

Prayers for our community

Tuesday 27 October

Prayer for Elections

God of the vulnerable and powerless,

In this year of loss and restriction and fear,
use our votes to form governments that
restore living wages to the under- and
un-employed, and give comfort
and safety to those who are frail and aged.

Give us systems that let our grandchildren
hope, and that allow justice and truth
to raise the voices and prospects
of first nations peoples.

Give us leaders who can bend
polarity into peace and teach us all
to believe again in democracy.

Provide peaceful, respectful transitions;
and for those whose hope will meet
frustration and defeat,
we ask you to channel
the anger of every heart
into the active labour of every hand
and the disciplined wisdom of every mind
so that each of us, at every turn, will work
in love, in kindness and in unity,
to restore peace and security and hope
to all. Amen

By Rev Margaret Wesley. Photo by Noah Pederson on unsplash



Monday 28 September

Thank You for Pets

Thank you, God, for ducks and goats,
Fish and budgies, dogs and cats,
Who share our lives
And teach us how to play.

Loyalty has kept us humble,
Cuddles have kept us warm,
Love has kept us grounded and
Dependency has taught us to be kind.

We are better people when with them.
Help us be better people all the time.
Teach us delight in all your wild abundance
Until our praises harmonise
In a thousand human languages
And in ten thousand, thousand
Creatures' calls. Amen

By Rev Dr Margaret Wesley



Tuesday 08 September

Prayer for Absent Family and Friends

How long O Lord? Six months
Ago I heard the clash and click
Of doors and gates and padlocks, and I asked
How long 'til I will see their face again: Round and soft
Not hard and square behind a screen?
How long 'til I will touch and hold and hug them tight?
How long 'til I will cook for them and wash their clothes
And meet their latest love?
Six months have passed, and still I do not know.

Speed the day, timeless God, when locks will be released
And doors and champagne bottles cracked open.
Until that day, carry my love
Through screens, past borders and over seas
To touch their cheeks and dry their eyes
And share their laughter and their lunch.

Hold my hand and hold theirs too, to bridge
The space between, encircling us with hope,
Until our hands might once more clasp
In welcome and in thankful prayer. Amen.

By Rev Margaret Wesley
Image by Maaark from Pixabay



Sunday 23 August

Prayer for Youth in Detention

Enter, loving God, through locked doors
And trauma-scarred hearts.
Enter gently, softly,
With more respect
Than they have yet been shown,
More compassion
Than they have before received,
More light than they have ever seen.

Enter gently, softly,
and sit quietly on the floor
To listen to their loneliness and fear.
Receive each tear
Into the treasure-jars of your love.
Hold each hand that cannot hold another
And whisper gently, softly in each ear
'You are not alone'. Amen

By Rev Margaret Wesley
Photo by Anne Nygård on Unsplash



Sunday 16 August

Prayer for Everyone Who's Had Enough

For those who've had as much as they can take
Of fear and isolation and
Hospitals, statistics and despair;
Those who've already walked the extra mile
And feel they just can't take another step;
For all who thought they couldn't face one more thing,
But then have seen their city burn,
Their town flood, their government crumble
Or their love betrayed:
Grant them, gentle Lord,
One more night of peaceful sleep,
One more golden sunrise,
One more friend to honour their grief,
One more prayer joining our hearts to theirs
And another and another,
'Til hands that cannot touch
Are linked in prayer across the globe
And every tear is our tear
And every need is our need,
And we walk together
Into places none should walk alone,
Sustained by God who made and loves
And weeps with us all. Amen.

By Rev Margaret Wesley
Photo by Jon Tyson on Unsplash



Sunday 02 August

Prayer for Aged Care Centres

Enfold and encircle, gentle God,
These places set aside for safety and for peace.
Let no virus find a home there,
Nor fruitless blame nor crippling fear.

Give every resident confidence, with reason,
That they are both safe *and* loved.

Give every staff member confidence, with reason,
That they can both save lives *and* pay their rent.

Give centre operators confidence, with reason,
That care can be both excellent *and* affordable.

You, who took 5 loaves and 2 fish
To feed a multitude,
Can meet the whole spectrum of our fear
With the full resources of your heart,
As you encircle and enfold us all
'Til fear is lost in confidence and love.

