

Prayers for the World - Thursday 23rd June 2022

Pause

Be still... be silent... alone... empty
Before your God... say nothing... ask nothing
Be silent... be still
Let your God look upon you... that is all
He knows... He understands
He loves you with an enormous love
He only wants to look upon you with His love
Quiet... still ...be
Let your God love you

Rejoice –

**A bruised reed he will not break, and a smouldering wick he will not snuff out.
In faithfulness he will bring forth justice, he will not falter or be discouraged
till he establishes justice on earth. *Isaiah 42: 3-4***

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.
I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress,
my God , in whom I trust."
Surely he will save you from the fowlers's snare
and from the deadly pestilence.
He will cover you with his feathers,
And under his wings you will find refuge.
His faithfulness will be your shield and rampart. *Psalms 91:1-4.*

Ask –

**Teach me to seek You.
I cannot seek You unless You teach me
or find You unless You show Yourself to me.
Let me seek You in my desire,
let me desire you in my seeking.
Let me find You by loving You,
Let me love You when I find You. *St Anselm of Canterbury.***

Compassionate God, we continue to ask for so many people and issues.

We pray for: **prisoners** everywhere, especially in dark and cruel conditions where there is no hope;
for **people trapped in the slave trade**; for **refugees** everywhere trying to escape bloodshed and
tyranny; for people in grinding poverty where food is scarce, and life is unbearable.

The Lord is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. Psalm 34:18

Open prayer

We pray for world peace: for the leaders of the world to prevent a world conflagration through diplomacy, balanced and just foreign policy, and wise negotiation. In particular, we pray for the staying of the hand of despotic leaders who aggressively seek to expand their dominance in the world by invasion, by strategic manoeuvring, and the threat of nuclear armaments.

We pray for Ukraine

Lord, as millions flee the country for safety, we pray especially for nearly 2 million Ukrainians, including 307,000 children who have been deported to Russia since the start of the war. May there be more personnel able to track their whereabouts. We ask for the safety of vulnerable women and children, for people left behind, the family members who have stayed to support relatives in the war effort, the elderly too frail to move.

We pray for soldiers caught up in intense fighting in the east, whose lives are being lost at the rate of 200 a day, for the wounded and for those taken captive by Russia. May they be treated fairly according to the rules of war.

We pray for the leaders who must make terrible decisions daily with the resultant loss of lives.

Lord, guide the other nations of the world as they negotiate ways to support Ukraine without causing a worsening situation.

God shall judge between the nations, and shall decide for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war anymore. (Isaiah 2:4)

We remember **Lebanon**, the **Philippines**, **Sri Lanka**, and **Yemen**. And we pray also for **Myanmar** in its ongoing struggle to overthrow the army and ask for surrounding countries to pressure for change. In all these countries may justice and a greater respect for life be enabled by responsible government.

But God will never forget the needy; the hope of the afflicted will never perish. Psalm 9:18

Open prayer

Lord, as the world faces disastrous **food shortages** and the starvation of 47 million people in countries depending on grain from Ukraine and Russia, we pray urgently for the blockades to be lifted, and the weaponization of food to cease. We pray for the needy everywhere who face rising food prices and shortages caused by war and natural disasters, in particular for countries of the Horn of Africa suffering from four years of drought. We pray that countries that pledged aid will fulfill their obligation before disastrous hunger claims millions of lives.

'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit' says the Lord Almighty, Zech 4: 6.

Open prayer

Prayers for Australia

Lord, we pray for our country, its new government:

For wise and equitable management of:

- inflation and its effect on power supply and cost of living expenses
- mental health, aged care, and disability sectors
- the environment and biodiversity
- foreign affairs and diplomacy in our region and on the world stage

We thank you for the service of:

- health professionals, hospital and ambulance workers
- our police and the work they do to keep us safe
- emergency workers

and ask you to bless them and keep them safe.

We pray for all those trying to recover from the effects of bushfires and floods. Please give them courage and bring them the support and help they need.

Prayers for the Covid situation throughout the world

- For those who have lost loved ones, with significant numbers around Australia this year.
- For wisdom to stay safe this winter, with concerns about the pressures on staff and residents in residential care facilities.
- For the people of China and North Korea experiencing illness, especially for those in quarantine for many long weeks, and resultant food shortages and distress.

Free prayer

Lord while we continue to pray for practical help for countries in dire need, may we not forget the words of Habakkuk who brought a deeper reality into his concern for his people and country:

Has not the Almighty determined... the nations exhaust themselves for nothing?

For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord

as the waters cover the sea. *Habakkuk 2: 14.*

Yield –

That God has made his home with us is a miracle and a mystery.

But we can live this mystery well,

when we live all of life out of the presence of God. *Charles Ringma.*

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

Blessing: And may the peace of God which passes all understanding, keep our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. *Philippians 4:7.*