



All of this is us



## #40PRAYERS

### 40 days of prayer from the Assembly to mark our 40th Anniversary

#### WEEK FIVE

#### Day 30 – Monday 12 June 2017 – Prayer for Synods and Presbyteries

*Today we pray for Synods and Presbyteries in the Uniting Church. Thank you to Rev. Dr Amelia Koh Butler, Mission Resourcing Executive Officer for the Synod of South Australia for this prayer.*

#### **The Prophetic Voice**

God of Justice!  
We call on you to guide  
all those on this Land  
to seek Justice.

*We pray for the time when Church members gather  
to seek your Spirit's Wisdom together in Presbyteries and Synods.*

Bless and renew our hearts and minds,  
so that we may see with your insight,  
mindful of the calling  
to walk in your way of peace and reconciliation.  
Seed in us the desire to be agitators  
for holy change.

*We pray for the Councils whose role it is  
to resource and empower Congregations for the work of Witness.*

May the blessings we receive  
inspire and nourish us  
to bless those around us  
with words of comfort  
and actions of healing.  
Inspire in our mouths  
the words of your good news  
for the sake of the world you love.

***We pray in response to our calling to be the body, beyond our part...  
to companion one another as members of that body, across the regions and  
the nation.***

May we grow in the courage of Christ,  
becoming and being prepared to take up the cross,  
rather than buy in to the pressure  
of dehumanising and demeaning  
that places avarice before generosity.  
Gift us with the desire to share in joyful community.  
Make us into catalysts for relationships.  
Form us as people who become nourishment for the world.

***We pray that the Presbyteries and Synods might offer signs of Gospel  
blessing through their people and structures, always grounded and lifted by  
your Spirit's breath.***

May we deepen in our reading of your Scriptures,  
that we might see your promises of mercy written in our souls.  
May we work, throughout Australia,  
and through our international partnerships,  
to bring about a foretaste of the state of mercy and blessing  
that characterises Heaven.

***May the Presbyteries and Synods be and become places of inspirational  
foretaste, reflecting the hope revealed in the story of God.***

Just as we seek mercy,  
teach us to recognise the power imbalances  
that prevent the full experience of abundant life.  
May we learn to repent of those habits  
that destroy your beautiful plan.  
Rather, let us learn the creativity of your nature,  
to better use our gifts for the sake of grace.

God of Justice,  
be our Teacher and our Defender!  
Correct us, so we can learn how to speak Truth.  
And, when we do - protect us from the evils we confront,  
For this is your will to be done  
And we are honoured by your call.

***Where our Councils become places of power, may we approach our task as  
one of empowerment and blessing.***

**#40PRAYERS**

**40 days of prayer for the 40th Anniversary of the Uniting Church in 2017**

*Give us humble hearts, that we might always seek the reconciliation of all your creation in your "Kin-dom", rather than being greedy for "our" church.*

So, we commit this day,  
to be your holy and vocal people.  
We commit to stand up for your beloved creation,  
especially those who are marginalised  
by the cultures of judgement and shame around us.  
May we stand with them.  
So be it.

***AMEN.***

## **Day 31 – Tuesday 13 June 2017 – Prayer for Volunteers**

*Today we pray for those who volunteer in the Uniting Church with thanks for the many and varied ways they contribute.*

*Thank you to Rev. Fie Marino, Multicultural Ministry Consultant Synod of NSW/ACT, for this prayer.*

Wonderful and Amazing God – it is always a privilege and honour to share in the loving, healing and reconciling mission of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Through his life you have taught us the importance of service to one another.

We are thankful that you continue to inspire us to serve each other.

We give you thanks that through the works of your Spirit and grace poured out, that many people offer their time, gifts and treasures to serve as volunteers in the many different parts of our Church and within our communities – in local congregations, Presbyteries, Synods, Assembly, Church schools, hospitals, agencies and many other places.

We are thankful for the valuable contribution volunteers make to church and community alike, and we celebrate with you, their dedication and support of your work in this world.

In thanksgiving and gratitude, we take this time to reflect on the value of the volunteers who have helped to enrich the lives of the people they serve – those who are vulnerable and marginalised in society, the elderly, the poor, the young, those who are struggling financially, those with addictions, those who are affected by disaster and terror, and the many other ways in which volunteers offer help.

Lord we pray your blessings upon the lives of all those who volunteer and we ask that you continue to strengthen them with the continued determination to be your hands and feet in this world. In and through your name we pray,

Amen.

**#40PRAYERS**

**40 days of prayer for the 40th Anniversary of the Uniting Church in 2017**

## **Day 32 – Wednesday 14 June 2017 – Prayer for Relations with Other Faiths**

*We pray for the relationships the Uniting Church has with people of other faiths.*

*Tonight, members of the Uniting Church will break the fast with members of the Muslim community at an Iftar meal held at Parramatta Mission in Sydney. Both the President of the Uniting Church in Australia and the Grand Mufti of Australia will be there.*

*This prayer was written by Rev. Michael Barnes, Convenor of the Assembly Relations with Other Faiths Working Group.*

Loving God,

Forty years ago when our church was formed, we were bigger and more important.

