

24/7 Week of Prayer Theme: Sharing our love for God in our church families

Some prayers to hopefully help!

A Prayer of Praise:

Without You, Lord Jesus, we would be lost in a dark and despairing world, without joy and without life. Without You, Lord Jesus, we would be frozen in a cold and meaningless existence, without hope and without a future. But, You are the Risen and Living One Who leads us out of our tombs of despondency & fear and fills our lives with rejoicing. And so, we give You our gratitude – in the words we speak, in the songs we sing and in the lives we live, wholly filled with You. Amen.

Pause to offer your own prayers/songs etc of praise!

Passing On to Younger Generations We pray that through the collective work of our church communities with children and young people, that your spirit would be powerfully at work in the lives of this new generation. May they grow strong in their knowledge and love of God. We picture children and young people known to us within our churches and communities, asking that, wherever this is not yet the case, that one day they would become living disciples of Jesus Christ. We ask boldly that the emerging generation would see and experience more of you God than any generation that has gone before. And for all those who know you already, we ask that you empower them mightily, even now as we pray, that they might live lives of faithful witness, bear the fruit of his Spirit and live his great gift of love, to the Glory of your name. Amen.

Pause to pray for young people, children and families known to you or for work that is happening, either in your church or in others to reach out to the next generation.

Welcoming Newcomers We pray now for our wider church communities, recognising firstly that we are called to be an inclusive community, sharing the hospitality of God's Kingdom with all. So, we pray now particularly for all those who are in the early stages of connecting with our churches, perhaps because they are new to our area, perhaps because they are new to, or exploring faith, or perhaps simply because they are seeking somewhere where they can simply be, belong and be known. We pray that in our churches they may find a place which they can quickly call their own. We pray that they may find a warm and unconditional embrace, a deep sense of connection with others and above all an ever deepening sense of connection with you. We ask for the gift of hospitality to be poured out on all of us as your people, that we have your heart for the stranger, and be your hands in reaching out and welcoming in. Amen.

Pause to pray for individuals known to you who are exploring church community or the Christian faith for the first time.

Encouraging and Growing Disciples Lastly, we want to recognise that, as well as being an inclusive community, as churches we are also called to be a worshipping community, offering all to God in prayer. We are called to be a missionary community, making known the redeeming love of God. We are called to be a prophetic community, challenging powers that oppress and corrupt. And we are called to be a sacrificial community, generously giving from all that God has given us. So, we pray for our churches that they would be places where worshipping, prayerful, missionary, prophetic, sacrificial, generous disciples are encouraged and grown. May we set one another bold examples of these things and encourage one another daily, for as long as it is called today. We pray for all those charged with leading, teaching and equipping your people in their lives of worship and witness,

perhaps as preachers, bible study or small group leaders and many other roles besides. Would you fill them we pray with a special measure of your Holy Spirit that they may lead and teach with words that flow from you and so that their work may be to them a source of greatest joy. Amen.

Pause to pray for church leaders and all those who teach others in our churches.

A Concluding Prayer

Father, I offer you my prayers today and I trust for the answers to be worked out, according to your good and perfect will. Now to You who, by Your power at work within us, are able to accomplish abundantly far more than we can ask or imagine: to You be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever.

Amen.