

Pastoral Prayer – November 20, 2022

God of Grace, in this place, our church we are reminded of who we are and to whom we belong. It is within this community of faith that we learn grow, struggle, doubt, and are transformed. And so we give thanks for our Spiritual home and ask for your blessing. Help us to celebrate who we have been, who we are and who we might become. Keep us grounded in the Gospel and help work to be your Church on the move.

Next week we begin a new church year, and we ask that we might be open to new learnings, new growth, and new opportunities to wrestle with who we are as people of faith. We pray that the New Year will bring us closer to you and to each other. We pray that there might be a new sense of service and love amongst us. Move us to care for each other and our neighbors.

God of creation we would offer prayer for this beautiful and yet troubled world. We would ask for the courage to be peacemakers in places of conflict. We would pray for the wisdom to be justice seekers in places where people struggle for food and shelter and Fair Work. Move our hearts and our hands so that we might swing wide the door of welcome to refugees and to all those who are seeking a home.

God of unity we would pray for all our neighbors, for those who are searching for a faith home and those who do not acknowledge a faith and for those who have faith different from our own. We pray for the Jewish community mentioned in the sermon and for all communities of faith moved to witness to your love in the world.

God of love we open to you the places in our individual hearts that long to be touched by your healing, in a moment of silent prayer.....

As we acknowledge our own needs we ask that you might move us to be people of compassion where ever there are people hurting, in our families, neighbourhoods and wider community.

We pray all these things in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray together

And so we echo Jesus prayer using the words on our screens:

**Eternal Spirit,
Earth -Maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be:
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God in whom is heaven:**

**The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed
by peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done
by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.**

**With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In the times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all tha is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and for ever.
Amen.**