



PRAYER SERIES

**OUR  
FATHER**





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make sure sure you visit  
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Also don't forget that we love when families are  
learning together, you can find our Prayer series  
Family Devotions at  
**[www.stpauls.church/familydevotions](http://www.stpauls.church/familydevotions)**

# INTRODUCTORY NOTES

*“Prayer is so great that wherever you look in the Bible, it is there. Why? Everywhere God is, prayer is. Since God is everywhere and infinitely great, prayer must be all-pervasive in our lives.”*

Prayer – Experiencing Awe and Intimacy with God by Timothy Keller p28.

During the sermon series on prayer our goal for small groups is to engage in more prayer as well as grow in our understanding of prayer. We aim to make this as practical as possible so that we can exhort those in our small groups to pray more, not to see it merely as some kind of rite or obligation but a more natural part of their relationship with our Saviour King.

There will be some time spent in the bible hearing from God. Secondly, there will be opportunity for prayer and resources to help us think differently about praying and to stimulate our prayer life.

## RESOURCES YOU MAY FIND HELPFUL

Paul Miller, *A Praying Life*

Tim Keller, *Prayer - Experiencing Awe and Intimacy With God*

Don Carson, *A Call to Spiritual Reformation*

# WEEK 1 - TO WHOM DO WE PRAY?

## PRAISE

(Psalm 145, Revelation 4-5)

*In this study we want to encourage people to praise our great God. The bible references above give a taste of the way the bible talks about or better still how God reveals himself in the bible. Prayer is a response to the revelation of God. If we have a clearer idea of whom it is we praying to it ought to influence the way we pray and what we pray for.*

1. **Read Psalm 145.** What words are used to describe God in this Psalm?

2. Was there anything in this list that surprised you? Were there any that you had not thought about for sometime? Are there any that you do not understand?

3. Some of the things in the list above can also be used of people. How are they different when applied to God?

4. What words are used to praise God in this Psalm?

5. When attributes of God are given or his actions are declared what are some of the words used to describe these?

6. **Read Revelation 4:8, Revelation 4:11, Revelation 5:9-14.** What words are used here to describe the one sitting on the throne?

# TIME IN PRAYER

*Suggestions for praising God...*

**Leaders - refer to your notes for suggestions for worship songs**

Go around group asking each person to offer praise based on what has been learnt from **Psalms 145 and Revelation 4-5**. This can be done in silence individually or out loud.

Finish the night with someone reciting the following prayer:

*You are worthy, our Lord and God,  
to receive glory and honour and power,  
for you created all things  
and by your will they were created  
and have their being.  
You are worthy, Lamb of God,  
for you were slain,  
and with your blood you ransomed people for God  
from every tribe and language and people and nation.  
To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb  
be praise and honour and glory and power,  
for ever and ever. Amen.*

*(from Common Prayer – Resources for Gospel-Shaped services.  
Service of the Word and Prayer Form 2)*

## WEEK 2 - WHO ARE WE TO PRAY TO GOD?

### CONFESSION

(Isaiah 6:1-7, Daniel 9, Nehemiah 1, Matthew 6:9-15)

*“We tend to view confessing guilt as at best a passing preliminary in our prayers rather than a primary burden of them. Calvin provides a correction for us. Reflecting on Daniel’s ‘guilt focus’, he says: ‘This, then, is our righteousness, to confess ourselves guilty in order that God may gratuitously absolve us.’ He then draws attention to Christ’s prayer, ‘Forgive us our debts,’ and draws the application: For whom did Christ wish to use this petition? Surely all his disciples. If anyone thinks that he has no need of this form of prayer, and confession of sin, let him depart from the school of Christ, and enter into a herd of swine.’ In short, we are never to cut loose from this ‘mourning’ over sin as if it belongs to some elementary stage of Christian experience we leave behind. It is a proper preoccupation of our prayers.” Ralph-Davis p123.*

1. **Read Isaiah 6:1-7.** What is the contrast between Isaiah’s vision of the Lord and how he sees himself?

2. What does Isaiah confess and what do you think this means?



3. **Read Daniel 9:1-19.** What words does Daniel use to describe the people's sin or rebellion?

