

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 1<sup>st</sup> August 2024



### PAUSE

**I kindle my soul at the forge of the Soul Smith**

**Spark of life**

**Spark of love**

**Spark of light,**

**Companion my quest this day**

**Till I come home at twilight.**

*Celtic Devotional*

### REJOICE and give thanks

**I will sing of your steadfast love**

**Forever, my Beloved;**

**With forthright voice I will proclaim your goodness to all generations.**

**For your abiding Love rules the universe,**

**Your faithfulness extends throughout the firmament.**

**Your covenant from the beginning of time**

**Encompasses all who choose to walk the path of Love;**

**And to all generations that honour your way and your truth**

**Will Love make itself known.**

*Psalms for Praying*

**And give thanks...** for our strong, resilient indigenous people who continue to work tirelessly for reconciliation and truth telling, who, like our Aunty Jean, have spent their lives courageously supporting the poor and disadvantaged among them, bringing messages of hope and love, but not shying away from the truth of history. We are thankful for the wisdom of their elders in restoring culture among their young. We are grateful for their vibrant culture especially in the arts. Help us all to acknowledge our debt to their ancient systems of knowledge and care for the land.

### ASK

#### **People world-wide facing natural disasters**

**Holy God, Creator and lover of all that is, we have failed in our care for our world.** Give us grace to work together for the healing of our environment and enable us to plan for the challenges of the future. Thank you for the amazing new scientific discoveries that promise better ways of

generating, managing and storing power, and conserving resources. We pray for those who have lost homes and livelihoods due to climate change. We pray for the poorest who are those most often in need. Flashpoints: typhoons in the Philippines, Taiwan and China; floods, and landslides in China; extreme heat in Croatia, Saudi Arabia, India (floods), Bangladesh; firestorms in California and Canada; humanitarian crises in Afghanistan, Gaza-Israel, Haiti, Horn of Africa, Sudan.

### **Open Prayer**

#### **World elections**

Lord, as the world elects new leaders we pray urgently for your will to be done: that wise and powerful leaders will be elected who will care for all levels of society, obey international law, work for peace and the alleviation of poverty, join the international effort to forestall global warming, protect independent media, and preserve democracy.

**I pray for all leaders of Your people. I pray that they will not lead selfishly, for personal ambition or vain conceit, that they will understand that leading is really a task that requires them to serve. So, Father, raise up servant leaders, in Jesus' name.**

*Based on Philippians 2:3*

### **Open Prayer**

#### **People facing injustice through racial, religious or sexual prejudice and abuse.**

We remember Christians world-wide, facing discrimination and abuse, and for political prisoners in despotic countries. We pray especially for the families of Australian women who have died this year through coercive control, and ask that those rallying for better support for women will be listened to.

#### **People caught in the terror and destruction of war**

Lord, we ask for those who have lost homes and loved ones through bombing across Ukraine. We pray against the intransigence of those who would deny peace in the Russia/Ukraine and Israel/Palestine conflicts. Lord, we are dismayed at and disappointed in the racial aggression in Australia, and pray against the influence of extremists who would ignite divisive racial passions. Strengthen the hands of those who bring understanding and cohesion to all ethnic groups.

**As you have led all generations through time of turmoil and war,  
Guide us now, Oh Blessed One along the paths of peace.**

### **Open Prayer**

#### **YIELD**

**Breath of the Merciful, teach us the way of compassion**

**That we may heed the cries of the poor;**

**That we may be merciful to those who live in the bonds of prison,  
illness and loneliness;**

**and may be strong voices in support of justice;**

**May we offer forgiveness as a healing balm. Amen**

#### **BLESSING**

**The Blessing of God, the eternal goodwill of God, the shalom of God, the wildness and the warmth of God, be among us and between us, now and always. The Divine Spirit dwells in us. Thanks be to God. Amen**