



## **Suggested Prayers - Sunday – 26<sup>th</sup> of July 2020**

### **1. A prayer of thanksgiving and praise**

Father God, you are praiseworthy above all other things, for by you will all things exist and have their being. You have created the earth by the power of your word, giving order and purpose to all things. In wisdom, you have set boundaries for the sea and the land and given humans pride of place over all creatures you have made. We praise you Father, for your saving acts, delivering your people from slavery to sin, redeeming them by the blood of your eternal Son, Jesus Christ. We thank you for your mercy and grace to us, that while we were your enemies, you came and walked among us. We thank you for not only forgiving our sin but for making us sons and daughters, coheirs of eternal life with Christ our Lord. Glory, honour, and praise be to your name, and to the Son, now and forever, Amen.

### **2. A prayer of confession**

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have gone our own way, not loving you as we ought, nor loving our neighbour as ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed and in what we have failed to do. We deserve your condemnation. Father forgive us. Help us to love you and our neighbour, and to live for your honour and glory; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

Thank you Father, for the words of 1 John 1:9, that if we confess our sins, you are faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness, Amen.

### **3. A prayer for Australia, the world and COVID-19**

God of the nations, you are sovereign over all things, nothing escapes your grasp. Please have mercy on this world and restrain Covid-19 from spreading any further. Please give world governments the wisdom to make decisions that are for the good of their people, protecting their health and livelihoods as far as possible. Please help the nations to submit to their governments trying to keep peace and order in these trying times. Father, we pray for our own country and the recent surge in Covid-19 cases in Victoria and NSW. We pray that you would help this country to manage the outbreaks as best we can so that our lives can continue to function with some degree of normality. We pray in particular for Christians, that we would use this opportunity to proclaim a message of good news to our friends and family, holding out hope through faith in Jesus, the only one who can rescue us from death. Please keep us calm during these difficult times and help us to remain steadfast in prayer. It is our prayer that you would somehow cause these events to open up an opportunity for the gospel to be proclaimed and for many to repent unto Christ, in whose name we pray, Amen.

#### **4. A prayer for Kellie Nicholas (CMS)**

Heavenly Father, thank you for the gospel of Jesus Christ, that you have opened up a way for all people to know Christ and to be saved by his blood from every corner of the globe. Please continue to send out gospel workers from among us and from every church that calls Jesus their Lord. We thank you for our sister Kellie Nicholas in Japan. Please continue to give her the strength and energy she needs to carry on her work of proclaiming Jesus through this time of online meetings and physical distancing. Please work in the people of Japan, especially the students that Kellie meets with, that they would be stirred up to seek you with all their hearts. During this time, which has been particularly strenuous, please give many people new hope in the Lord Jesus and his word, that they might come to share in the life that is eternal and unfading. Please also grant Kellie many opportunities to share Jesus with the people she meets and those who live around her. Please give her boldness, so that the power of the gospel might be evident, bringing forth fruit by the Holy Spirit. Lord please also stir up our hearts, that each of us would grow in our prayerfulness and generosity in supporting overseas mission. In Jesus name, Amen.

#### **5. Gospel team leaders**

Lord God, we thank you that you have made yourself known in and through the person of Jesus, that all the scriptures are concerning him, for he came into this world to achieve what we could not, justifying and cleansing us from sin. We thank you for the way that gospel teams have continued to encourage and strengthen each of us in our faith recently. We especially thank you for the work that you are doing in those who are leading gospel teams. We pray for them that they will apply themselves to the work of ministry, expounding the scriptures and helping others to understand them. We pray that you would be at work in their personal lives, that their knowledge of the scriptures would be paired with an appropriate expression of faith and conduct. We pray that you would give each of them the desire to be hospitable, to be gentle, discerning and generous to their members, making every effort to lead your people in truth and love. We pray this for your glory, Amen.

#### **6. A prayer for us as we live for Jesus this week**

Father God, we thank you for the love that you've shown to each one of us who've come to call you Father. We thank you for the gift of your Spirit who has opened our eyes, who has given us new birth into a living hope through Jesus Christ. Just as you first loved us, please renew us in our love for you and our love for one another this week. Help us to make time, as a matter of priority, to read your word and speak to you in prayer each day. Make known to us the sin that continues to deceive us, that we might work against it, throwing off what belongs to the old, and putting on the new, that is Christ. Give us a deep concern for our brothers and sisters in Christ, those who will inherit all things along with us, help us to outdo each other in showing honour. Help us to have a heart for the lost, giving us the courage to invite our friends and family to come and discover the love we have found in Jesus. May all of our lives, both that which can be seen and that which is hidden, glorify you on the day Christ returns to call us home, Amen.