By Rev Margaret Wesley
Photo by Joshua Hoehne on Unsplash



Saturday 11 July

Prayer for Victoria

Fear is rising to the south and in our hearts:
Fear for friends and colleagues,
Sons and daughters;
Fear that waves may crash across our borders.

God who calms the storm, please turn our fear to love:
For those now facing danger
And for those who, like us all, have made mistakes;

And turn our love to action:
To do what we can do to fill the need,
Support the weary,
And defend the weak;

And when all that we can do is keep our distance

Turn our action to prayer:
To hold our hands beneath the hands
That now so gently hold the sick and fearful,
And give strength to carers
On the frontline, in offices and in labs;

So that what little each of us can do
Is done together, not in fear
But in courageous, prayerful love. Amen

By Rev Margaret Wesley
Photo by Cassie Matias on Unsplash



Saturday 27 June

Prayer for Mental Health

Our God who knows the deepest human pain,
The last few months have torn us from routine
And demanded more from us than we possessed;

We ask you now to fill our empty cups
With healing and with hope.

Some of us began this year alone,
And since then loneliness has filled our homes
And stifled all our joy.

We ask you now to fill our empty cups
With healing and with hope.

Some of us began this year in fear,
And since then terrors have filled our days
And stolen all our sleep.

We ask you now to fill our empty cups
With healing and with hope.

Some of us began this year in darkness,
And since then more clouds have gathered
Blocking all our light.

We ask you now to fill our empty cups
With joy, sleep and light,
With healing and with hope.

By Rev Margaret Wesley
Photo by Cristian Cristian on Unsplash



Monday 15 June 2020

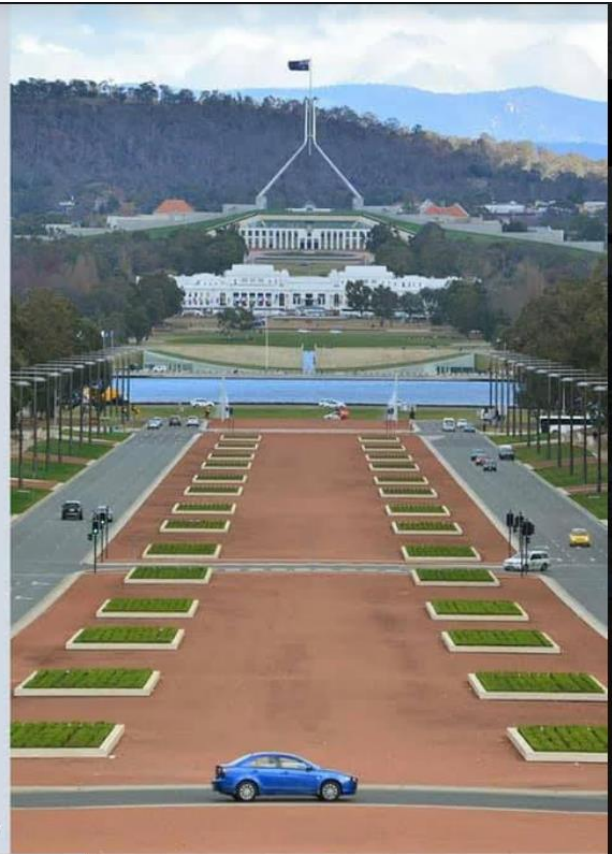
Prayer for Politicians

Good Shepherd,
Whose life you laid down for us,
Lead our leaders, we pray,
In your ways of compassionate wisdom
And effectual self-giving.

Guide them through the
Traps and temptations
Of conflict and contagion,
Of fire and drought,
Of wealthy friends
And impoverished neighbours,
To set a course toward a future where
All are free to flourish.

Make them deaf to coercion,
And tune their ears to the cry of
Those without power,
Who are most in need
Of their protection and provision. Amen

By Rev Margaret Wesley
Image by Patty Jansen from Pixabay



Saturday 06 June 2020

Prayer for Racial Justice

God who is diversity in unity,
Difference in commonality,
Three in one:

We praise you for complexity;
For colour and creativity.

Wherever difference excuses
Diminishment of anybody's value
Bring lasting change

To hearts and laws,
To schools and workplaces,
To prisons and to streets,
And teach us all to stand in awe
Of the multifaceted beauty
Of our common humanity
And your common grace. Amen

Rev Margaret Wesley
Photo by Koshu Kunii on Unsplash



Monday 01 June 2020

PRAYER FOR PEOPLE ENDURING FAMILY VIOLENCE

God who releases captives:
Bring freedom now to those who,
In their homes, are
Imprisoned and controlled,
Bruised and broken
Fearing for their lives and for their children.

