



THE UNITED PARISH

Christ Church & St John's

Week of Prayer

Monday 10th– Friday 14th January 2022

Introduction

Once again we embark on a New Year, with the priority of placing prayer at the centre of our rhythm. Every term, I as Rector am encouraged that we set aside this time to seek God who is always faithful. The Scriptures remind us time and time again of how God travels with his people throughout the seasons, and therefore we are confident of his presence with us.

Prayer is spiritual nutrition. Just as the body needs physical food, so the soul needs spiritual food. **Prayer changes us.** However, the Bible goes much further than this. **Prayer is powerful.** It is, as Charles Haddon Spurgeon put it, 'the slender nerve that moves the muscles of omnipotence.' Prayer has the power to change circumstances, other people and even the course of history.

This prayer booklet will provide you with all the information about our Week of Prayer. It also provides sample prayers for those members of our church family who due to age or illness will not be able to attend but who wish to pray from home.

Importance of Prayer

For those that are not used to praying together, it is important to remember why it is important to make prayer a priority:

Prayer changes circumstances

Our prayers can make a difference to what happens. 'The Lord is far from the wicked but he *hears the prayer* of the righteous' (Proverbs 15:29).

Prayer changes people

This is why the early church was so powerful. Prayer was a regular habit for the believers. Acts 16:16 says that we would go together to the place of prayer. Therefore praying wasn't just an activity done on your own, people gathered together frequently. The power that came from their prayers was due to them praying in the powerful name of Jesus their saviour. As you pray remember the name of Jesus is so powerful.

Also, there is absolutely no situation that doesn't require us to pray. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 says

'Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus'. We see examples where Paul was in prison and having prayed and worshipped rather than panicking, incredible things happened including earthquakes and prison doors being opened. Therefore pray in continually and with confidence that God hears.

Prayer changes the future course of events

We read in Matthew 1 of the genealogy of Jesus, right from Abraham through to David and then to Jesus. Who would have thought that the actions of God's people in the Old Testament would impact on the New. God had said to David, 'Your house and your kingdom shall endure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever' (2 Samuel 7:16). David had prayed, 'And now, Lord God, keep forever the promise you have made concerning your servant and his house. Do as you promised, so that your name will be great forever. Then people will say, "The Lord Almighty is God over Israel!" And the house of your servant David will be established before you' (vv.25-26).

The Lord heard David's prayer. The impact of David's prayer was to change the course of history. David had lived a righteous life ('except in the case of Uriah the Hittite'). However, the New Testament tells us that every person that believes in Jesus is in a better position than David was. Through Jesus' death and resurrection, you are righteous before God. God hears the prayers of the righteous. So, because of Jesus, your prayers also can change the course of history.

Schedule

So I am asking everyone to commit the week of 10th – 14th January to prayer. Ideally I would like people to physically meet each evening, but I am very aware that for some elderly folks this will not be possible. Therefore I hope that this simple prayer booklet will provide enough sample prayers so that you may join with us from your homes. I'd ask that if you are fit and able to attend the prayer gatherings, that you put these dates in your diaries. The schedule for our meetings will be as follows :

Monday 10th January	St John's
Tuesday 11th January	Christ Church
Wednesday 12th January	St John's
Thursday 13th January	Christ Church
Friday 14th January	From our homes

Each night will commence at **7:30pm** with a theme to direct our prayers

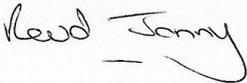
Mon. Going deeper – the importance of God's Word & Prayer

Tue. Reaching out in love – praying for our Compassion ministries

Wed. Shaping a new generation – praying for our young people

Thur. A pastoral heart – praying for the needs of others

Fri. This night we will pray at home for our own needs



Rector & Pastor

Monday: Going deeper – the importance of God’s Word & Prayer

General Collect

Blessed Lord,
who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning:
help us so to hear them,
to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them
that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word,
we may embrace and for ever hold fast
the hope of everlasting life,
which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Sample prayers

Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank you for giving us your holy Gospel and revealing your love to us. In your boundless mercy, help us hold on to this blessed light of your Word, and through your Holy Spirit govern and guide our hearts, so that we may never stray from it, but hold fast to it and finally be saved; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O Lord, our Maker, Redeemer and Comforter, we are gathered in your presence to hear your holy Word. Open our hearts by your Holy Spirit, that through the preaching of your Word we may be taught to repent of our sins, to believe in Jesus in life and in death, and to grow day by day in grace and holiness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord God, heavenly Father, we most heartily thank you that by your Word you have brought us out of the darkness of error into the light of your grace. Mercifully help us to walk in that light, guard us from all error and false doctrine and grant that we may not become ungrateful and despise and persecute your Word, as your people did long ago, but receive it with all our heart, govern our lives according to it and put all our trust in your grace through the merit of your dear Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever. **Amen**