4. After confessing, to what does Daniel appeal for forgiveness? Why does he do this?

5. **Read Genesis 3:8-13, Genesis 4:8-10, Acts 5:1-11, 1 Kings 8:33-34, Psalm 51.** What is common in these passages and what is different?

6. **Read 1 John 1:8-9.** What is the result of confession?

# TIME IN PRAYER

## First read confession from the prayer book.

*Heavenly Father,*

*You have loved us with an everlasting love,*

*but we have gone our own way*

*and broken your laws.*

*We are sorry for our sins*

*and turn away from them.*

*For the sake of your Son who died for us  
forgive us, cleanse us, and change us.*

*By your Holy Spirit enable us to live for you*

*and to please you more and more,*

*through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

After this it is important to read **1 John 1:8-9**. This is called absolution.

## Suggestions for other activities:

Write things we need to confess on paper and around a safe fire pit throw in the pieces of paper and burn them.

Maybe write things down and have people nail them to a cross.

Perhaps to give thanks for what Jesus did in the spilling of his blood you can have a cross made of paper and some red paint. Get people to dip their thumb in the paint and put thumb print on the cross. You can take your time and give people time to think and confess before they take part. Maybe even have some music playing quietly.

Just have time of quiet when people can confess personal sins. After this have open time when people confess corporate sins (for example things we have neglected, times we have not honoured God as we should etc).

## WEEK 3 - HOW DO I KNOW MY PRAYERS ARE HEARD?

### CHRIST AS MEDIATOR

*“To pray in Jesus’ name means to come to God in prayer consciously trusting in Christ for our salvation and acceptance and not relying on our own credibility or record. It is, essentially, to re-ground our relationship with God in the saving work of Jesus over and over again. It also means to recognise your status as a child of God, regardless of your inner state. God our Father is committed to his children’s good, as any good father would be.”* Prayer – Experiencing Awe and Intimacy with God. Keller, 105.

1. **Read 1 Timothy 2:1-6.** In this passage Paul is urging Timothy and others to pray. He is also instructing them on for whom they ought to pray. What assurance does Paul give that their prayers are being heard?

2. In verse 3, we are told that this kind of praying is good and pleases God. Why do you think this is?

3. **Read Luke 11:1-13.** What stands out for you in this passage?

4. **Read Romans 8:26-30.** What role does the Spirit play in our prayer life?

5. **Read Luke 22:14-20.** In what way does Jesus intercede in these verses?

## **TIME IN PRAYER**

*It would be good to participate in communion together.*

Spend a couple of minutes praising God for who he is.  
Have a brief time of confession. Then one person says the following.

*Merciful Father, we rejoice that you pardon and forgive those who truly repent and trust in your Son. Deliver us from all our sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and keep us in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Pass out bread and juice (or GF option if necessary).

### **Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-26.**

Invite people to eat the bread and say "Eat this in remembering that Christ died for you and feed on him in your heart by faith with thanksgiving.

Invite people to drink saying, "Drink this in remembrance that Christ's blood was shed for you and be thankful."

After this spend some time praying for those in government, or authority. Pray for people to come to know Jesus. That he will raise up workers for the harvest. Pray that God will heal our thirsty land and look after those on the land with their well being and mental health. Pray that God will be working in peoples lives to bring them back to himself. Mission 2020. Pray for other things you can think of.

Finish with the Lord's Prayer.

*Our Father in Heaven,  
Hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.*

## WEEK 4 - WHAT IF MY PRAYERS AREN'T ANSWERED?

### SUPPLICATIONS

*“God the Father is always kind to us. He cannot and will not punish those who are in Christ. He always treats us with the love that he has towards his own Son. So whenever you turn towards him, he is ready to listen and willing to bless. He always regards us with affection, is always ready to hear our prayers. If he disciplines, it’s always for our good. You may not understand what God is doing and why. But this you can know: ‘God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, so that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life’ (John 3:16)”*

Chester, 103

1. Why do you think it is hard to take risks in prayer?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Do you find it difficult to ask God for things? Why do we find it difficult to ask God for things? What things are most difficult to pray for?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. **Read Ephesians 3:14-21.** What does Paul ask for in this prayer? Why does Paul pray so boldly (verses 20-21)?

4. **Read Matthew 26:36-46.** What does Jesus ask for in this prayer? Is Jesus prayer answered? Does this mean that God no longer loves Jesus? Why or why not?