God who speaks good news to the poor:
Provide for those now trapped
As much by poverty as by abuse,
And for those who, fleeing violence,
Find no refuge.

God who promised comfort to all who grieve,
Draw near with love and justice
As our nation mourns
Another woman every week.

And as we call on you to act,
Please form us as your people
To work with you together:
To release all captives
To be good news for all who are poor
And so to comfort all who mourn.

By Rev Margaret Wesley
Photo by Jan Kopflva on Unsplash



Tuesday 26 May 2020

Prayer for First Australians

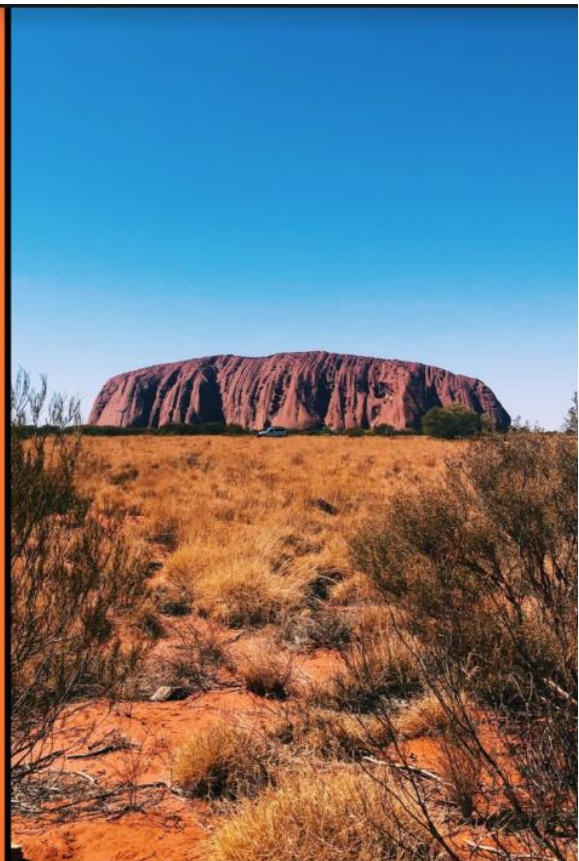
God of all peoples
Whose presence is life in every place;
Whose image is borne by every person,
And our image by your Son,
Breathe hope, pride and courage
Into the Australians who first loved and tended
This land under the southern sky.

Keep their communities safe
From new dangers and from old.
For all their trauma, loss and humiliation
Bring healing, strength
And a clear path to a rightful place.

For all that we, and those like us,
Have inflicted, stolen and degraded,
Bring us humbly to our knees
And light the way to justice, equality and peace.

Deep wounds and deeper chasms scar our land.
God of life, reconciliation and hope,
Teach us to dream a better dream,
To steward a healthier land,
And to form a better future for all our children.
Amen.

By Rev Margaret Wesley
Photo by Kyle Hinkson on Unsplash



Saturday 23 May 2020

Prayer for Artists

God who sang our universe to life,
Sing again for those with mouths now shut
By cancelled concerts
And empty bank accounts.

God who took the form
Of that which you had sculpted,
Guide the hand of all whose work reveals
The beauty of our world
And of the human soul.

Triune God, whose eternal dance
Invites and sends,
Embraces and releases
To the rhythm of our need,
Partner those who now must dance alone.

Set an abundant table for those
Who have, for years, invited us
To feast on beauty, truth and laughter. Amen.

By Rev Margaret Wesley
Photo by Alex on Unsplash



Monday 18 May 2020

Prayer for Asylum Seekers

God of compassion, Protect with gentle care
The most vulnerable of our country and our world.

God our refuge, be, yourself,
A shelter for all who have no home.

Crucified One, be a companion
To all survivors of violence and oppression.

Great Shepherd, guide those lambs,
Who have no flock, to safe pastures.

King of Kings, soften the hearts of all in power
To protect and honour those with nothing to give.

God our Healer, keep this virus from those
Without the luxury of sanitation or isolation.