Tuesday: Reaching out in love, praying for our Compassion ministries

General Collect

Almighty God,
who called your Church to bear witness
that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself:
help us to proclaim the good news of your love,
that all who hear it may be drawn to you;
through him who was lifted up on the cross,
and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Sample Prayers

God, you have given all peoples on common origin. It is your will that they be gathered together as one family in yourself. Fill the hearts of humankind with the fire of your love and with the desire to ensure justice for all. By sharing the good things you give us, may we secure an equality for all our brothers and sisters throughout the world. May there be an end to division, strife, and war. May there be a dawning of a truly human society built on love and peace. We ask this through Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. **Amen.**

Grant us, Lord God, a vision of your world as your love would have it: a world where the weak are protected, and none go hungry or poor; a world where the riches of creation are shared, and everyone can enjoy them; a world where different races and cultures live in harmony and mutual respect; a world where peace is built with justice, and justice is guided by love. Give us the inspiration and courage to build it, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Spirit of God, We have heard your call to share in building up the Kingdom of God. Fill us with the desire to change ourselves and to change our community. Enflame our passion for justice into a commitment to address unjust situations and structures. Deepen our concern for our sisters and brothers who endure the burdens of poverty. Let us enthusiastically play our part in the mission of the Church in the modern world. Banish any complacency in our hearts and minds. Teach us to recognize the lack of justice. May we always act in the Spirit of justice. May we envisage, pray about and create a different sort of world in which injustice is replaced with a renewed sense of solidarity and care. Enlivened by the Spirit, may we go forth in the peace of the Holy Spirit to love and serve the Lord. **Amen**

Wed. Shaping a new generation: praying for our young people

General Collect

God of compassion,
whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary,
shared the life of a home in Nazareth,
and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself:
strengthen our young people in their daily living
that in the joys and challenges as they grow
they may know the power of your presence
seeking to walk with you
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Sample Prayers

Lord God, we praise you that you are fully in control of all things. I pray you would protect our young people. Keep them healthy and help them to thrive. I thank you that you know every hair on their head. You know exactly when they rise and when they fall. Watch over our children in every area of their life and keep them safe I pray,
Amen.

Thank You, Lord, for our youth & children's ministries that are being used to share the gospel of Jesus with a range of young people. I pray that You would draw each one closer to Yourself as they meet together for fellowship, fun and to learn more about You. **Amen**

Lord, I pray that You would use such youth ministries to strengthen and encourage all those that have come to know you as their saviour, so that they may grow spiritually. And Lord, for those young people both in our church family and also in our town who do not yet know You, I pray that you would convict each one of their need of a Saviour, so that they may come to faith through the Word of God and the witness of these youth fellowships and ministries. **Amen**

Protect them from the wiles of the enemy, who would seek to undermine their trust in You, but rather equip each one to look to Jesus rather than to the things of the world. May they grow in grace and become an effective witness to friends and family, not only in what they say but in the godly way that they behave. In Jesus' name,
Amen

Thursday: A pastoral heart – praying for the needs of others

General Collect

God of compassion,
you have shown us in Christ,
that your love is never ending:
enable us both to love you with all our heart
and to love one another as Christ loved us.
Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Sample Prayers

Dear Lord, I pray for those in our church family who are in need right now. I pray that you will help them with the struggles they are going through in this season. For you know exactly what they need in this moment. Draw near to them and let them feel your presence. Open their eyes, ears, and hearts to you. Help them have the discernment to hear your voice as you lead them in their next steps. Speak to them as they read your word and bring verses of encouragement and comfort to their attention. I pray that you will calm any fear or anxiety they may be feeling. Replace it with the confidence to obey your word and to trust you. I pray that your guidance will be clear to them from this day forward. In your name, I pray. **Amen.**

Father God of all healing, We pray for all doctors, nurses and emergency workers. May they rejoice in the skills you have given them which enable them to bring hope, healing and wholeness to those in their care. May they also know guidance and support in times of pain and frustration when their skills are not enough to prevent permanent injury, disability or death. Bless each one of them, that they may be a blessing to others. We pray this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Heavenly Father, you call us each to different work in your kingdom, according to the gifts you've bestowed upon us. Today, I pray especially for those you've called into pastoral ministry, to be leaders and teachers in your church. Keep your call fresh in their hearts, renewing and refreshing their spirit for the work ahead. May they be people who seek out the lost, the lonely, the sick, and care with the love that comes from you. May they seek your counsel daily, seeking your wisdom and guidance as they give spiritual guidance to others. Fill them with patience, peace, and joy for their work, remembering you are with them even when the work is hard, for you are faithful to equip those who obey your call. Help me Lord to not place expectations on our leaders, but to place them in your care and guidance. All this I pray through your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Friday: This night we will pray at home for our own needs

General Collect

Almighty God, we entrust all who are dear to us to thy never-failing care and love, for this life and the life to come, knowing that thou art doing for them better things than we can desire or pray for; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sample Prayers

God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference, living one day at a time; enjoying one moment at a time; taking this world as it is and not as I would have it; trusting that You will make all things right if I surrender to Your will; so that I may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with You forever in the next. **Amen.**

Help us Lord to stand with those who we love the most,
To make the coffee and hold the hand
To offer the handkerchief and provide the shoulder
To listen, to love, to laugh, to let be.
Help us to stand with those in our care.