5. **Read 2 Chronicles 6:21-39.** What does King Solomon pray for?

6. **Read Daniel 9:17-19.** Why does Daniel make requests of the Lord?

7. **Read 2 Corinthians 12:1-10.** What did Paul pray for and how did God answer his prayer?

## TIME IN PRAYER

Spend time taking prayer requests.

You could use some of the following prayers from the prayer book as a guide.

*God of Love, make your known to the people of our world, your saving power among all the nations. Guide and govern your church by your Holy Spirit, so that all who call themselves Christians may be led in the way of truth and hold the faith in unity of spirit, in the bond of peace, and in righteousness of life. We commend to your fatherly goodness all who are afflicted or distressed in body, mind or circumstances (especially ...) Relieve them according to their needs, giving them patience in their sufferings, and deliverance from their afflictions. This we ask for the sake of Christ our Saviour. Amen.*

*In the back of this booklet is other prayers you can choose to use at the current gathering or in the future.*

**Finish by praying one of the following prayers:**

Ephesians 3:14-21

Philippians 1:9-11

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Colossians 1:9-14



## WEEK 5 - WHY DON'T I PRAY MORE?

### STRUCTURE OF PRAYER

*“One prayer system many people have found helpful is ACTS (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving and Supplication). But systems can become rote, desensitising us to God as a person. We can become wooden or mindless as we pray. When I come home, I don't first adore Jill for a couple of minutes, confess my failure to take out the trash, thank her for making dinner, and then give her my list... None of us wants to be treated like robots... including God. He is after all, a person.*

*Many people are so aware of this caution that they are suspicious of all systems. They feel it kills the Spirit. Systems seem to fly in the face of what we learned about childlike praying. But all of us create systems with things that are important to us. Remember, life is both holding hands and scrubbing floors. It is both being and doing. Prayer journals or prayer cards are on the 'scrubbing floors' side of life. Praying like a child is on the 'holding hands' side of life. We need both.”*

from A Praying Life by Paul Millar (page 223-224)

1. **Read Matthew 7:5-15.** What instructions does Jesus give regarding prayer?

2. Why do you think he gives these instructions?

3. What things stand out to you in Jesus' prayer?

4. What kind of things can you do to help you to be faithful in prayer?

## **TIME IN PRAYER**

Spend some time combining what has been learnt over the past weeks.

Spend some time praising God.

Some time in confession.

Asking God to meet needs (perhaps some prayers in the back of this booklet from the prayer book could help here).

Suggestions for things to also pray for:

*God will be preparing hearts for mission 2020.*

*God will raise up workers for the harvest.*

*For each other.*

**Suggestions of practical tools people use for prayer:**

**Leaders - refer to your notes for suggested tools**

## WEEK 6 - WHEN SHOULD I PRAY?

1. What do you think it means to pray continually?

2. **Read Ephesians 6:18-20.** Paul says here that we ought to pray on all occasions with all kinds of prayer. Why do you think he qualifies this with “pray in the Spirit” (verse 18)?

3. What do you think it means when Paul says, “all kinds of prayers and requests”?

4. What makes it difficult to find time to pray? How can we overcome this?

5. What does it say about our relationship with God if we find it hard to find time to pray?

## TIME IN PRAYER

### *Suggestions for prayer:*

Use prayers from the appendix in this book, select some as a group.

Rapid fire prayer. This is where you go around the group saying one sentence prayers and quickly moving to the next person. Start with thanksgiving and then move to asking for things. Prayers should be no more than a sentence. It is also good to have an out for people, that is, a prayer people can use if they cannot think of anything else, such as "Thanks for the trees." It may feel uncomfortable at the start but give it time people will loosen up.

## WEEK 7 - WHAT SHOULD I PRAY FOR?

1. **Read John 17:1-26.** How does Jesus start his prayer in verses 1-5?
2. In verses 6-19 what does Jesus pray for?
3. Verse 13. What do you think it means that Jesus prays for the full measure of joy within them?
4. In verses 20-26 what does Jesus pray for?
5. What does it mean to "be where he is" in verse 24?

## TIME IN PRAYER

*Spend time in prayer. Suggestions for things to pray for:*

Mission 2020.

