

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 JANUARY 2025

PAUSE

Lord, as we wait in this new season of the year, we become aware of your presence: we open our eyes to your beauty: we open our ears as you speak softly to us: we open our hearts to your love. Fill us with Hope now in anticipation of the wonder of the Word incarnate in the person of Jesus who has come as Christ among us.

REJOICE

**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.
How precious is your unfailing love, O God!
All humanity finds shelter in the shadow of your wings.**

Psalm 36: 5 - 7

GIVE THANKS

Lord, we give thanks for the awareness of and progress made in the solving of social problems in Australia and world-wide.

We thank you for reform in:

- **Social media:** We pray for the safety and mental health of our children, particularly in the social media environment. We give thanks for those committed to safeguard our children online and for those working to address the shortcomings of government regulations. May the fight to expose the manipulative practices including data harvesting, profiling, and security issues continue that the forces that prey on them may be defeated.
- **Domestic violence:** That the hidden evil of domestic and sexual violence is exposed and universally condemned, and that progress is made to educate children and men through schools, football clubs, and corporations. We pray against the killing of women everywhere remembering especially in the communities in the Northern Territory. May

funding for teaching and social reform increase to ensure all families are safe in their own homes.

- **Gambling**

Lord, thank you that some headway has been made to diminish the disastrous effects of online gambling on individuals and the community through loss of appalling amounts of money which should otherwise be spent to support families. We pray against the influence on the gambling lobby that stands in the way of halting the advertising of gambling on the TV. Lord, you look on your children and weep when you see the waste and the lost opportunity. Thank you for those who continue to fight to end this social evil. We pray for reform to continue.

- **Reform and strengthening of the NDIS and Aged Care:** Lord, thank you for our social benefits that provide help and relief to so many people who struggle to support family members with a range of disabilities. We pray for the efficiency and effectiveness of the NDIS to reach those whose lives are dependent on its help. We thank you too for all the church and other charities that provide support and help. We pray that our society, in difficult cost of living times, will be generous with giving and volunteering.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

2 Corinthians 1: 3-4

OPEN PRAYER

Lord we pray for children worldwide. We pray for their safety from the terrible effects of war, civil unrest, decadent and corrupt governments, and drug addiction.

We pray for children who are caught up in war zones where there are freezing temperatures at this time and limited shelter for them. We pray for an end to the war in Ukraine, Gaza and Lebanon and Israel.

We pray for our youth in Australia whose lives reflect a lack of security, nurture, and education in their proclivity to violence and crime. We pray that more will be done in prevention, and we pray for the reform of the youth justice system where more programmes will be provided to create opportunities for youth to reclaim some learning and skills which will be useful for them in life.

Lord Jesus, as you wept over Jerusalem, surely you weep for these desolate children, and would gather them as a hen gathers its chickens. We pray with you for these people.

OPEN PRAYER

Lord, we pray for all disaster spots in the world, particularly Gaza and Sudan, where aid is being blocked to victims of war, and famine is rife among people already made homeless.

We thank you for all brave humanitarian workers facing imminent danger from explosions and gunfire, as well as interrogation and sometimes torture from warring sides.

Protect them and deliver them, Lord we pray.

YIELD

Come Holy Spirit, breathe down upon our troubled world.
Shake the tired foundations of our crumbling institutions,
Break the rules that keep you out of all our sacred spaces,
and from the dust and rubble,
Gather up the seedlings of a new creation.
Come Holy Spirit,
Whose justice outwits international conspiracy,
Whose peace can halt our patriarchal hunger
For dominance and control.
...Create new life, now and forever.

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.

Amen.