Help us to comfort those we love who are ill,
To do the shopping and take the post
To bring some flowers and wear a smile
To plump the pillow and pour the water.
Help us to comfort those who are ill.

Help us to understand the needs of those we care for the most,
The time to talk, the time for silence
The time to pray, the time to cry
The time to hug, the time to leave.
Help us to understand the needs of others.

Help us to ask for your help, Lord,
To find the time and to use it well
To ask for advice and to seek support
To stay strong, to be sensitive, to care, to be a friend.
Help us to ask for your help, Lord. In Jesus' name, **Amen.**

Sample Prayers for different situations

God of everlasting love, you generously provide all things for us. We pray for people everywhere: make your way known to them, your saving power among all nations (especially we pray for...).

We pray for the welfare of your church here on earth: guide and govern it by your good Spirit, so that all who call themselves Christians may be led in the way of truth, and hold the faith in unity of spirit, in the bond of peace, and in righteousness of life (especially we pray for...).

We commend to your fatherly goodness all who are afflicted or distressed in body, mind or circumstances (especially we pray for...).

Relieve them according to their needs, give them patience in their sufferings, and deliver them from all their afflictions. All this we ask for the sake of Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

A Prayer for Peace

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of Peace, as children of one Father; to whom be dominion and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A Prayer for the poor and neglected

Almighty and most merciful God, we remember before you all poor and neglected persons whom it would be easy for us to forget: the homeless and the destitute, the old and the sick, and all who have none to care for them. Help us to heal those who are broken in body or spirit, and to turn their sorrow into joy. Grant this, Father, for the love of your Son, who for our sake became poor, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Prayer for those who are aged

Look with mercy, O God our Father, on all whose increasing years bring them weakness, distress, or isolation. Provide for them homes of dignity and peace; give them understanding helpers and family, and the willingness to accept help; and, as their strength diminishes, increase their faith and their assurance of your love. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayers for those in trouble or bereaved

O God, who brought us to birth, and in whose arms we die, in our grief and shock contain and comfort us; embrace us with your love, give us hope in our confusion and grace to let go into new life; through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Father, you know our hearts and share our sorrows. We are hurt by our parting from those whom we loved: when we are angry at the loss we have sustained, when we long for words of comfort, yet find them hard to hear, turn our grief to truer living, our affliction to firmer hope in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Gracious God, surround us and all who mourn this day with your continuing compassion. Do not let grief overwhelm your children, or turn them against you. When grief seems never-ending, take them one step at a time along your road of death and resurrection in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Prayer for those in hospital

Lord God, whose Son, Jesus Christ, understood people's fear and pain before they spoke of them, we pray for those in hospital; surround the frightened with your tenderness; give strength to those in pain; hold the weak in your arms of love, and give hope and patience to those who are recovering; we ask this through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen**

General Collects for Morning

O God, the author of peace and lover of concord,
to know you is eternal life, and to serve you is perfect freedom:
Defend us in all assaults of our enemies,
that we, surely trusting in your protection,
may not fear the power of any adversaries;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and ever living God,
we give you thanks for bringing us safely to this day:
Keep us from falling into sin or running into danger,
and in all things guide us to know and do your will;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Go before us, Lord, in all our doings, with your most gracious favour,
and further us with your continual help; that in all our works begun,
continued and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name, and
finally by your mercy attain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our
Lord. **Amen.**

Heavenly Father, in whom we live and move and have our being:
We humbly pray that your Holy Spirit may so guide and govern us
that in all the cares and occupations of our daily life, we may never
forget your presence but may remember that we are always walking
in your sight, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

General Collects for Evening

O God from whom all holy desires all good judgements and all just
works proceed: Give to your servants that peace which the world
cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your
commandments, and that we, being defended from the fear of our
enemies, may pass our time in rest and quietness; through Jesus
Christ your Son our Lord. **Amen.**

Lighten our darkness, O Lord, we pray and in your great mercy
defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of
your only Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Grant, O Lord, that the word which we hear this day may so take
root in our hearts, that we, living in accordance with your holy will,
may ever praise and magnify your glorious name; through Jesus
Christ our Lord. **Amen.**