

# *Holy Week*

24/7 PRAYER RESOURCE

**JOHN 1:12**

**'Yet to all who did receive  
him, to those who believed in  
his name, he gave the right to  
become children of God.'**



*Rejoice always, pray  
continually, give thanks  
in all circumstances*

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18

## Let's join together in prayer

It has become a beautiful rhythm in our church life that we set aside time during Holy Week to pray continuously. Some of us choose an hour, others more. Some of us pray during the night, others during the day. Some of us speak, some of us write, some of us paint, some of us remain silent. Each of us is unique in our approach to prayer, yet what unites us is our shared desire to experience deeper intimacy with Father God, Jesus and Holy Spirit through this time of prayer.

We pray Paul's prayer to the early church over you and ask that you would pray it over the person who has come before and will go after you in prayer during this Holy Week...

### OUR PRAYER FOR YOU

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For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

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# A call for God's people

God of peace,  
We pray for worried mothers  
and fathers.  
We pray for frightened  
children.  
We pray for people who  
cannot flee,  
And for those who are  
running for their lives.  
Bring comfort, safety and  
provision, O God.

We pray for those reaching  
out to help the vulnerable.  
We pray for leaders on both  
sides.  
We pray for a world that  
seems darker today.  
Bring wisdom, calm and  
compassion, O God,

And let your light shine on  
the people of Ukraine.  
May there be an immediate  
end to the conflict,  
And lasting peace.

In Jesus' name we pray.  
Amen.

The world is reeling from the unprovoked and unjust invasion of Ukraine by Russia. The people of Ukraine now face the prospect of a prolonged period of conflict and suffering.

When faced with a crisis like the conflict in Ukraine, it can be hard to know how to pray. But the desire to pray itself is a great place to start. So we wanted to offer you some ways in which you can pray into this complex and deeply disturbing conflict.

Enter this time of prayer in the confidence that Jesus has the VICTORY - no power of Hell or scheme of man can change that truth.

We know our God is a God of peace - whose heart is to bring healing and reconciliation to all conflicts everywhere. In God's kingdom there is no place for war, or for the powerful to dominate the weak. As children of His Kingdom we have power and authority to bring this healing to earth when we pray in Jesus' name.

## **Pray for people affected by the violence**

- That people still in Ukraine will be protected from the violence; that there will be provision of essential supplies, such as food and clean water. Pray for vulnerable people who cannot flee, for example those with disabilities or the elderly.
- That refugees will find safe places to stay - pray that there will be compassion and support for all.
- For healing for people who are wounded or have experienced trauma; and comfort for those who are grieving.

## **Pray for the church**

- That the church in the Ukraine, Russia and across the wider region will be a voice for peace; that they will have the resources they need to help people.
- That the church and other organisations around the world will have the courage and conviction to speak out against aggression and injustice.
- That God's power will be revealed through the church in this situation - bringing a message of love and hope in the midst of the darkness.



# Stay here and keep watch with me

MATTHEW 26: 38

**In Matthew 26, we follow Jesus as he eats with his disciples and friends, then walks to Gethsemane with them to pray.**

**Jesus desires companionship. He wants his closest friends to be with him. He creates opportunities, through shared meals and shared times of prayer, for his followers to deepen their unity.**

**We know that his disciples don't get it right at this moment, but after the Holy Spirit comes at Pentecost, we see them live out the unity that Jesus modelled to them.**

# All the believers were together

ACTS 3: 44

## PRAY FOR:

Unity within our church family as we journey together into this new season.

The Holy Spirit to help us as we rebuild, renew and discover relationships that help us to grow deeper in our faith and unity with Jesus

A listening ear - who is God placing on your heart that could benefit from your companionship in their faith journey? Who might you benefit from sharing meals and times of prayer with?





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## A NEW LIGHT ARRIVES

*Buried in the night,  
anxious thoughts  
crowded darkly  
around me.  
The last thing I  
expect  
is a miracle;  
the last thing I  
anticipate is God  
riding the dawn.  
But then,  
like the only answer  
we ever need,  
a new light arrives,  
splashing grace-  
paint  
on the worn-out  
canvas of my heart,  
and all of a sudden  
hope is running  
along the tops of the  
trees  
wild-eyed  
and rampant.*

# we boast in the hope of the glory of God

Romans 5:2

This poem by Gideon Heugh provides a glimpse into the experience of many Christians who find themselves buried in anxious thoughts and worldly pressures, unable to grasp the power of God to transform us and our circumstances.

Maybe you can relate to this? Jesus' disciples certainly could, as we see from their behaviour in the Gospels.

Read John 20: 24-29 slowly and carefully. Ask the Holy Spirit to speak to you through the passage.

What is holding you back from being truly able to confidently 'boast in the hope of the glory of God'?

Jesus doesn't withhold the intimacy that Thomas needs in that moment - he draws close enough to touch. And this moment restores and renews Thomas' hope and his faith in Christ.

Jesus will not withhold intimacy from you either.

Welcome him into the space you are in right now and allow him to minister to you and restore your hope.



# Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore...

John 21

John shares with us his account of a deeply personal, powerfully intimate and ultimately unifying moment in the lives of Jesus' closest friends, as he appears to them for the third time since his resurrection.

Take time to pray about the intersections in your life:

Between work and rest

Between family and faith

Between possessions and giving

Between Jesus and the world

What is Jesus repeating to you about these places?

What is he reassuring you about?

What is his vision for how you live your life half in the boat and half in the water, half in the world and half in the Kingdom?

# *A tremor in the void*

It began with darkness, a  
tremor in the void,  
the shadow of God moving  
silently  
over the cowering deep.  
It began with darkness, a  
serpent's lie believed,  
a temptation devoured,  
a garden left behind.  
It began with darkness, a  
people enslaved,  
a murderer in exile,  
the angel of death snatching  
a nation's young.  
It began with darkness, the  
terror of war,  
the breaking of kings,  
invasion and oppression  
and a God abandoned, then  
forgotten.  
It began with darkness, a  
frightened mother  
travelling a dusty road, a  
stable for a delivery room,  
a desperate escape into a  
foreign land.

It began with darkness, the  
plotting of the pious,  
the betrayal of a friend, an  
arrest in the night,  
an unjust trial.  
It began with darkness, an  
innocent man's arm  
forced against a wooden  
beam, iron nails driven  
through his  
skin tendons ligaments  
bones  
broken body hoisted high  
the crowd jeering joking  
sneering spitting,  
his mother, weeping.  
It began with darkness,  
an anguished cry, a spear  
thrust into flesh,  
life pouring out, sky turning  
black.  
It began with darkness, a  
tremor in the void,  
the eyes of the anointed  
opening  
in the cold heart of a tomb,  
and then a voice:

*'Let there be light.'*