

Prayers 05 September 2021

In response to the message

Our gracious Lord and heavenly Father, we thank you for this magnificent vision of gifts of the Spirit which are mightily used for building up the body of Christ. We thank you for the reminder of what we've seen over these last three chapters; that every one of us has a gift from you for the building up of the body and for use in the common good and in the way of love which seeks the best for others.

So Father, may it never be that we seek to use our gifts to puff ourselves up, but rather to build up the body. And may unbelievers, when they come among us, only conclude that you are truly, really, wonderfully among us.

Father help us to continue to learn from these chapters so that the body of Christ will always be shaped by your word, for your glory, in Jesus' name. Amen.

COVID situation across NSW

Gracious God,

With heavy hearts, we bring the Covid situation across our state before You.

We confess the times where our frustration, fear and confusion has gotten the better of us, and we've expressed these emotions in unedifying, unhelpful and inappropriate ways.

While our focus naturally is on case numbers out here in the regions, we do pray for a broader perspective which inclines our prayers and thoughts across our state, nation and around the globe.

Strengthen and encourage Premier Berejiklian and all other leaders, charged with the unenviable task of making decisions in these unprecedented times.

Grant all leaders compassion, humility and integrity as they govern us.

Thank you for the tireless efforts of all front-line workers. Grant them protection, energy and rest.

Father of compassion, we pray that You will intervene and stop the spread of the virus. Bring an end to the deaths and other serious infections.

Grant comfort to those grieving the loss of life from Covid-19.

Finally, in faith we pray that as Your will be done, You will intervene through this pandemic to bring our state and nation to its knees in humble submission to Your rule; that many people will run to Your loving arms, and know the glorious hope we have in the saving work of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

Anxiety and the grace to trust the Lord

Loving father we thank you that you are our very present refuge and strength, that you are our unchanging, unshakeable, all powerful, eternal loving father.

Thank you that nothing is outside your knowledge and sovereign control and that you are guiding everything towards the destiny you have always planned ... in the fullness of your new creation.

As we live now in a world plagued by uncertainty, where things change everyday, where our plans are laid to waste regularly, ... where we witness inexplicable selfishness, where we are confronted by people suffering the deepest despair, fear and hopelessness ... we confess that sometimes we feel overwhelmed and anxious.

Help us to give these fears and anxieties over to you Lord ... and keep our eyes on Jesus.

Help us to remember that you have a plan for each one of us ... instead of being plagued by uncertainty and anxiety ... help us focus on the work you have for us ... so we can live with the sureness and the confidence that our life is full of your holy purpose.

As we go about our days, help us to recognise your presence with us, help us to draw strength from you, help us to walk with courage and peace in the assurance of your perfect love and will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, **Amen.**

Prayer for Afghanistan

Almighty God, creator and preserver of our world. We pray today for peace. Have mercy on our broken and divided world and banish the spirit that makes for war. We ask that leaders of nations and governments will pursue freedom, justice and the welfare of all people.

We pray especially for all affected by the escalating turmoil and tragic events in Afghanistan. Help the leaders of nations to protect the vulnerable and to establish justice and peace. Restrain the forces of evil and protect men, and especially women and children from Taliban forces.

We also pray for Christian brothers and sisters in Afghanistan. Preserve their lives and strengthen their witness in this land of deep spiritual darkness and despair.

We pray for Afghan refugees who have made Australia their home and for those who are anxious about family in Afghanistan. Comfort them we pray, and may they know the hope and peace that is found in our Lord Jesus.

And we pray, Father, for the veterans of our Defence Force who have served in Afghanistan, and their families. Sustain these men and women who have served our country. May they receive the care and support they need at this time of disappointment and discouragement.

Heavenly Father, in an uncertain world, please turn the hearts of all people to your Son Jesus Christ our Lord and to the peace that passes all understanding. We ask these things in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Prayer for Outreach

Dear Father, during these challenging times, we ask that you would give us words in opening our mouths to proclaim the mystery of the gospel. Enable us to declare it lovingly and boldly as we ought. Lead people to seek you while you may be found and call upon you while you are near. Cause people to turn from their sinful ways and draw them to faith in your Son so that you may have compassion upon them, for you abundantly pardon through faith in Jesus. We ask this in his name. **Amen.**