Move us to pray and give and welcome
Those whose infinite value is now hidden,
But is known for eternity by your heart. Amen

By Rev Margaret Wesley
Photo by Javardh on Unsplash



Saturday 16 May 2020

Prayer for our Planet

God who loves our world so much
You gave your only Son;
Give us hearts to love like you.

This virus has taught us to protect the vulnerable;
Give us courage to put our own desires second to the needs
Of vulnerable communities, species and ecosystems.

This virus has shown us we are all connected;
Give us wisdom to take responsibility for actions
That might heal or harm those we will never meet.

Necessity has curtailed our use of fossil fuels;
Help us continue to find ways to live without
Those things that damage our home.

This virus has taught us to honour our elderly;
Teach us also to honour our young
By leaving them a healthy, beautiful, beloved world.

By Rev Margaret Wesley
Photo by Fateme Alaie on Unsplash



Monday 11 May 2020

Prayer for Teachers

God of wisdom and patience,
Equip our teachers
 To equip our children
 For a life of courage
 And creativity
 And kindness
 In our quickly changing world.
Keep our classrooms safe from all danger
And release the gifts of every student
And every teacher
For the creation of a better tomorrow.
Give administrators and politicians
Such insight and foresight
 That every teacher will receive
 The equipment and support,
 And guidance and respect
 That is needed and deserved
 As they lay down paths
 For just and beautiful lives.
Amen

By Rev Margaret Wesley
Photo by Clarisse Croset on Unsplash



Tuesday 05 May2020

Prayer for Health Workers

God our Healer,
Thank you for all who share your heart
For those who suffer
In body or mind or soul.
Give wisdom, energy and courage as they
Diagnose and treat,
Listen and advise,
Cook and clean,
Lift and carry,
Observe and respond.
Protect those who protect us from infection.
Provide for those who provide us with hope.
And help us all to carry
Our isolation with grace,
Seeing the love you are pouring out
Through the healers among us.
Amen

By Rev Margaret Wesley
Photo by Jonathan Borba on Unsplash



Friday 01 May 2020

Prayer for Scientists

Creator God,
We pray for those bright, dedicated ones
Who fight for us with
Microscopes and test tubes and statistics.
Give clarity, creativity and consistency
As they analyse, hypothesise and test
In search of treatments and vaccines
That are accessible and affordable for all.
Link laboratories around the world
In networks of co-operation and good will,
To bring real hope quickly
To those who live in fear;
And help us all, with them,
To seek the good of all
With all our heart and all our strength
And all our mind.
Amen

By Rev Margaret Wesley
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Tuesday 28 April 20

Praying for older people in our community

Eternal God,
We pray for the elders among us:
Our parents and grandparents
Uncles and aunts and neighbours:
For those who have worked and loved
And lived next door or down the road
For many years,
And now, to stay safe, are on their own.
Risen Jesus, enter where we cannot go
To bring peace and comfort,
Especially where isolation is intensified by
Grief, ill health or poverty,
Separation from grandchildren,
Limited mobility,
Discomfort with technology
Or loss of memory.
Lord, keep them well in spirit and mind and body.
Remind us to support them where we can,
And keep them in our hearts
long after this threat has past.
Amen

By Rev Margaret Wesley
Photo by Cristian Newman on Unsplash



Friday 24 Apr 20

Prayer for Defence Workers

God our protector,
While most of us stay home to stay safe
We thank you for all who
Face danger to keep danger from us.
We pray for police and military personnel,
Whose roles have changed in this pandemic,
But whose hearts remain
Committed to justice and peace.
We pray for those in active service
And for those who carry wounds,
Inside or outside,
From past conflicts.
Give them wisdom and courage,
And guard their efforts with
Servant leaders,
Just Laws
And grateful citizens.
Amen

By Rev Margaret Wesley,
Photo by Trevor Kay on Unsplash



Monday 20 Apr 20

Prayer for Parents

God who is Father and Mother to us all,
Pour out your grace, wisdom
And creative energy
On the parents of our community
Who have been juggling many roles
And have suddenly become teachers as well.
Give them patience
With themselves and their children.
When pressure builds,
Give them the outlet of laughter and tears.
When stress feels overwhelming
Give them unexpected moments of delight.
And when the kids return to school
Give them memories of this time
That will light a path toward a life of
Grace and kindness.
Amen

By Rev Margaret Wesley,

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