

Our father in heaven, we thank you for the privilege of prayer, for the assurance from the holy spirit that we are adopted as your children, of the intimacy which this brings, and so in confidence we come to you this morning with our prayers as we pray for others and ourselves.

Almighty God In the world outside of this country we see so much evidence of conflict, wars between countries, internal conflicts due to political and religious views, the ever- entrenched positions. The seemingly unresolvable conflicts. We cry out to you that the voices of those seeking peace and compromise would be heard and listened to. For those with power to show leadership with a commitment to peace, truth and justice and not for conflict. For those in power seeking conflict we pray that you would guide their thoughts, renew their minds, open their eyes to the suffering around them that they would have the vision of our common humanity made in your image. We long to see their hearts changed.

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer

The suffering of the people of Turkey and Syria due to the recent earthquake for most of us is beyond our comprehension. We think of those who have lost everything, those struggling to survive, those in darkness and despair. We pray that the international community will put aside political agendas, to show compassion and come together to provide the physical and financial needs now and into the future to help the physical rebuilding and people to rebuild their lives and bring hope and security. Lord God, we pray for those seeking you in the midst of such pain and hopelessness that they will find you and in you peace and hope.

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.

Creator God, source of wisdom, we pray for Christians in politics in this country, those in local authorities and government who shape our society. We pray that you would give them wisdom, the courage to speak out, to be transformative, to be salt and light in our country.

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.

Compassionate Lord in our own community there are many suffering with anxiety and depression, especially at this time. Help us to be compassionate to bring hope and joy but also to be actively involved, to be generous in using our resources to meet these needs as best we can, for we know that working with you we can be transformative and extraordinary things can happen.

We remember before you now those who we know who are ill, physically and mentally. (Gap). We know that you can restore the sick in body and mind , bring light where there is the darkness of depression and anxiety we pray and restore the health of those who are physically sick.

Lord, in your mercy hear our pray.

Finally we pray for ourselves. Lord Jesus we acknowledge that you call each of us to serve you. We give thanks for Nick as he joins us as associate minister in this church, we are delighted to welcome him here. We pray that through your holy spirit you will guide him, encourage him, give him your assurance and peace, helping him to fulfil your role for him here. You also call all of us according to the gifts you have given to each of us, every role big or small, indispensable as we are each part of the body of Christ. We thank you for the gift of the holy spirit through whom you call, guide and support us, help us to be listening and open to your call and willing to go and do what you ask us, knowing that you are always with us.

We join together to say: Living God