



Suggested Prayers - Sunday – 19 April 2020

1. A prayer of confession

Heavenly Father, we praise you for adopting us as your children in your Son Jesus Christ, who has freed us from our sins by his blood. Thank you that you love us and care for us all the time and in every way. Yet we know that this week we have failed to love you with all our heart and to serve you as we should. Give us true repentance.

Father, forgive us. Help us to love our neighbours and one another. Enable us to truly live for you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

If we say, "we have no sin," we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:8-9)

2. A prayer for our governments and world leaders as they lead us through the current crisis

Sovereign Lord, in your goodness you have appointed each authority over us and our countries. We continually pray that these leaders will be wise and seek to do good as they navigate and manage the COVID-19 pandemic.

As our governments and world leaders consider the many factors in every decision, please guard them from all sin and temptation. May they be mindful of the vulnerable, generous to the poor, and thoughtful to those on the front lines. Help our leaders to be united in the decisions they make and may each decision bring You the most glory.

In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

3. A prayer for world mission (particularly Howard & Michelle Newby)

Gracious God, you are a merciful God, wanting no one to perish but for all to be saved in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ. We thank you for continuing to raise up labourers to reach the world with the gospel.

We particularly thank you for Howard and Michelle Newby and their service in the Philippines. May this time back at home in Australia be restful and refreshing for them. As they look to update and encourage local supporters and churches please give them wisdom in their preparation in this challenging time for our world.

Please continue to work through Howard and Michelle during this time. May you use them to spur others on to share the gospel in less reached and less resourced areas of the world. Please continue to strengthen the churches and ministries in the Philippines, that they might boldly and joyfully proclaim the name of your Son Jesus Christ.

In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

4. A prayer for evangelism in light of Easter in Sydney and around Bexley, Carlton and Bexley North.

Loving Father, we thank you for the great reminder of the certain hope we have in Jesus Christ this past Easter. As we learn to share this good news in our current context may You give us creativity and perseverance as we entrust our efforts to You.

Please give us boldness to invite those around us to learn about Jesus. Help us to be thoughtful of the physical and spiritual needs of our neighbours. May our actions be a testimony to the love You have shown us through your Son. Help us to take hold of the many opportunities you give us to speak about Jesus.

As we seek to look different to the world in this time, may it bring You glory, and may it bear witness to the world's greatest need in your Son Jesus Christ. Amen.

5. A prayer for SNAC staff, Wardens and Parish Council

God Most High, we thank you for the SNAC staff, Wardens and Parish Council for bearing responsibilities and caring for us as a church family. We particularly acknowledge their efforts in helping us to continue to fellowship and engage with Your word together, despite not being able to gather physically.

Please continue to provide for them and keep them from becoming weary or discouraged during this time. Help them to find rest in You and comfort in Your word.

May you continue to give them godly wisdom as they consider how to best navigate through the different challenges our current situation brings, and to seek first Your glory in each decision. Please guard them from any sin or temptation, and may their lives be a great example of the love we have in Jesus Christ. In His name we pray, amen.

6. A prayer for Youth, Kids Church and Kids Plus ministries during this current situation

Eternal Father, we entrust our youth and kids ministries over to You in this difficult time. There have been many big and sudden changes in the way we serve and teach the youth and kids in our church family. Help the parents of our youth and kids at church to lead their children in godliness during this time. Please grant them patience as they bear with their children under these current circumstances.

Please help the Youth, Kids Church and Kids Plus leaders to respond wisely, think creatively, and to produce content that will point our children to Christ. During this time may our youth and kids recognise now more than ever Your goodness and faithfulness.

We pray that the partnership between our Youth and Kids ministry team and the parents at SNAC will be one that is united by Your Son Jesus, motivated by a genuine love to serve the young amongst us.

In Jesus name we pray, amen.

7. A prayer of thankfulness

Gracious God, our heavenly Father,

We humbly thank you for all the gifts You have so freely given us: For life and health and safety, for work, rest and friendship, and for all the wonder of creation. But above all, we praise you for our Saviour, Jesus Christ: for his death and resurrection, for your life-giving Spirit, and the hope of sharing in your glory.

Fill our hearts with all joy and peace in believing; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.