Now, we occupy less space in the public arena.

Yet this space is hardly empty; the presence of peoples of many different religions and beliefs, Muslims, Jews, Buddhists, Sikhs, Hindus, Baha'i and many others has brought colour and life to our nation.

We give thanks for all of them, for the richness and diversity they bring to our community.

We give thanks for new opportunities to build bridges of curiosity and understanding, and for the possibility of seeing the world through different eyes.

Where there is misunderstanding and discord, may we speak good news of peace.

We give thanks for the challenges this new situation brings to our Church. Help us to recognise that we need to live with more humility and more courage.

Gracious God, grant all of us, people of different faiths and no faith, a large vision of how this nation may yet be.

We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

**#40PRAYERS**

**40 days of prayer for the 40th Anniversary of the Uniting Church in 2017**

## **Day 33 – Thursday 15 June 2017 – Prayer for Child Safety Workers**

*We pray for those who work in Child Safety and Protection. Today the Assembly will launch the National Child Safe Policy Framework.*

*Thank you to President-Elect Deidre Palmer for this prayer.*

Christ Jesus,

You welcomed children and brought healing and hope to their lives.

We pray that as your Church, we will create places of welcome, care and safety for all children, reflecting your love and compassion.

God of love and comfort,

We pray for children who have been neglected or abused.

We pray that people will come into their lives who love and nurture them in healing and life-giving ways.

We pray for child safety workers and all those working in child protection. We thank you for their dedication and the gifts they bring to their vocation to protect and improve the lives of children.

We pray that you will sustain their vision, and uphold them in love and grace.

Christ Jesus, as your church, you call us to be a faithful embodiment of your care and love.

We lament when we have failed to be communities of safety and care.

Challenge and correct us in our failure, and reform our life.

We commit ourselves as your Church to being places of safety, free of abuse and exploitation.

We commit ourselves as your Church to be communities, where people can flourish in ways of trust and love.

We pray that your Spirit will empower us to be advocates for a society in which all children can flourish.

Through Christ, Our Light and Life, we pray, Amen.

**#40PRAYERS**

**40 days of prayer for the 40th Anniversary of the Uniting Church in 2017**

## **Day 34 – Friday 16 June – Prayer for Disaster Ministry**

*Today we pray for those affected by disaster and the people who walk with them in their recovery. Thank you to Assembly Disaster Recovery Officer Rev. Dr Stephen Robinson for this prayer.*

Gracious Lord, you hear the cries of people in distress and, by your Spirit, walk with them through times of hardship and loss.

We pray for all those affected by disaster that have lost loved ones, homes or possessions through disasters caused by events of nature or the action of people.

Bless those who train, wait and act to rescue people in times of extreme hardship: members of our fire services, police, State Emergency Services, volunteer rescue and military. We pray for all who mobilise to bring practical support to those affected by disasters, through provision of shelter, food and clothing. We also lift up those who bring personal and spiritual support.

We pray for the disaster recovery ministries of the Uniting Church in Australia:

For our National Disaster Recovery Officer, as he prepares and supports the ministries of our church to respond to people's needs in disasters.

For all involved in peer support; training ministers to care for crisis-affected ministry agents across the church and its agencies.

For the voluntary disaster recovery chaplains trained and incorporated into state and territory disaster welfare plans, as they prepare and respond in the support of people of all situations affected by disaster across our land.

For Uniting Church congregations in disaster-affected areas, particular in the aftermath of recent fires, cyclone and flooding. These are affected by loss, yet continue to faithfully respond to the needs of others in their districts.

For Synod Disaster Relief committees and their initiatives, and inter-Synod cooperation in training and resourcing the church to bless and heal.

For the work of the Assembly Disaster Relief Fund and all who contribute to it. That it may bring blessing to many recovering from times of great hardship.

For the work of UnitingWorld in the Pacific with our church partners in disaster risk reduction programs and the "navigating the tide" climate change support, and resourcing in ecumenical disaster recovery chaplaincy training.

We bring these prayers in the name of Jesus Christ, who brought peace to his friends in the midst of a stormy sea.

AMEN

**#40PRAYERS**

**40 days of prayer for the 40th Anniversary of the Uniting Church in 2017**

## **Day 35 – Saturday 18 June 2017 – Prayer for Youth Ministry**

*Today we pray for young people in the Uniting Church and those involved in Youth Ministry.*

*This prayer comes from Rev. Phil Swain, Minister at North Rocks Community (Uniting) Church and Bradon French, NSW/ACT UME Next Gen Consultant.*

God,  
we celebrate with you that we are a church of all ages  
and today we specifically pray for young people  
We thank you for all that young people bring to the church  
For their energy, passion and imagination,  
for their noise and music and life.

We pray that young people will continue to feel a sense of belonging and connection  
not only to the church but more importantly to you, God.  
We pray that their faith will be encouraged and nurtured  
That they will have the space and courage to ask questions  
That they will read and wrestle with scripture  
That they will be strengthened to walk in your way  
And find comfort and inspiration in your presence.

