

Take heart, I have overcome the world. *John 16:33*

YIELD

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

**God hold you, enfold you,
And keep you wrapped around His heart.**

Amen