The lost.

The lost in our family and among our friends.

Pray for neighbours.

Pray for our government.

Pray for St Paul's staff. Pray for unity and energy.

Pray for our ministry volunteers.

Pray for your small group leader.

Pray that God will raise up workers for the harvest.

## WEEK 8 - HOW CAN I GET BETTER AT PRAYING?

*“Jesus does not say, “Come to me, all you who have learned how to concentrate in prayer, who minds no longer wander, and I will give you rest.” No, Jesus opens his arms to his needy children and says, “Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest” (Matt 11:28 NASB) The criteria for coming to Jesus is weariness. Come overwhelmed with life. Come with your wandering mind. Come messy.” (Miller, 499)*

*“You don’t create intimacy; you make room for it. This is true whether you are talking about your spouse, your friend, or God. You need space to be together. Efficiency, multitasking, and busyness all kill intimacy. In short, you can’t get to know God on the fly.”*  
(Miller, 694-696).

*“When you stop trying to control your life and instead allow your anxieties and problems to bring you to God in prayer, you shift from worry to watching. You watch God weave his patterns in the story of your life. Instead of trying to be out front, designing your life, you realise you are inside God’s drama. As you wait, you begin to see him work, and your life begins to sparkle with wonder. You are learning to trust again.” (Miller 1027-1029).*

1. What stops you from getting better at praying?

2. What can we do to get better at praying?

3. How would you describe prayer after going through these past few weeks?

4. What has changed in your attitude to prayer?

5. What will you do to improve your prayer life?

## **TIME IN PRAYER**

Use this time to reflect on all we have learnt about prayer over the last 8 weeks. Reflect on whether you have seen a difference in your prayer life, pray that God would continue to teach us and encourage us in our prayer lives.



## **APPENDIX**

Prayers from:

### **COMMON PRAYER**

*Resources For Gospel Shaped Gatherings*

## MODERN VERSIONS OF SOME THEMATIC PRAYERS OR COLLECTS

### *For love*

Lord, you have taught us that all our works without love are worth nothing.

Send your Holy Spirit, and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love, the true bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whoever lives is counted dead before you. Grant this for your only Son Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

### *For mercy in hearing our prayers*

Almighty and everlasting God,

you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than either we desire or deserve. Pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord. Amen.

### *For love towards God*

Gracious God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as pass our understanding.

Pour into our hearts such love toward you, that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises which exceed all that we can desire, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### *For God-focused hearts*

Merciful Lord, you alone can order our unruly wills and affections.

Teach us to love what you command,

and to desire what you promise,

that, among the changes and chances of this world, our hearts may surely be fixed where true joys are to be found, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*For right priorities*

Almighty God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong and nothing is holy.  
Increase and multiply upon us your mercy,  
that, with you as our ruler and guide,  
we may so pass through things temporal that we finally lose not the things eternal. Grant this, heavenly Father,  
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*For a cross-shaped life*

Almighty God,  
you have given your only Son  
to be for us both a sacrifice for sin and also an example of godly life.  
Give us grace that we may always thankfully receive the benefits of his sacrifice, and also daily endeavour to follow the blessed steps of his most holy life, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*For protection in danger and temptation*

Merciful God, you know that we live in the midst of many dangers and temptations,  
and that because we are weak and frail we cannot always stand firm.  
Grant us strength and protection to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations, through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

*For God's direction and rule*

Loving God, without you we are not able to please you.  
Mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit  
may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*For obedient lives*

Great God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity.

Mercifully grant us such a measure of your grace that, running in the way of your commandments, we may obtain your gracious promises,  
and be made partakers of your heavenly treasure, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*For the proper use of Scripture*

Blessed Lord,

you have caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning.  
Grant that we may so hear them,  
read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them,  
that, by patience and the comfort of your holy word, we may embrace and ever hold fast  
the blessed hope of everlasting life,  
which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

*For the will to please God*

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord, that, bringing forth the fruit of good works, they may be abundantly rewarded,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*For God's help to please him*

Go before us Lord, in all our doings, with your most gracious favour,  
and further us by your continual help,  
that in all our works begun, continued and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name,  
and finally by your mercy obtain everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit  
be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

## OTHER PRAYERS AND THANKSGIVINGS

### *A prayer for all in authority*

Almighty God, ruler of the nations of the earth, give wisdom to Elizabeth the Queen of Australia, to the Prime Minister of Australia and the Premier of this state, to the members of Parliament and to all who hold office in this land.

Grant that their decisions may be based on wise counsel, so that peace and welfare, truth and justice may prevail among us, and make us a blessing to other nations; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### *For peace*

God of the nations,  
whose sovereign rule brings justice and peace, have mercy on our broken and divided world. We pray especially today for (...).  
Establish your peace in the hearts of all  
and banish from them the spirit that makes for war,  
that all races and peoples may learn to live  
as members of one family  
and in obedience to your laws; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### *For good government*

Gracious Lord,  
grant to our governments and all who serve in public life wisdom and skill, imagination and energy.  
Protect them from corruption  
and the temptation to serve themselves.  
Help us all to commit ourselves to the common good, that our land may be a secure home for all its peoples; through Jesus Christ the Prince of Peace. Amen.

*For our nation*

God of the nations, we pray for Australia.  
Inspire and direct our leaders to seek first your kingdom and your righteousness,  
that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.  
Bring many Australians  
to a knowledge of the truth about Jesus,  
who gave himself as a ransom for us all. Amen.

*For migrants*

Gracious God,  
thank you for bringing to our country people from many races and cultures.  
Take away the mistrust and lack of understanding that so easily divide us.  
Increase in us true humility and love for strangers. Remove racism from our midst, that we may share this land and its bounty,  
and all may hear the gospel of our Saviour Jesus Christ and know his love. Amen.

*For service personnel*

Heavenly Father,  
thank you for those who serve us in the defence and police forces, the fire brigades and ambulance services.  
Give them courage and protection when they face loneliness, misunderstanding and danger.  
Help us to be grateful for what they do  
and to support them with respect and honour, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

### *A prayer for indigenous Australians*

Creator God, you made from one man all the nations and determined where each should live.

We bring before you the indigenous people of Australia.

We acknowledge the history that has damaged the relationship between them and later arrivals to this land.

Thank you for the steps that have been taken on the journey towards reconciliation.

Deepen this process among us.

Guide national and community leaders to speak the truth in love, to seek justice with mercy and to care for those who are disadvantaged. Strengthen indigenous church leaders to shepherd your flock faithfully, and strengthen all indigenous Christians to be salt and light in their communities and in the whole nation.

Give indigenous and non-indigenous believers grace to demonstrate the new family you are making in Christ out of people from every nation, tribe, language and people; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

### *For schools and other places of learning*

We praise you, great God, as the source of all truth, and we come before you knowing that to fear you is the beginning of wisdom.

Strengthen us to love you with all our mind, as well as with our heart and strength.

We pray that in our schools, colleges, universities and other places of learning, truth and wisdom may be pursued, prized, and celebrated.

Give teachers creativity, clarity and care,

and students a love of learning and an openness to new ideas.

Bless us all with co-operation, fairness and, above all,

a recognition that the world we study is created, sustained and redeemed by you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### *For industry and business*

Loving God,

you created our world

gave us the task of stewarding its resources, and empowered us to work.

We pray for industries and businesses (especially . . .), as they seek to improve the quality of life through the goods and services they offer.

Guide employers to deal with workers and clients responsibly and with integrity.

Give workers joy and satisfaction in their productivity, and just rewards for their labour.

Bless our workplaces with safety and good relationships.

Strengthen Christians to live and speak in ways that commend the gospel.

May our work be a reflection of your creative power, and a sign that we are created in your image.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### *For the media*

Merciful God,

we pray for the media in our country and throughout the world.

Thank you for the technology that has enabled us to be connected with so many people and places,

and that shows the common bonds we have as humans on this planet.

Give those who direct, work and participate in the media a love of truth, peace and justice.

Strengthen them to speak out against all that is evil, and to celebrate the good, working with honesty, integrity and wisdom, for the good order of society.

