



Suggested Prayers - Sunday – 30th of August 2020

1. A thanksgiving prayer

Almighty God, our creator and redeemer. We praise you for your work of creation; for the beauty of the world around us and for every gift we enjoy. We thank you for creating us to know you, love you and obey you. Most of all we thank you for your amazing love in sending your Son, to take the punishment we deserve and to give us life in all its fullness.

We praise you and we thank you through Jesus Christ our risen Lord. Amen.

2. A prayer for leaders over our justice system

God of Justice and ruler over all, we praise you for you are sovereign and powerful. We pray now for the leaders and policy makers of our country. We especially pray for those who are in authority in our justice system. Lord, according to your wisdom, we pray you would use them to serve the good of the people, seeking to enact what is right, just and fair.

We pray for those who work in law enforcement. We pray that you would strengthen them in the task of upholding justice and protecting the vulnerable. Please give them wisdom and integrity in their work and that those who have faith in you speak and model the gospel in their workplace.

Most of all Father, we pray that while we live in a world where injustice exists, that you would remind us that you rule and that all people will be held to account for what they have done. Remind us that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow and every tongue confess that he is Lord, to the glory of God the Father, Amen (Phil. 2:10–11).

3. A prayer for growing disciples in light of Philipians 1

Heavenly Father, we praise and thank you for the new life we have in the gospel. We thank you that you who began a good work in us will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. Thank you, that by your Spirit, you commit to changing us to become more and more like your Son.

As we meet in gospel teams, Sunday gatherings and one-to-one, we pray with the Apostle Paul that we would keep growing in knowledge and every kind of discernment, so that we might approve the things that are superior and be pure and blameless in the day of Christ. Fill us with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ to the praise and glory of your name. Amen.

4. Prayer for those who are suffering, lonely & vulnerable

God of comfort and Father of mercies (2 Cor. 1:3), we pray for the suffering, lonely and vulnerable at this time. We pray for those who are suffering from illness, that you would provide healing and relief. We pray for those who are lonely and are feeling unloved, that they would be cared for. We pray for the vulnerable, struggling with anxieties and fear, physical or mental abuse. Please give them hope.

Lord God, we know that this is found most profoundly in the gospel of your Son. In your mercy, please comfort the afflicted by drawing them to yourself. We pray that people might see their need for a saviour and turn and trust in Jesus. May Christians make the most of this time to point others to Him. In his name and for your glory, Amen.

5. Prayer for World Mission and the McDowells

Gracious God, we praise and thank you that the gospel is for every nation, tribe and language. How beautiful are the feet of those who announce the gospel of good things! (Rom. 10:15) We especially thank you for the privilege to partner with Samuel, Kate, (Thomas, Lydia and Benjamin) McDowell as they share the gospel in Paraguay.

Father, we praise you that despite many restrictions during this time, they have seen many ways in which you have been at work and have opened new doors for the gospel. Thank you that Paraguay has been spared the worst of the pandemic so far and thank you for your generous provision for the McDowells during this time.

We pray Father, that as the rate of coronavirus cases increases and the patience of the people in quarantine runs low, please grant mercy and protection. We pray that you would protect Samuel and Kate as they use the resources you have given to reach out and help the sick. Please give them strength and patience as they deal with the increased burdens of double home school (Australian and Paraguayan) and the increased pressures of daily life under quarantine restrictions. We pray that you would grow their faith in you, trusting that you work all things for the good of those who love you (Rom. 8:28). In Jesus' name, Amen.

6. A prayer for the week ahead

Eternal God and Father, by whose power we are created and by whose love we are redeemed, guide and strengthen us by your Spirit, that we may give ourselves to your service and live this week in love to one another and to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.