

Themed Intercessions Part One

Prayers based on 1 Corinthians 13

GOD IS LOVE LOVE IS ETERNAL

Give thanks for experiences of God's love
Our salvation
God's care, provision, comfort, peace
Our knowledge of Jesus - our life in him
His living presence with us
Our fellowship in the church - our love for one another
Our family life
The love which holds us together
enables us to be ourselves,
forgives, strengthens, encourages,
Give thanks for God's love in the community and the world
for all the evidence of his love in other people's lives.

Thank God
we are created by love
we are surrounded by love
God's love is eternal
- the greatest and most lasting thing of all

LOVE IS PATIENT AND KIND

Give thanks for all who show love by patient caring and kindness to others
- health service workers - home carers
- parent and teachers- all who work with children in need
- those whose work is care for the elderly
- those who work for the relief of poverty and hunger,
disease and ignorance throughout the world
those who work for racial justice and understanding

Pray for our own people in sickness and other various needs
Those involved in accidents and disasters
Victims of war and human atrocities
Pray for the infiltration of Christian love, through
Christ's people - enhancing all human care.

LOVE DOES NOT KEEP A RECORD OF WRONGS

Give thanks for God's love through Jesus;
He keeps no score of our forgiven wrongs;
Thanks for those who have witnessed to Christ
by forgiving love - often at great cost to themselves

Pray for a spirit of forgiveness in the world
bringing peace, respect, and understanding
in areas of political conflict and racial discord
in the life of the Church - to bring real unity among all Christian people
in our neighbourhood - healing all divisions -
removing all bitterness *of class and race*

LOVE IS HAPPY WITH THE TRUTH

Give thanks for the wisdom we have discovered in Jesus who is the Truth

Pray for truth and honesty to be respected in our
world today – especially
in our own society
in government
in business and commerce

Pray for truth as the basis of justice
for all who are oppressed by falsehood and injustice

Pray for the Church to make a more courageous stand
for right and truth in every area of injustice and exploitation

LOVE NEVER GIVES UP ITS FAITH AND HOPE AND PATIENCE NEVER FAIL

God our Father the needs of our world, society and church
as well as our own needs, anxieties, and longings
for holiness,
seem so great and at times impossible to achieve
Give us the love which will not give up;
the courage to trust you with our lives;
the confidence that Jesus has overcome the world
and your purposes are being worked out for the
fulfilment of your Kingdom of Love.

The Baptism of Jesus - Beginnings

[The baptism of Jesus marked the beginning of his ministry. Our baptism marks the beginning of our Christian life in his church. These intercessions bring these thoughts together as we remember before God the need of the church and the world, not least the need for new beginnings]

Thanks

Give thanks to God for
new beginnings;
new challenges;
new opportunities;
new visions;
new hopes.

Give thanks for Jesus who offers us
a fresh start at every turn of our lives;
the opportunity to rise renewed
from every failure and every wrong decision we make.

Lord, our God, as Jesus humbly accepted baptism, give us grace to accept his invitation to take the generous forgiveness of his cross and to walk forward into life afresh with him.

The World

Pray for peace in all the world;
remembering before God some of the many areas of conflict
in our daily news;
Pray for civilians - especially the children injured and bereaved in recent
conflict
Pray for the safety of armed forces serving for peace in all areas of
conflict; and personnel returning home after tours of duty, often to re-live
their fears, as they make their new beginnings.

*Lord our God, give the leaders of the nations the knowledge of Jesus' way
of humility; that they may seek peace rather than war; be ready to listen
to one another and to make sacrifices in the cause of the greatest good.*

The Church

Pray for new beginnings for the church as it responds to the challenge to express the message of God's love in Jesus in contemporary forms.

Pray for our church here that we may be guided by God's Spirit in all our life and mission; be enabled to deepen the spiritual life of our fellowship, and present a true image of Jesus to the people of our local community.

Lord, our God renew your church in the power of your Holy Spirit that it may listen to the cries of the world's people and get alongside them as true neighbours, offering them the good news of your love.

People in Need

Pray for all in sickness, sorrow and other needs; for the wholeness of knowing their lives are in your hands.

Pray for our world of hungry people, and dying children,
A world dominated by forces of greed,
to learn Jesus' way of humble, generous compassion
for all people in every kind of need.

Lord, our God, as beginning at his baptism, Jesus moved among people with his healing word and the touch of your love. Help us to share his ministry today.

Ourselves

*God, our father, as Jesus received your Holy Spirit at his baptism, give us your same Spirit
To empower us in Christ's service;
To enfold us in your love;
To strengthen us in our weakness;
To inspire us to love the world and every living soul within it.
And so to fulfil the promise of our own baptism.*

The Disciple's Cross

Thanks

Give thanks for
All good gifts
The gift of life
The gift of eternal life in Jesus Christ
Give thanks for
The Church
the fellowship of faith, vision and hope.
For all who have responded to the call to cross-bearing discipleship;
denying self
keeping faithful
enduring suffering
especially those who have influenced our own lives

Give thanks for our personal discipleship;
the privileges
the responsibilities
the promises

***Lord, you invite us to take up the disciple's cross and follow you
LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER***

The Church

Pray for the Church in the world; The church on the Cross
For all who sacrifice with Jesus
to witness to the power of his Cross - and his Kingdom vision

Pray for churches facing up to the challenges of their society and
neighbourhood
seeking ecumenical co-operation
urgent to make the gospel relevant for today

***Lord, you invite us to take up the disciple's cross and follow you
LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER***