Use the media to proclaim your greatness

and bring many to trust in your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



*For the justice system*

Great Judge of all,  
give understanding and integrity to our judges and magistrates, that  
they may discern the truth,  
safeguard human rights, and administer the law with justice.  
Help them to make wise decisions  
for the wellbeing of individuals and society,  
that you may be faithfully served and your name honoured.  
Show your care for (Name) as he/she faces the court.  
Enable the judicial officers to act with righteousness and  
compassion. Give (Name) courage, honesty and dignity,  
and provide him/her with a just outcome.  
We ask these things in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*For the environment*

Heavenly Father,  
thank you for filling the world with beauty and bounty, in the cities  
and the country, on the coast and inland. You blessed the first  
humans and commanded them to fill the earth and subdue it.  
You supply seed to the sower and bread to the eater.  
But we and our ancestors have mistreated and damaged the  
environment. Even our best efforts have been tarnished with  
ignorance or self-interest.  
Please continue to bless us with a fruitful world,  
and sustain us with the resources we need for life.  
Guide the nations and large corporations  
to seek co-operative and responsible ways of dealing with the  
environment.  
Give individuals the willingness to play their part in being wise  
stewards of what you give us.  
May we look to you as the creator and sustainer of our world and  
give you glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### *For social justice*

Loving God, you have made all people in your image, and you care for the poor and distressed.

Make us a just society,

where the rights of all are acknowledged and upheld, where those who are oppressed are made free,

and where corruption has no place.

Give companies, social institutions and governments the desire to act for the good of all,

rather than for the advantage of a few.

Empower Christians to model the values of your kingdom in all their relationships.

Hasten the day when Jesus will return to establish justice and your eternal reign, for the glory of your name. Amen.

### *For the aged*

Lord God, look with mercy on all for whom increasing years bring isolation and distress.

Give them understanding helpers and the willingness to receive what is offered.

As their strength diminishes, increase their faith and their assurance of your love.

We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### *For families*

Almighty God our heavenly Father,

whose Son Jesus Christ shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home, bless our homes we pray.

Help parents to impart the knowledge of you and your love, and children to respond with love and obedience.

May our homes be blessed with peace and joy, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### *For workers*

God of all creation,  
we pray for all who work in agriculture and farming,  
in mining, industry and commerce, in the media and education,  
in health and social services, sport and the arts, in emergency  
services and defence forces.

Enable them to fulfil their responsibilities with integrity and in faithful  
service to others, living and working in harmony and safety, using  
the fruits of their toil for the good of all, for the glory of our Lord  
Jesus Christ. Amen.

### *For the married*

We praise you, God of love, creator of the universe, for making us  
male and female, and giving us the gift of marriage.

We pray for those whom you have joined in marriage,  
that they know your presence in their joys and in their sorrows.  
Deepen their love for each other and sustain them in their  
commitment, until they are parted by death and come to your  
eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### *For the spread of the gospel*

We praise you, Lord of all,  
for the gifts of Christ our ascended King:  
for apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers.  
Hear our prayer for all who do not know your love  
and have not heard the gospel of our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
Send out your light and truth through the messengers of your word  
(especially name...) and bring many to saving trust in Christ.  
Help us to support them by our prayers and offerings, and to  
commend the gospel ourselves by what we say and do.  
Hasten the coming of your kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

### *Open doors for the gospel*

God our Father,

thank you for rescuing us from the dominion of darkness and bringing us into the kingdom of Jesus, the Son you love.

In him we have redemption, the forgiveness of our sins. Hear our prayer for all who are far away from you, enemies in their minds, because of their evil behaviour, that they might come to believe the hope held out in the gospel. Open doors for the gospel in every land, and enable the messengers of your truth to proclaim it clearly, as they should. Help us to be wise in the way we act towards outsiders, and to make the most of every opportunity you give us.

May our conversation be always full of grace and seasoned with salt, that we may know how to answer everyone.

We ask these things in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to you through him. Amen.

### *For an increase of gospel workers*

Heavenly Father,

look with compassion on the world you have redeemed by the death of your Son Jesus Christ.

Move the hearts of many to offer themselves for gospel ministry.

Fill them with your truth and clothe them with holiness, that by their lives and labours your light might shine through them and the coming of your kingdom be advanced, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### *For a time of drought, flood or bushfire*

Look in mercy, Lord,

on those whose lives and possessions are threatened (have been destroyed) by drought (flood, fire).

Provide for their need and heal our land.