We give thanks for the legacy of youth gatherings and camps, local and national,  
and pray we might not give up the practice of gathering together.

We pray for young people in migrant communities  
As they seek to learn and practice faith and culture.

We pray for young people whom we recognise  
as pastors, prophets, leaders, teachers and advocates  
as they be your hands and feet and voice  
In our church, communities, nation and world.

We pray for those called by the Church  
to serve alongside young people  
Our pastors, teachers, chaplains, youth workers, scripture teachers

May we as a church continue to have the wisdom and courage  
To hear the voices of young people  
And to respond with faith.

May all congregations continue to seek to be the whole people of God  
Where all generations are welcome and treasured.

In Jesus name we pray,

Amen.

**#40PRAYERS**

**40 days of prayer for the 40th Anniversary of the Uniting Church in 2017**

## Day 36 – Sunday 18 June 2017 – Prayer for Refugee Week

*As we begin Refugee Week, we pray for those who seek safety and refuge on our shores after fleeing war and strife in their home countries.*

*Today's prayer comes from Rev. Gaby Kobrossi, Minister at Bankstown District Uniting Church. The congregation has welcomed and supported newcomers from the Middle East as they settle into Australian life. The ministry includes weekly English-speaking classes, help finding accommodation, organising bus trips across Sydney and assisting in many other ways.*

*Uniting World is currently running a [campaign](#) to get Syrian refugee children in Lebanon back into school.*

غنى التنوع في كنيستك ولا يسعنا الا ان نقف ونقول مع النبي "الى هنا قد أعاننا الرب".

يارب نشكرك لاننا جسد واحد في المسيح يسوع ، رافعين صلواتنا اليك طالبين من روحك القدوس ان يوحد قلوبنا دائماً في المحبة والسلام.

يارب نشكرك من اجل وعدك الصادق بأن تبني كنيستك، كما هو مكتوب "أنا أبني كنيسة وأبواب الجحيم لن تقدر عليها"

كأفراد وجماعة نسألك بأن تكمل العمل الذي بدأت وأن تقوي كل واحد منا ، نصلي ان تباركنا و تعطينا من عطايك لكي ما نقدر ان نسبحك ونبارك اسمك القدوس.

يارب نشكرك من أجل كلمتك المعزية والتي تذكرنا دائماً بأن الجميع مدعوا لحضن ومحبة الله الأب، نصلي ان تكون مع المشرديين والمهجرين من جراً الحرب التي فصلتهم عن أهلهم وبيوتهم وارضهم ،

نصلي من أجل الحزاني والمكسوريين ونرفع اليك صلواتنا من اجل الشباب الضائع في هذا العالم المتخبط .

يارب صلاتنا أن تحمي كنيسةك من عدو الخير الطامع في خراب النفوس، أعطينا ان نتحلى بالفكر والحكمة ، بالاحترام مع الآخرين ، افتح عيوننا لنرى حاجات الناس وافتح قلوبنا وقوي سواعدا لكي نمد يد المساعدة والعون للذين هم بحاجة اليها.

نطلب حكمة من اجل قادتنا وخدامك و مرشيدنا ، كما ونصلي من أجل كلمتك ومن اجل السامعيين طالبين من روحك القدوس ان تلمس قلوبهم .

نعمة ربنا يسوع المسيح ومحبة الله الأب وشركة الروح القدوس تكون معنا أجمعين اليوم والى الأبد

بأسم ربنا يسوع المسيح نصلي .... آمين

Heavenly Father, as we celebrate the 40th anniversary of our Church, we lift up our heads and we see your many blessings and the wonderful diversity in you church...and we say with the prophet Samuel " *Thus far the LORD has helped us.*"

**#40PRAYERS**

**40 days of prayer for the 40th Anniversary of the Uniting Church in 2017**

We thank You that we are all One in Jesus Christ. May Your Holy Spirit knit us together in the bond of unity, love and peace.

LORD we give thanks for your faithful promise that You are the One that would build Your Church, as it's written *"I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it"*.

LORD we ask that You would continue to bless your church and equip each one of us with the talents and the gifts that may be used to praise you and glorify your holy name.

LORD your word teaches us and reminds us that no one is a stranger to you and no one is ever far from your loving care.

We lift our hearts asking to watch over the asylum seekers, refugees and victims of war, those separated from their loved ones and those who have left home or land and those who have run away from persecution.

LORD we pray help us to be sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, and hospitable and gentle towards each other.

Help us not to be motivated by selfishness but in humility so may we seek to regard the needs and necessities of others before our own.

LORD we pray You protect us from the wiles of the enemy who seek to destroy Your church and cause divisions among Your body.

Give wisdom to our leaders and elders and give wisdom to those they teach Your word and to those they listen to.

And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of the Father and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all this day and for ever.

In Jesus name we pray,

Amen.

**#40PRAYERS**

**40 days of prayer for the 40th Anniversary of the Uniting Church in 2017**