



Suggested Prayers - Sunday – 17th of May 2020

1. Opening prayer of confession

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, you made all things, and you call everyone to account. With shame we confess the sins we have committed against you, in thought, word and deed. We rightly deserve your condemnation. We turn from our sins and are truly sorry for them; they are a burden we cannot bear. Have mercy on us, most merciful Father. For the sake of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ, forgive us all that is past. Enable us to serve and please you in newness of life, to your honour and glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hear these words of assurance for those who truly turn to Christ. Jesus said: 'Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest'. (Matt 11:28)

2. A prayer for all in authority

Almighty God, ruler of the nations of the earth, give wisdom to our Prime Minister Mr. Morrison and our Premier Ms. Berejiklian and to all members of Parliament who hold office in this land. Grant that their decisions may be based on wise counsel, so that peace and welfare, truth and justice may prevail among us and make us a blessing to other nations as well.

In these times of uncertainty and fear for many in our society, please help our leaders to make wise decisions for the good of all. We particularly pray you would intervene to end the impact of the COVID-19 virus upon our lives. Until that day, Lord, give our leaders endurance and faithfulness in the roles you have appointed them to. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

3. Prayer for World Mission, CMS and particularly the Sholl family

Heavenly Father, thank you for your love for all peoples and that you desire peoples from every tribe and nation to know you and be known by you.

We give you thanks for our partners in the Gospel, Peter and Sarah Sholl along with Karina, Lucy and Miriam. Thank you for blessing their work for your Kingdom in Latin America. Thank you for the countless opportunities Pete has had to train and equip leaders using the biblical training materials of MOCLAM. Thank you for the many women Sarah has discipled to maturity in the Lord Jesus. Thank you for sustaining their family as they have served you in that part of the world.

Now, Lord, as the Sholl family plans their return to Australia for the long term we ask that you would help them to finish well in Monterrey. Give them energy as they hand over ministries and pack up their life in that city. Help them to cope with the uncertainty that COVID-19 brings to their plans to return to Australia.

In your good pleasure, please continue to bless the work they have been doing even though it is now in new hands. Please bring many in Latin America into relationship with yourself through your Son.

We also pray for CMS as they care for their missionaries around the world. You know the financial challenges they currently face so give wisdom to the CMS leadership. Please also, Lord, inspire generosity in the hearts of believers in Australia that CMS may continue their work of sending our missionaries out to the nations with the life-giving message of Jesus.

Amen.

4. A prayer for our children and youth

Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you that you love children and desire that they too come to love and serve your Son. We pray for all the children of our church, that each would know your love and each would have an assured faith in Jesus. Give them peace in believing that helps them to deal with the uncertainties of the world right now.

Please protect our children as they return to schools and continue in day care. Help them to be resistant to the COVID virus and give them that childhood joy that comes from playing with friends.

We pray our children will see the example of the adults in our church through this time as a great encouragement to live a life of godliness with a deep desire to serve and proclaim Jesus in our world that is so desperate for hope. Amen.

5. A prayer for “Serving Together” in these unusual times

God of the Universe, you did not remain distant but instead sent your Son, full of truth and grace, to serve us and save us. Teach us to follow the example of Jesus.

Although we cannot serve each other in all the same ways we have in the past, please help us not to consider ourselves better than others but to give of ourselves to care for, love and serve your people in our church. Help us to be creative in finding new ways to encourage other people, helpful ways to care for practical and physical needs, thoughtfulness to reach out to those most isolated and a heart to share the burdens we see others carrying in this moment.

Help us to glorify your name as we follow Jesus who first served us. Amen.

6. A prayer for the Bexley North 4:30pm congregation

Great God, thank you for the Bexley North 4:30pm congregation. Thank you for establishing this congregation and bringing new people to join. Although the congregation cannot meet face-to-face we ask that you would strengthen relationships and help each member to joyfully serve those you have gathered in whatever ways they can.

As members continue to meet in Gospel Teams, in partnership with the morning congregation, give them a great unity in the Gospel. Help each member to use the gifts you have given them for the good of the whole body, that each may grow fully into maturity as a follower of your Son.

And Lord, beyond the current restrictions, we pray that 4:30 church will be a great place for people in the Bexley North community to come and find the message of life that Jesus offers when gatherings can resume.

Amen.

7. A prayer for us as we follow Jesus this week

Eternal God, shepherd of your people, we feel the fleeting passage of life, we know how fragile we are on this planet, so teach us to number our days under you. Help us, this week, to remember that your Word stands forever and that fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

Please lead us this week, as pilgrims through all the valleys of life, with the great hope and confident assurance that comes in light of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, your Son, who has been raised and is seated at your right hand and who will return to fully establish his Kingdom, forever. Amen.