

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 20 MARCH 2025

PAUSE

**God of our dreaming, come
take us in your arms.
Lead us onwards to the deeper parts of ourselves.
Safe and calm through Jesus
the Christ.
Amen**

REJOICE

**Your love, Lord, reaches to the heavens,
Your faithfulness to the skies,
Your righteousness is like the highest mountains,
Your justice like the great deep.
You, Lord, preserve both man and animals,
How priceless is your unfailing love, O God!
People take refuge in the shadow of your wings. Psalm 36: 5-7**

GIVE THANKS

*I'm coming to believe more and more in the truth that everything we do has consequences.
A good deed doesn't just evaporate and disappear. Desmond Tutu*

- Lord we thank you for the people who rescued and supported those in need during ex-cyclone Alfred.
- Thank you for the minimisation of harm when the cyclone lingered off the coast, giving people more time to prepare, and for its reduction in intensity from Category 2 to a tropical low.

Help us, creator of Light, to look for pockets of Joy.

We pray for those who lost homes and possessions, for business owners deeply affected by loss of stock and trade. We pray for those who suffered intense anxiety and stress, especially

those who weathered the storm alone. We pray for those living in flood prone areas, and who have been through many such events before. We pray for more equitable and universal systems of insurance to protect the less fortunate. And we pray for growing attention to the causes behind such extreme events. May there be concerted action on the part of those who could take measures to turn away from fossil fuels.

Lord have mercy on these suffering people. Draw close to them in their distress and cover them with your love.

For the kingdom of God is not food and drink but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. *Romans 14: 17*

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.*

During this time of Lent may it not be small indulgences we give up, but rather the spirit of heaviness. May we attend to that profound desire for rejoicing that comes when things are put right.

- We give thanks for the Anglican Board of Mission and their partnering with those who work to end gender based violence. We pray for the Anglican Church in Zambia training and resourcing local systems to combat gender-based violence and enhance the equality of men and women.
- We pray also for Common Grace here in Australia in their activism against gender-based violence.
- We thank you for Anglican church partners in Kenya and the Philippines training farmers, most of whom are women, to take the lead in tackling the challenges of climate change and growing more and better-quality food for themselves and their communities.

Let us not deny sadness,
but make fertile the soil for more joy.

OPEN PRAYER

Little children, I am with you only a little longer ...so now I say to you, 'Where I am going you cannot come'. I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you should also love one another. By this will all men know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. John 13: 33 - 35.

Lord, we continue to pray

- for a just peace between Ukraine and Russia, for the limited ceasefire being discussed to involve all concerned, and for the exhausted and disillusioned Ukrainian people.
- for the people of the Gaza strip as warfare breaks out once again. "The need is relentless". For the work of Mosaic in trying to bring aid, for the Al Ahli hospital. We pray for the Church of the Holy Family sheltering the Medical Director among others. St Luke's clinic in Nablus, and the Penman clinic in Jenin is trying to supply aid.
- for the desperate need in Gaza for clean water and supplies. For an end to the war.
- for the growing flood of people 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 countries world wide, overwhelmed, trying to accommodate refugees.
- for families from the Congo who have fled violence.

Let us not deny the darkness,
but choose to live in the light.

Lord, tyrants and unjust rulers seem to have the last word,
disinformation seems to prevail,
**May we hold fast to the truth,
this is a moral universe, unjust regimes must ultimately fall.**

Lord Jesus, confronted by discouraging news, we accept your call to pray, knowing that this is a task, but a profound one. May we be grounded in your peace knowing that your Spirit prays with us. May we become a community of prayer.

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

When we look squarely at injustice and get involved, we actually feel less pain, not more, because we overcome the gnawing guilt and despair that festers under our numbness. We clean the wound - our own and others' – and it can finally heal. Desmond Tutu

OPEN PRAYER

YIELD

And now unto Him who is able to keep us from falling, and lift us from the dark valley of despair to the bright mountain of hope, from the midnight of desperation to the daybreak of joy. To Him be power and authority for ever and ever. Amen
Martin Luther King Jr.

BLESSING

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