So guide and bless your people,

that we may enjoy the fruits of the earth and give you thanks with grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### *For rain*

Lord Jesus Christ,  
you promised those who seek first your kingdom and your  
righteousness all things necessary for bodily welfare. Send us in this  
time of need,  
rain to water the earth,  
that we may receive its produce to strengthen and sustain us,  
and always praise you for your goodness. Amen.

### *In times of conflict*

God our refuge and strength,  
you have bound us together in a common life.  
Help us in the midst of our present conflict  
to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, to listen to  
your voice amid competing claims,  
and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect, through  
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### *For the sick*

Almighty God, giver of life and health, hear our prayers for (Name),  
and those who minister to him/her.  
May he/she be restored to health of body and mind according to  
your will, and in the presence of your people give thanks to you,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### *For one facing an operation*

God of compassion and mercy,  
you never fail to sustain and comfort those who seek your help. Give  
strength and peace to (Name...).  
Enable him/her to know that you are near and deliver him/her from  
fear.  
Give wisdom and care to those who minister to him/her (especially  
name...) and bring him/her safely through the operation.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*For one with a life-threatening illness*

God our refuge, when human resources fail,  
you alone remain our sure hope and defence.  
Grant healing, strength and courage to your servant (Name.).  
We place ourselves in your hands, confident that nothing can  
separate us from you, in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

*For the lonely and hurt*

Loving God, we pray for those who are hurting or lonely, through  
bereavement, divorce, or abuse, and for those struggling with  
unhappiness in marriage or singleness. Where repentance is  
required, make us willing.  
Where reconciliation is needed, make us quick to forgive, as you in  
Christ have forgiven us.  
Be our strength and comfort in every difficulty and struggle. Enable  
us all to experience your generous love, and be renewed in our  
relationship with you, through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

*A prayer in times of distress when our only hope is in the Lord*

Eternal God, shepherd of your people, we feel the fleeting passage  
of life, and know how fragile our existence is on this tiny planet.  
We confess with the prophet Isaiah:  
*'All flesh is grass,  
and all its glory is like the flowers of the field. The grass withers and  
the flowers fall . . .'* Yet we also confess:  
*'The word of our God stands forever'*.  
Teach us to number our days,  
that we may gain a heart of wisdom.  
In our human frailty, we look to you as frightened children look to  
their mother, for you alone can comfort and sustain us.  
Have mercy on us, O God.  
Hear our cries to you our loving Father and lead us all, as pilgrims,  
through the darkest valley into the light of the resurrection  
of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.

# SATURDAY MORNING PRAYER MEETINGS

**2ND AND 4TH SATURDAY OF THE MONTH  
(INCLUDING SCHOOL HOLIDAY UNLESS ANNOUNCED)**

**We will commence again for the year on Feb 9th.**

Join us in the mother's room at church from 8-9:15am.

This meeting is open to people of all ages from all congregations. We pray for the weekly ministries of the church, church staff, parish council, special events, current affairs in Australia, our link missionaries, the worldwide persecuted church, for the lost in the Hills to come to Christ, and for God's will to be done in and through us

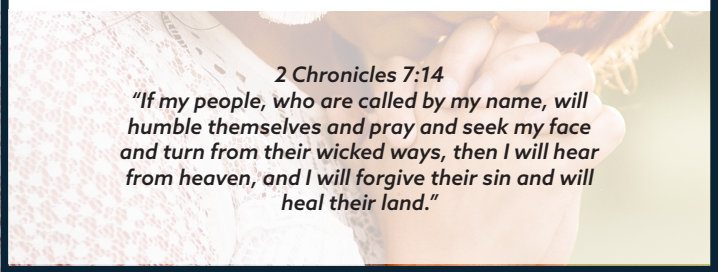
## **Upcoming dates:**

Feb - 9th and 23rd

Mar - 9th and 23rd

Apr - 13th and 27th

May - 11th and 25th



**2 Chronicles 7:14**

***"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land."***

## **INTERESTED IN RECEIVING OUR PRAYER NEWSLETTER?**

Please email us [info@spch.org.au](mailto:info@spch.org.au) and we will add you to our email list. Each week we send out specific prayer points about the various ministries, staff, congregation members in need and general prayers for beyond our walls. We would love you to join us!



**ST PAUL'S**  
CASTLE HILL