

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 9 May 2025**

### **PAUSE**

**O Bringer of Joy, Awaken my heart;  
Pour your love and blessings  
through all my being.  
Free me from attachments and desire,  
that I may become a clear mirror,  
reflecting your love to the world.**

*Psalm 143 Psalms for Praying, Nan Merrill*

### **REJOICE**

**You, O Divine Breath, dwell within our hearts;  
With unconditional love you assuage our fears.  
You call us to holiness, justice and integrity  
To free those bound by oppression,  
To bring light where ignorance and darkness dwell.**

*Psalm 110 Psalms for Praying, Nan Merrill*

### **GIVE THANKS**

Lord, we give thanks for the respect the people of Australia have for the results of the election, for the graciousness with which leaders have responded and the openness with which those results are discussed and reviewed.

We pray the government, in its incoming term, will lead the country in a path of peace, justice, and fairness for all Australians.

### **We pray for the Australian Government:**

- For a big change in the way our parliament is conducted, that while robust argument may be conducted on policy, combative personal vilification will be abolished and respect upheld as an example to the Australian people.

- For calm and measured diplomacy in this troubled and often chaotic international climate, that ways of reason and calm will create positive outcomes, setting an atmosphere for peaceful and fruitful negotiations.
- For wise alliances to be forged in the light of the changing international landscape and that Australian strength, stability and independence will be maintained.
- For the government to strive for opportunity to be open to all Australians currently struggling in difficult economic conditions to access all the staples of life; adequate food, homes, health, education and employment.
- For genuine progress to be made for economic reform where needed and to increase productivity without harm. Fairness for all in the process.

## **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.*

Lord we pray for the Australian people:

- Peaceful, respectful race relations among various ethnic groups, and that while deep scars of past hurts need to be healed in the hearts of many, respect and love for their fellow Australians will encourage peaceful and constructive dialogue.
- Successful ways of combating the appalling rates of domestic violence that so badly affect the lives of the vulnerable. Lord, show those who would inflict violence the way of love and respect.
- Closing the Gap: That known ways of improving the lives of indigenous people, their health, housing, education and employment be funded and enabled by those who can make a difference in the actual lives of these people. Lord, heal them from past trauma.
- Youth justice: That indigenous rates of incarceration and recidivism be diminished by addressing the root causes, and known methods of rehabilitation.
- For continuing support for those suffering from the effects of natural disasters, the recent floods, cyclones and bushfires.

## **OPEN PRAYER**

**For our loving creator does not turn away from the afflicted  
And does not hide from them:  
But their cries are heard, and their prayers rise up to heaven.**

*Psalms for Praying: Nan Merrill*

We pray for countries in conflict:

- For relief for the people of Gaza from the heartless bombing and killing, from the blocking of all aid and supplies: Lord, make the oppressors listen to the voices of their people and cease. Make the recalcitrant seek successful negotiation and release the captives. Bring food to these poor people on the verge of starvation.

- For peace negotiations between Ukraine and Russia to proceed: for the end to this unjust war and the relief of the citizens and soldiers.
- For the growing flood of people in Africa 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 the people of Myanmar, suffering from conflict and devastated by the recent earthquake.

## **OPEN PRAYER**

**The nations may be at war, countries left in ruins  
 Yet is the voice of the Almighty heard,  
 slowly breaking through the hearts of stone.  
 The Beloved is ever with us, the infinite Heart of Love.**

*Psalm 46 Psalms for Praying: Nan Merrill*

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

## **YIELD**

**We give thanks for places of simplicity and peace. Let us find such a place within ourselves. We give thanks for places of refuge and beauty. Let us find such a place within ourselves. We give thanks for places of nature's truth and freedom, of joy, inspiration and renewal, places where all creatures may find acceptance and belonging. Let us search for these places in the world, in ourselves and others. Let us restore them. Let us strengthen and protect them and let us create them.**

**May we mend this outer world according to the truth of our inner life and may our souls be shaped and nourished by nature's eternal wisdom.**

**Amen**

*Leunig: A Common Prayer*

## **BLESSING**

**God hold you, enfold you,  
 And keep you wrapped around His heart.**

**Amen**