Loving Father,

We, your children, open our hearts and minds to you in prayer. You know our needs, our worries and the deepest desires of our hearts. Hear us now, as together, we lift our prayers to you.

Father, we pray for our church family and ask that it continues to grow. We lift to you all those preparing to be baptised or confirmed next Sunday at the SIX:30 service. (We pray for *names*,......)

We rejoice with you, Lord, that they have reached this moment in their journey of faith and ask you to pour your Spirit upon them and richly bless them. May their love for you deepen and their faith grow and flourish in the years ahead.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Gracious Lord, we ask you to support and encourage all opportunities we have to meet together and build friendships with each other. We pray especially for all Home Groups and Connect groups meeting at the moment. Support and encourage group leaders with all they need to run their groups, we pray. Through your Spirit, may faith and fellowship grow and flourish through the times we share together.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Healing Lord, we lift to you all who are ill in body, mind or spirit. We pray especially for those with long term illness, who are dependent on others to look after them. We pray for those in pain and for those who are angry and frustrated at their situation. We pray for those who need to be protected from themselves and from harming others.

We ask for your peace and calm, your re-assurance and comfort, your encouragement and healing – and for your love – for all carers and those they care for.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Lord of all Creation, give us wisdom to use the precious gift of this wonderful world more wisely and to be good stewards of all that you have given us. Help us to live more sustainably, to rebuild, to restore, to renew and to treasure and value all the resources of this planet.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Lord of Life and Death, we pray for those who have departed this life and are now safe with you, resting in your loving care. May we bring your peace and comfort to all those we know who are mourning the loss of a loved one at this time.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God of love, teach us to love.

God of mercy and forgiveness, teach us to forgive.

God of grace and renewing power, teach us to look for the good in others.

God of strength, teach us to persist in loving

For Jesus sake.

Merciful Father

Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Amen