

St Matthew's Weekly Prayer Cycle – Winter 2023

Instructions

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Introduction

On the following pages, you will find a set of prayers for each day of the week. Our hope is that you will be able to use these daily, and that together we would be committed to praying together for the life of our church, its work within our local community, for wider issues in our nation and beyond, and for our fellow congregation members. The prayers are structured over the week based on the Commission that we use at confirmation services, setting out our call to be God's people. We aim to include daily prayer requests in the weekly newsletter to help us all target the daily life of our church – there is space for you to respond to these requests each day. Any prayer requests for inclusion in the newsletter should be sent to the church office by the previous Wednesday.

Suggestions

To help you use these sets of prayers, we present the following suggestions:

- You may find it helpful to read the prayers out loud or to 'say' them silently. Feel free to add other prayers as feels right for you.
- You could say these prayers on your own or use them with one or more others, perhaps

taking turns reading each prayer, and joining in the responses in **bold type**.

- It is often useful (but not possible for everyone) to set aside a specific time each day for prayers. The prayers could be used on their own, alongside other prayers (we suggest finishing with the Lord's prayer), or a Bible reading and study.
- In some prayers there are spaces for you to make them personal: allow God to prompt you to pray for specific people or situations before continuing through the prayers.
- Allow time to listen as well as to say the prayers – prayer can be a conversation with God if we allow him the space to communicate with us.
- Thank God for answered prayers (and share these with others as encouragement).
- Most important, pray believing that God is listening and will answer our prayers.

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Sunday: Worship and service

In the commission we read:

Those who are baptized are called
to worship and serve God.

Today, Father, is your Sabbath day,
a day for gathering in your presence,
for bringing our worship and thanks,
for dwelling in Your Word and Your love,
and for refocussing our lives on your Son.
On your sabbath day Lord,
Revive your Spirit within us.

Take a moment to think back over the last
week:

the events that gave you pleasure,
the people you met and spent time with,
the hurts and worries you experienced.

We thank You, Father, for the last week,
for the joys we have received,
for Your provision each day,
for the people we have spent time with,
for those who have served us,
and those we have served,
and for the comfort of your presence
in the times of rest and the times of trial.]
On your sabbath day Lord,
Revive your Spirit within us.

We praise and thank you Lord,
that we can meet as your family today,
rejoicing in your promises fulfilled,
and our hope established in You.

Grant us your presence amongst us,
reassuring, challenging,
comforting and giving peace,
meeting our needs as you know best.

Bring to mind our church family, meeting
together today:

those leading and facilitating the service,
sisters and brothers gathering to worship,
friends and strangers sharing fellowship and
love.

Grant all who meet today in church freedom to
worship you without distraction,
ability to hear and respond to Your Word,
faith in prayer, hope in the sacraments,
and an infilling of Your Spirit.

We pray too for those unable to join us,
seeking for them Your special touch.

For our whole church family we pray
that we would share each other's lives,
refresh each other's faith and hope,
and give and receive the love You
bounteously provide.

On your sabbath day Lord,
Revive your Spirit within us

Think about the week ahead:
things that excite you,
things that are concerning,
the daily schedules and responsibilities.

Lord Jesus, at the start of this week,
we offer all that we are to you:
our worries, our hopes,
our time and our lives;
grant us through this week
faith to trust you each hour,
persistence in following your call,
Your Love to share and inspire,
and the privilege of knowing you daily.

On your sabbath day Lord,
Revive your Spirit within us.

Remember before God any prayer
requests from the news sheet for today.

Holy and Almighty God,
as we make ourselves an offering to you,
fill us with your hope,
guide us by your Spirit,
and on our frontlines,
inspire our faith in your service.

May our lives be a witness to your glory,
our actions reveal your grace,
and our whole lives take your Son,
His light and His love, into our world.
We ask this in the name of your Son,
our living and glorious saviour,
Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

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Monday: The church

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

With the help of God, we will.

Thank you, Father, for yesterday's service,
for giving us friends to meet
for your bread and wine sustaining us
for shared Word, hope and love
and Your Spirit's presence within us.

Build Your Church, Lord,
And bind us together in Love.

We thank you for our Church building,
for the resources we have to share,
for our ministers leading and serving us,
and for the loving community you have made
us into.

Thank God for the blessings you receive
from him through church.

