



### **Praising God**

Read 1 Chronicles 16:8-36 (or 8-14)

Have a few people lead in a prayer of praise.

Have some people lead in prayers of lament.

Have someone read Psalm 61 as a prayer.

### **Thanking God**

Reflect on the ways you have seen God at work in recent weeks.

Have people lead in one sentence prayers of thanks.

- You may like to include thanking God for the vaccination rollout, and the planned pathway to returning to gathering

Have someone conclude with this prayer:

**Gracious God,  
we humbly thank you  
for all your gifts so freely given to us,  
for life and health and safety,  
for power to work, leisure to rest,  
and for all that is beautiful in creation and human life.  
But, above all, we praise you  
for our Saviour, Jesus Christ,  
for his death and resurrection,  
for the gift of your Spirit,  
and for the hope of sharing in your glory.  
Fill our hearts with all joy and peace in believing;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

Excerpt From: Archbishop of Sydney's Liturgical Panel. "Common Prayer." Apple Books. <https://books.apple.com/au/book/common-prayer/id635153045>

### **Bringing our requests to God:**

#### ⇒ **For the Covid situation**

- That God would bring the pandemic under control, and particularly that the case numbers locally would fall
- For those who are unwell, isolated, alone, cut off from family or other support
- For the health care system
  - That it will not be overwhelmed by growing case numbers
  - That God would uphold and grant rest and protection to health care workers including the many at St Michael's – doctors, nurses, allied health workers, cleaners – there are several at each congregation – pray for them by name if you know them.
- For the ongoing ministry of word and prayer
  - For gospel proclamation week by week in our livestream service
  - For children's and youth ministry and growth groups etc as they continue online amidst the weariness of lockdown
- For school teachers and families as they return face a few more weeks of home learning
- For local businesses and all whose livelihoods have been threatened, lost, or whose work is unstable
- For all who are anxious or vulnerable
- That God will uphold and sustain and give wisdom and clarity to our leaders – Scott Morrison, Gladys Berejiklian, and Dr Kerry Chant
- That wisdom and love for others will drive both personal and government decision-making as restrictions lift

⇒ **For our church**

- That our love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight,
  - so that we may be able to discern what is best
  - and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ,
  - filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.
- For Sandy and the wardens and staff as they lead the return to gathering
- That we will care well for one another and look out for those who are struggling or fearful, and love those who think differently from us
- For those who are shut in, unwell or struggling with increased frailty
- For Sandy and Karyn as they conclude their ministry amongst us and prepare for what is ahead
- That God will provide us with a Senior Minister who is a shepherd that seeks to honour and imitate Christ, and that he will give wisdom, insight and unity to the Chapter in their deliberations.
- For other local churches
- For diocesan leaders as they continue to support and guide churches in the return to gathering

⇒ **For people to know Jesus**

- That each of us would shine the light of Jesus in our household, family, workplace, community in this time of angst and uncertainty, and have opportunity to answer for the hope that we have
- That as a church we will have opportunity to connect with our community, especially online
- For Simply Christianity this term and Mitch as he leads it
- For our link missionaries:
  - Jordan: Mal & Charissa Forrest, with Aidan, Sasha, Toby – for Aidan and Sasha on their own in Sydney to study, for good connections with newcomers at church
  - France - Karina Brabham preparing to go to in January
  - Malaysia – Tim and Siew Mun Nicholls
  - Japan – Roger and Noriko Dethlefs
  - London – Lois Haggard

⇒ **For our world**

- For the covid situation around the world:
  - our near neighbours Indonesia and PNG
  - other places where it is rife – including India, Brazil, Russia, Italy, US and UK
  - for a just and compassionate vaccine rollout
  - For Australians trying to get home
- For peace in troubled places, including:
  - China and countries around it
  - Afghanistan – pray especially for Christians, and for women and children

⇒ **Your own (or your group's) prayer points**

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory  
are yours, now and forever. Amen.**