

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 1st FEBRUARY 2024



PAUSE

Am I carrying trouble in my mind from the worries of this day?
Breathing in slowly I receive God's peace.

Am I carrying tension in my body from the strains of this day?
Breathing out slowly, I relax and release my stress to the Lord.

REJOICE and give thanks

Your unfailing love O Lord ,is as vast as the heavens
your faithfulness reaches beyond the clouds
Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains,
your justice like the ocean depths.
You care for people and animals alike, O Lord.
Psalm 36:5-6

The Lord your God . . . is always with you. He celebrates and sings because of you, and he will refresh your life with his love. Zephaniah 3:17

OPEN PRAYER

ASK

Lord today we pray to you for the children who are caught up in war, natural disasters (earthquakes, floods, cyclones) or any kind of trauma. We beseech you Lord to protect them and surround them with love and care through these terrible times.

He said to them, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Mark 10:14

Lord we remember before you –

- Children in Ukraine whose homes and communities have been destroyed
- Children who have had to flee their homes and communities becoming refugees
- Children in Gaza who have become homeless
- Children who have lost family members and are grieving
- Children who are sole-survivors in their families
- Children who have been injured and are isolated in hospital or in rehabilitation
- Children who live in situations of tension due to oppressive government actions
- Children who live in fear

During your Ministry on earth Lord Jesus, you showed compassion and love for children, raising Jairus' daughter and welcoming children into your presence –

***'While Jesus was still speaking, someone came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue leader. 'Your daughter is dead,' he said. 'Don't bother the teacher anymore.'* Luke 8:49**

***'When he arrived at the house of Jairus . . . They laughed at him, knowing that she was dead. But he took her by the hand and said "My child, get up!" Her spirit returned, and at once she stood up.'* Luke 8: 53**

Father, at a time when there is conflict and sorrow in many places in the world, would You raise up peacemakers and healers of hurts.

OPEN PRAYER

We pray for children in many countries around the world where this is the start of a new school year,

- Where many children will be starting school for the first time
- Where many children will be entering new schools
- Where many children will be apprehensive about the year ahead
- Where teachers may be apprehensive about the year ahead
- Children who cannot attend school for various reasons

We pray Lord that schools will be a place of safety and learning, where there is care and the joy of friendship. We pray for Teachers and those who work in schools that they will have wisdom and guidance to deal with the diversity of school populations and provide a nurturing environment for those who they teach.

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

YIELD

When despair for the world grows in me
 And I wake in the night at the least sound
 In fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
 I go and lie down where the Wood Drake
 rests in his beauty on the water, and the great Heron feeds.
 I come into the peace of wild things
 Who do not tax their lives with fore-thought
 Of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
 And I feel above me the day – blind stars

Waiting with their light. For a time

I rest in the grace of the world, and am free. *'The Peace of Wild Things'* by Wendell Berry

BLESSING

**May God give us light to guide us, courage to support us and love to unite us,
Now and for ever more.**

Amen