Make our church a beacon of your light.
As we interact and serve our parish,
help us show your light in all we do.
Through weddings and funerals,
events and pastoral visiting,

use us to show your love and care.

Build Your Church, Lord,

And bind us together in Love.

We pray for Nick, Ruth and Dimitri
as they lead services in church,
make pastoral visits throughout the week,
make decisions on church matters,
and provide services for local care homes.

We pray for Tami and Jackie,
completing our administration work,
and supporting our ministers.

We pray too for our wardens and elders
our finance team, Andrew and Liudmyla,
and for Wayne and Kim
looking after the Fletcher Centre.

Help all of us to work together,
support and encourage each other,
and draw our neighbours to You.

Build Your Church, Lord,

And bind us together in Love.

We pray for the wider church,
for our Bishops, Martin and Mike,
leading and supporting the diocese;
for Gavin the Diocesan Secretary,
and for our Archdeacon, Rhiannon.

We pray too for our Deanery of Ipswich,
that churches and ministers

might support each other.
Help Charlotte our Area Dean
to perceive Your leadership,
and so enable us to work together,
to bring Your light to our town.

Build Your Church, Lord,
And bind us together in Love.

In a moment of silence, bring to God both
local and national issues, and seek his
support so the church might know how to
act on Christ's behalf.

Strengthen our national Church, Father,
our Archbishops, Bishops and Synod,
that they might be equipped and ready
to proclaim with us your Son,
to challenge injustice,
to champion service and love,
and to be a visible signpost to You
across our nation and beyond.

Build Your Church, Lord,
And bind us together in Love.

Remember before God any prayer
requests from the news sheet for today.

We know that without you, Lord God,

we can achieve nothing.
Give us, we pray, commitment to prayer,
and confidence to trust in you,
that we would see you working in our
church, our neighbours, and our world.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ,
Our saviour and friend.

Amen.

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Tuesday : The world

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

With the help of God, we will.

Creator God, we thank you for the world,
for the wonders of the universe,
the gifts of nature,
for your provision of light, heat and food,
and for your ongoing sustenance.

Take a moment to consider the world:
God's plenteous provision and our
exploitation and poor caretaking of it.

Help us to be good stewards,
as individuals at home,
as members of our local communities,
and as partners in Your restoration of our
world.

Light of the world,
Reveal your light to our world today.

We pray for all trapped in war and famine,
where the behaviour and greed of others,
pride, and lack of trust, poisons society,
brings suffering and removes freedom.

Remember before God those situations in the news, and those you know of not seen as newsworthy.

We often feel so helpless here, seeing the plight of those in such need, in other countries and continents. We ask You to share your compassion, act out of love, and share your Hope; that peace might prevail, nourishment be provided, and societies freed from tyranny and pain. Show us how to contribute to Your work, and enable us to take our part.

Light of the world,
Reveal your light to our world today.

We pray for international bodies that seek to bring together countries to work together for the greater good. Give good counsel to the United Nations, generosity within economic committees, and power to environment agencies. Enable our diverse world to unite, put aside differences and historic pain, and work together for the benefit of all.

Light of the world,
Reveal your light to our world today.

We remember those working for You,
aid agencies and missionary partners,
to share your love and justice.

We pray especially for Open doors,
for the Church Missionary Society,
and for Kagera, our partner diocese.

We ask for resources to enable their work,
committed people to fulfil their mission,
and inspiration to prompt their activity.
Reveal your Kingdom through them,
and help them know you at their sides.

Light of the world,
Reveal your light to our world today.

Remember before God any prayer
requests from the news sheet for today.

Almighty God, creator of our world,
come in power and majesty
to oppose the forces of evil and hatred,
grant your peace and providence,
and establish your Kingdom of Love.
May the light we perceive in our lives,
your light for all people,
be shone in the dark places,
and bring hope and new beginnings,

for we ask this in the name of Jesus,
with us today, reigning in our hearts,
and coming to redeem the whole world.

Amen.

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Wednesday: Proclaiming God's Kingdom

Will you proclaim by word and example
the good news of God in Christ?

With the help of God, We will.

We thank you Father, for the Cross
that through Christ we can come to you,
for your forgiveness and grace,
and for your Holy Spirit living in us.

We know so many who do not know you,
who are yet to meet you and trust you,
and we remember them before you.

Pause to bring to God those you have
committed to pray for.

We ask you to be present in their lives,
that they would perceive your love,
be attracted to your Son our Saviour,
and come to a life giving faith in you.

Lord, through your church

May your kingdom be proclaimed.

Pause to bring our local community and its
needs to God.

Just as Christ taught about your love,
He demonstrated it in His life.

Help us to do likewise in our community.

We pray for our local partners in Christ:
for Danny, Jane and All Saints church,
for Lawrence and the Triangle community,
and for our other local partners,
Burlington Baptist, Ipswich International,
and Ipswich Community Churches.
Build positive relationships between us,
and inspire us to work together
taking your love to our neighbourhoods.

Lord, through your church
May your kingdom be proclaimed.

Thank you for our weekly top-up shop,
for the food that clients can buy,
for the opportunity to chat over coffee,
and how it draws people to you.
Grant wisdom in its co-ordination,
resources to enable it to meet needs,
and Your peace and protection.
We pray that we would build friendships,
strengthen community and well-being,
and witness to your glory.

Please pray for tomorrow's Top-Up Shop.

Lord, through your church
May your kingdom be proclaimed.

As we gather this coming Sunday
to worship You, hear Your Word,
and offer our prayers together to You,
we ask that through that service,
your kingdom would be proclaimed,
and your good news heard and received.
We pray for all planning the service,
that they would be inspired by your Spirit;
for the musicians leading our worship,
and all who give of their time for us.
Enable each of us to worship you,
receive your blessing,
offer ourselves in your service,
and be ready to go out
as witnesses to your Kingdom.

Lord, through your church
May your kingdom be proclaimed.

Remember before God any prayer
requests from the news sheet for today.

Gracious Lord and loving King,
strengthen and inspire your church,
that we might proclaim your salvation,
witness to your hope,
and build your kingdom today.
We give ourselves to you in service.
May our lives reflect you more each day,
as you reveal your image in us

and infill us with your life-giving Spirit.
Amen.

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Thursday: Serving our world

Will you seek and serve Christ in all people, loving your neighbour as yourself?
With the help of God, we will.

Our society relies on so many people willing to answer the call to serve others. We pray for our emergency services, particularly as we see resources stretched and so many in need of support. Grant them, with all caring professionals, wisdom to determine what care is required, skills to complete it effectively, and compassion to serve with kindness.

Where there is need, hurt and loneliness,
Pour out your love, we pray.

We pray for our partners serving locally. Bless Perspectives' support for mothers, and Inspires one-to-one counselling work. Resource both of these services, Father, providing the staff patience and wisdom, giving amply of Your love and care, and healing and freeing their clients.

Where there is need, hurt and loneliness,
Pour out your love, we pray.

We thank you for St Matthews School,
for the good relationships we have,
for the children and their parents,
for the teaching and support staff,
and for the community of care and love.
Give wisdom and inspiration to Mr Gates,
and to all his staff in the school.
May the children build sound foundations
and grow in awareness of you.
We also thank you for the work of
Transforming Lives for Good.
Enable those involved to have
a positive impact on children's lives.

Where there is need, hurt and loneliness,
Pour out your love, we pray.

We thank you Father for our parish elders,
supporting our members in their homes.
May their visits be refreshing and joyful,
bringing hope and compassion,
and maintaining your presence
in the lives of our brothers and sisters.
Grant them your guidance and peace
as they serve you with gentleness
and take your light into darkened lives.

Where there is need, hurt and loneliness,
Pour out your love, we pray.

Father, we pray for those in our families,
and in our communities
that need your support, healing or
comfort.

Pause to bring to God those you know,
their situations, their needs, and those who
provide care and support for them.

We trust you, Lord God, to hear and
respond to each of these our prayers.

Where there is need, hurt and loneliness,
Pour out your love, we pray.

Remember before God any prayer
requests from the news sheet for today.

Lord Jesus, we look forward to your return,
when you will make all things anew,
and establish your eternal Kingdom.

As we wait expectantly for your time,
help each of us take our part
in your creative work in our society,
showing your mercy through our service,
and proclaiming your reign, even today.

We pray in the sure hope of your Word,
and the assurance of your promises.

Amen.

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Friday : Justice and peace

Will you acknowledge Christ's authority over human society, by prayer for the world and its leaders, by defending the weak, and by seeking peace and justice?

With the help of God, we will.

As we read and study your Word, Lord,
we can see your truth and justice
in the lives of the saints,
in the words of Your Son,
and in the witness of the early church.

Refresh us, your church,
as your mouthpiece for justice,
and a challenging presence of truth.
Let justice roll on like a river,
righteousness like a mighty stream!

We pray for those in our nation
with power and influence to bear.

Take a moment to pray for our
Government and local councils.

Convict politicians in your truth,
that they would seek the good of others,
protect the vulnerable and weak,
provide for the disadvantaged,

and seek to create fresh communities.

Let justice roll on like a river,
righteousness like a mighty stream!

We thank you for our diverse community,
the ethnic variety evident on our streets,
the mix of contributions made to society,
and the assortment of hopes and fears.

In your mind's eye, recall the people you
see around our town.

We ask that you would reign in our town:
bringing peace where there is discord,
patience where there is misunderstanding,
love in place of discrimination and hate,
and hope for a shared future.

Let justice roll on like a river,
righteousness like a mighty stream!

As we as a church reach out in your love,
help us to make positive connections,
earn the trust of local communities,
build positive partnerships,
and demonstrate your Gospel in action.
Give wisdom to Nick and our leaders
as they discern your good direction:
what we plan and how we work,

who to work with, when to act,
what community needs to seek to address,
and when it is wisest to say no.

Let justice roll on like a river,
righteousness like a mighty stream!

Lord Jesus, we have our own frontlines,
places you want us to represent You,
to demonstrate Your life in how we are,
to stand up for those mistreated around
us,
to comfort and support those in pain,
and be firm witnesses to our Hope in you.

Consider your frontline(s), those you meet
and spend time with, and any current joys
or issues that come to mind.

Give us courage to remain in you
in the face of opposition and prejudice;
disclose yourself in us, despite our failings,
and help us see you in others too.

Let justice roll on like a river,
righteousness like a mighty stream!

Remember before God any prayer
requests from the news sheet for today.

Almighty God and Father,
as we rejoice in your truth and justice,
may we see the evidence of your kingdom,
the flourishing of your Word,
in our daily lives,
and in the lives of those around us.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ,
both Righteous Judge and Loving Saviour.
Amen.

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Saturday : Living each day for Christ

The commission concludes with this prayer:

May Christ dwell in our hearts through faith, that we may be rooted and grounded in love and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit.

Amen.

We bring before you our young people thanking you for the blessing they are, and seeking your blessing on them.

Bring to mind those young people known to you and hold them in your prayers.

We pray for CYM, their school chaplains, and their other youth gatherings; for the University Chaplaincy, and for Linda's work with the students; and for our own youth group, asking for your leadership for Andy.

Good Father, you know what is best: give good guidance to our young people, inspire them to follow your Son, and grant them your protection and love. Make us one with you Lord,
and fill us with your Spirit today.

Thank you for families, friends,
workplace communities,
our church fellowship,
for all who give us fellowship and support.

Pause to thank God for those in our lives.

We pray for our homegroups,
and for our many other church groups:
the Seniors group, Little Treasures,
Messy Meet-Up + Messy church,
the Men's breakfast, the Top-Up lunch,
and the One Voice community choir.

As we meet together, build our fellowship,
help us to learn to trust each other,
to encourage and support each other,
and to work together for Your Kingdom.

Make us one with you Lord,
and fill us with your Spirit today.

We remember the lonely and isolated,
those with little access to support.

Pause to bring to God those we know.

We ask You to bring them company,
to enable them to make friendships,
and to provide for their needs today.
Help us to be support for others:

grant us courage, patience, and grace,
and use us to share your love and hope.

Make us one with you Lord,
and fill us with your Spirit today.

Finally, Lord, help us seek you,
to know You closely through your Word,
to spend time with you in prayer,
to witness to you on our frontlines,
to worship you through our service,
and to receive your blessings daily.

Pause to reflect on these words, and to
make them your own before God.

Make us one with you Lord,
and fill us with your Spirit today.

Remember before God any prayer
requests from the news sheet for today.

In our daily lives,
shine your loving light through us;
lighten the lives of those we meet,
those we work with,
and all we spend time serving.
As you reveal Your glory to them,
may they glimpse Your love for them,
and know your compassion.

Grant us confidence and commitment,
to reflect and tell of Your love
each and every day.

Amen.

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