

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 28th MARCH 2024



PAUSE

**God rest us.
Rest that part of us which is tired.
Awaken that part of us which is asleep.
God awaken us and awake within us. *Leunig***

REJOICE and give thanks

**Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed,
for his compassions never fail.
They are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness. *Lamentations 3: 22-23.***

Lord, we give thanks for our retiring collection contributing last week to the churches of Gaza. And we pray for all who shelter within the churches. We pray especially for safety, and for the comfort of your Spirit. We give thanks for the faithfulness of those who, as your hands and feet, work for Seed.

If you say, "Goodbye and have a good day, stay warm and eat well" – but then you don't give that person any food or clothing what good does that do? Faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless. *James 2: 16-17 (NLT)*

OPEN PRAYER

ASK

Lord, we are overwhelmed by the vast and ever-increasing numbers of displaced persons escaping with almost nothing from areas of warfare, and from environmental disasters. We lament civil war, inter-tribal war, power struggles, and disregard for the human rights of whole populations of people. We lament failure to engage in discussion before resorting to war. We lament the ever-widening gap between the haves and the have-nots, and the desperate search of the under-privileged for a way to survive.

**Whoever has chosen to make
the shelter of the Most-High their dwelling place
will stay in His over-shadowing. Psalm 91: 1**

Lord, we pray for the hundreds of children who face starvation in coming weeks because of violence and natural disaster. We pray for women and children and elderly in Afghanistan, especially those who are cold and hungry because of the now largely forgotten earthquake. And we pray for families in Haiti who are displaced because of violence. We pray for necessities of life for all.

Loving Father, we pray for children and others trapped in danger of death. Root out the evil in hearts of those who would seek to harm them. We pray for the children of Gaza facing starvation. Hasten aid, Lord to feed and comfort them.

OPEN PRAYER

We remember displaced people groups:

- The people of Gaza, internally displaced. We pray that the funds that were raised last weekend in our Parish will help bring meals and other aid for people sheltering in the churches, and for those sheltering in hospitals and mosques.
- The Rohingya, most in Bangladesh, Malaysia and India, now largely forgotten, unable to settle permanently anywhere.
- Dafur refugees displaced to Chad, a country unable to cope even with their own needs.
- Kurdish people displaced from Kurdish Syrian territories and now established by the Kurdish Regional Government and UNHCR in Domiz Refugee Camp in semi-autonomous Iraqi Kurdistan.
- Large numbers of Palestinians displaced in earlier conflicts, now almost half of them in Jordan, Syria and Lebanon, still relying on the good-will of leaders of these countries.
- The Myanmar people on the Thailand border unable to return safely.

Lord Jesus, as you wept over Jerusalem, surely you weep for these displaced people, and would like to gather them as a hen gathers its chickens, under its wings. We pray with you for these situations and the people caught up in them.

OPEN PRAYER

We pray for the people of Russia, especially those who have courage to stand against brutality and corruption in their country. We pray that the ground invasion of Southern Gaza will be halted and the worldwide calls for a truce and freedom of hostages will be heeded. And we ask for wisdom to prevail on both sides, before greater catastrophe occurs. We pray for more border crossings, and that the aid convoys will be allowed in. Lord, above all, we pray for peace.

YIELD

**Breath of Life,
You ride the waves of life with us
in the rhythms of our communication with you.
You enter the comings and goings
of each day and in every prayer we breathe
whether in the stillness of quiet prayer
or in the fullness of the day's activity,
may your peace flow through our beings. Amen** *Joyce Rupp*

BLESSING

**May the blessing of God, the eternal goodwill of God, the shalom of God, the wildness
as your hands and feet and the warmth of God, be among us and between us, now and
always. Amen**