

Prayers 17 October

IN response to the message

Our gracious Heavenly Father, we thank you for Jesus. Jesus who came not to be served, but to serve and give his life as a ransom for many. Father thank you that so many here today have indeed asked Jesus to serve them. They've confessed their sin, acknowledged their need, and asked Jesus to be their Saviour And so we thank you Father that because Jesus did give his life, we can be set free – ransomed – from sin and death and brought into relationship with you now and forever. Our Father, please help us to humble ourselves, and to serve others in the pattern of the Lord Jesus – to never look for recognition or kudos or authority of our own, but to become 'great' by being a servant of all. Please give us that heart and attitude in our own families, our own homes, in our churches and in our communities. Thank you for Jesus our servant, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

Grace to keep growing close to Jesus – joy and dependence

We pray for grace Lord, to keep growing close to Jesus. We confess that sometimes we do not put you first. We allow other things to distract us and keep us from you. Sometimes we doubt your love and care. Forgive us Lord.

We long to grow keen and strong and clear in our trust in you. And we long that the joy of knowing you, the joy of our salvation, the joy of our hope for the future, would flood our lives in a way others can see.

Help us Father to let go of self-sufficiency and cling to you in dependence, knowing that we have nowhere else to turn, for you alone have words of eternal life. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

COVID – patience in the transition times ahead – love for those who see things differently

Lord, the road ahead for lifting lockdowns and return to church seems sometimes complex and overwhelming. Yet we thank you so much that there is a way forward and that by December we'll be unmasked and singing your praises! In the coming weeks, help us to love and serve another – especially those who think differently from us. For those churches meeting for the two Sundays of between 70-80% of people vaccinated, please give them grace to deal patiently with those who for whatever reason are not vaccinated and therefore will not be able to attend church. And please Lord, help us to follow the public health orders well, so that we all might remain safe and well. Throughout all the challenges ahead, please help us to focus on Jesus... and we pray that the work of the gospel in all our churches will begin to grow and flourish once more as we emerge from lockdown to a new normal. All this we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

Prayer for the newly elected Bishop-in-Council

Dear Father, we ask that you would enable the newly formed Bishop-in-Council to glorify you. May it be supremely concerned to see the people of every valley, hill, mountain and plain within the diocese come to know and love your Son. Please use this council to bring about a great expansion in your kingdom, particularly through its strategic and financial planning as well as through its development of ministry pathways for gospel ministry and its revision of administrative ordinances for the faithful and smooth running of the diocese. May it be ruled by your word, centred upon your gospel message, be rich in fellowship, stimulating in discussion, wise in decision-making, and blessed with a holy boldness to engage with the challenges and immense opportunities that lie ahead.

We ask these things through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**