The Local Church

Our future ; cross bearing together
accepting the suffering and sacrifice involved in change
in order to know resurrection and renewal
in personal discipleship
and together as the Church of Christ in our community
***Lord, you invite us to take up the disciple's cross and follow you
LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER***

The World

Pray for peace by the Cross

Peace in the world - by sacrifice and selflessness

Pray for the United Nations and World leaders

For United nations peacekeeping forces and their families

Pray for Christian leaders in the political arena

speaking out for justice and truth amid corruption, war and unjust exploitation - particularly of women and children

Pray for our own Parliament and Local Government officers

***Lord, you invite us to take up the disciple's cross and follow you
LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER***

The Community

Pray for all who bear the cross of pain

as they serve others in the community;

especially in hospital services and nursing homes

Pray for all who faithfully carry out the footwashing ministry of love

caring relatives of the sick and housebound

healers and helpers in broken situations facing tragedy,

unanswered questions, and seeming impossible life situations

Pray for those working with children and young people in need

***Lord, you invite us to take up the disciple's cross and follow you
LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER***

The Sick

Pray for those known to us

Those in recent tragedies and disasters

For all who meet them with answers fo their prayers for help and healing

***Lord, you invite us to take up the disciple's cross and follow you
LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER***

Personal

Lord Jesus Christ, God and Saviour

may we share your mind and heart.

Call us to true discipleship

to carrying the cross of suffering for the sake of the Kingdom

to denying ourselves in order to put you first in all things

to follow you in obedience and trust

Give us confidence that having passed through the time of the Cross with you, we shall share the glory of your Resurrection life

The Lord's Prayer

***Our Father* HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME**

Our Father

We praise you,
we worship you,
we give you thanks
You are our father
You are holy
You are all powerful
And yet you care for us as your children
You give us all we need for life and living
You give us friendships and Christian fellowship
You give us truth through hearing your Word
You give us eternal life and a place in your family
through the life and sacrifice of Jesus
We thank you Lord

In silence we remember God's good gifts

***Our Father*
HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME**

***Father, your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as it is in heaven***

Lord, rule in love over your world,
and in the hearts of all people
Bring peace in every place of conflict

In silence we recall situations of conflict and need

Bring healing in the place of sickness
- especially for those we remember

In silence we call to mind those in need

***Our Father*
HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME**

Father, give us today our daily bread

Supply the needs of all people
Feed the hungry
Provide for victims of accidents and natural disasters
- the unemployed and redundant
Resource all who help them in their needs

Give dignity to all people that they may be able to work for their daily bread
Inspire a new concern among the world's governments to feed the world
Give wisdom to all who plan for the use of the world's plentiful resources and to all who steer its economies
Give to us all a spirit of unselfishness in the use and sharing of your gifts
Make us wise in asking for OUR daily bread.

Our Father
HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME

Father, forgive us the wrong we do as we forgive those who do wrong to us

Take from us all bitterness and resentment
Help us to forgive others,
that we may better understand
and claim your forgiveness for ourselves

Teach the world the way of forgiveness
of non-retaliation and of sacrifice for others,
until your kingdom of peace comes to the world
- especially we pray this in all areas of conflict

Silence to remember specific areas of need

Teach us to be peacemakers in our everyday situations - forgiving and understanding that we may share in making peace for all the world

Our Father
HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME

***Father, keep us from temptation
Set us free from the power of evil***

Teach us to live with confidence
and to stand courageously against all that is evil
and unjust in our world
Renew our faith in the victory of the Cross
and the power of Jesus who is alive with us

Our Father
HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME

***Father, yours is the kingdom, the power and
the glory, always***

teach us to live in the assurance
of your almighty power
of your eternal love
and your ultimate victory of love and justice

Our Father
HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Light of the World

Light of the World LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE

Father, we give you thanks for the wonders of your created world
for the light of day by which we live;
for the light of knowledge and truth in your word
 shared by saints and scholars across the years;
for the light of love in Jesus shining in our lives;
 the light of forgiveness and peace, joy and hope

Light of the World LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE

The Church

Lord you have made your church the lamp
through which the light of the Gospel reaches the world:
make your church a clear channel of the light
unhindered by division or falsehood

Let the light of the gospel shine into many lives today
- converting, convincing and calling
 people of all ages to your service

Light of the World LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE

We pray for all who minister your Word as preachers and teachers.
Make them clear exponents of your truth;
Inspiration for the church seeking new directions
And encouragement for every aspect of discipleship.

Light of the World LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE

The World

Lord Jesus, light of the world
You point all people to the Father;
let your light shine in the world
through the darkness of poverty, hunger and want
to bring justice, hope and provision for all people's needs:
Give the light of your wisdom to those who lead the nations of the world
that they may know the way of your peace and follow in it.

Lord bring the light of your love into the darkness of those who live with
bitterness and hatred for their fellows; Teach them to love.
May love drive all enmity from their lives and ours.

Light of the World

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE

Our Nation and Community

Lord shine the light of your truth into the moral gloom of our society:
let the truth of your word point to the highest standards
of personal and social life.
Let that truth first shine in our lives

Light of the World

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE

Those in Need

Father, we commend to you our sick, sorrowing and needy people
Share with them the light of your loving, healing presence;
enveloping them in your Spirit
until they know your healing peace in their lives

Light of the World

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE

Ourselves

Father, bring each of us closer to Jesus until his love becomes a light shining
through us
to bring hope to the depressed and sorrowing;
courage to the fearful;
compassion to all in need;
and a sense of your presence all about us

Light of the World

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE