



## Prayer Week October 2021

### Introduction

#### **Please pray!**

For the next week, we'd love you to spend some time each day praying for our church, as we think about big decisions for the future. You can pray when or where you like. Whether you pray regularly or are just starting, have a go! We'll be sending out some suggestions each day to help you.

## MONDAY

Today, we begin with the Lord's Prayer – which you can also find in Matthew 6:9-13.

- Take a few moments to be still and ask God to guide you as you pray.
- Now read through the words one phrase at a time.
- Stop at any particular words that catch your attention.
- See what God brings to mind and talk to him about them.
- Think about yourself and then think about the church.

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 for ever.  
Amen.

You might like to finish by playing this Church of England recording of the Lord's Prayer on YouTube by clicking on this link: <https://youtu.be/rgN0s2xmCuM>

Thank you for joining us to pray this week.

Toby

## TUESDAY

This week, we're encouraging everyone to spend a bit of extra time each day praying for our church.

### 'UP'

When Jesus was asked *'Of all the commandments, which is the most important?'* he replied:

*'The most important one is this: "Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." The second is this: "Love your neighbour as yourself." ' (Mark 12:29-31)*

Over the next few days, we are going to focus on praying that as a church we would grow in three ways: in our love for God (Up), our love for one another (IN), and our love for others (OUT).

Today, let's pray that we would grow deeper in our love for God as a church. You may find the following helpful...

Reflect on the words: *'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'*

How would you recognise someone who loved God in this way? Imagine different ways that their life would be distinctive.

Pray that you would grow like this in your love for God. Pray that together, as a church, we would grow in our love for God too.

You could finish by listening/singing a song of worship, such as this one - 'Be thou my vision' at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Optrm7IF16s>

## WEDNESDAY

Today, let's continue to pray that we would grow deeper in our love for God as a church. Here's something to help you...

### 'UP'

Start by reading Psalm 136. You can find it here:

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=psalm+136&version=NIVUK>

In this Psalm, the Israelites give thanks to God for all he has done for them.

- Spend time giving thanks to God for who he is and all he's done for us. Try not to slip into requests!
- Now give thanks to God for as many different aspects of our church that you can think of.

Gathering as a church to worship is important:

- Pray especially for our Growth Groups and Sunday/Wednesday worship services.

We are also the church when we are scattered:

- Imagine where members of our church might be in the next couple of hours. Pray that we would live and love like Jesus in those situations too.

This short video from LICC might help you reflect and pray for this aspect of who we are as church... [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4E\\_dSz\\_yd6c](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4E_dSz_yd6c)

Thank you for joining us to pray this week.

Toby

## THURSDAY

Today, we're praying that we would grow 'inwards' – in our love for one another as a church. This might help...

### 'IN'

Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-27. You can find it by clicking [here](#)

- Try and think of a few people who are different from you in the church. Think about what might be important to them and what being part of the church might be like for them. Now pray for them.
- What words would you use to describe how the Body of Christ should be? Pray that as a church we would together become more like that.
- Pray that we would use all the gifts that God has given us (spiritual, material and practical) so that we become more like Christ

You could finish by watching and reflecting on this Video...

<https://vimeo.com/424890028>

Thank you for joining us to pray this week.

Toby

## FRIDAY

Today, we continue praying that we would grow in our love for one another as a church...

### 'IN'

Read Colossians 3:12-15. You can find it [here](#)

- Begin by praying for yourself – read through the passage again slowly. Pray that God would make you more like Paul's description. As a symbol and reminder of your commitment to God, you might like to put on an extra piece of clothing during your prayer.
- Now pray for us as a church – read through slowly again and pray that we would be more like this.
- As part of the church, ask God what he is prompting you to do, so that we are more united, peaceful and thankful together.

Last year, you probably heard the UK Blessing – where Christians sang in unity. As you listen, think of all different people in our church and pray for God's blessing on us. You can find it at: <https://youtu.be/PUtl3mNj5U>

Thank you for joining us to pray this week.

Toby

## SATURDAY

Today, we move on to pray for us to grow in **our love for others** as a church...

### 'OUT'

At the start of his ministry, Jesus reads from Isaiah. You can read it in Luke 4:16-21 ([here](#))

As a church, part of the Body of Christ, we are seeking to live and to love like Jesus.

- Ask God that he would fill us with his Spirit such that we would be good news to our local community – both for their physical and spiritual needs.
- Pray in particular that we would be good news to the poor – and the poor in spirit.
- Pray for our different ministries to our community – including Grace Kitchen, Children's and Youth Work, our Community Cafes, our schools, Alpha etc

You could finish by watching and reflecting on a video of today's Bible passage (and the piece after) at <https://youtu.be/E2ojxNR8ECU>

Thank you for joining us to pray this week.

Toby

## SUNDAY

This is the last day in our week of prayer for our church. We finish by praying again that we would grow in our love for others...

### 'OUT'

Read Matthew 13:1-9 & 18-23 or you can watch a video of it [here](#)

### Pray for our church:

- Pray that each one of us would be like good soil – growing as healthy disciples and bearing fruit
- Pray that we would scatter the good news about Jesus in every part of our community.
- Pray for those are responsible for deciding how we use what God has given us to grow God's Kingdom here and abroad in the future – especially the PCC (church council).

### Pray for those further away:

- Pray for one of our Mission Partners who seek to bring the good news to people in different parts of the world. Click on these links to find out more about them: [Open Doors](#) or [Tearfund](#) or [Dave Maguire](#).

You could finish by singing a song about God's faithfulness, such as this one:

<https://youtu.be/d6xxWGWpaUQ>

**Thank you** for praying for our church this week. Please don't stop! You can also join us to pray any Sunday at 5:45pm on Zoom by using this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84691008512?pwd=a0NHQUZJV0t2SHJYOTUyMzB5OUpaZz09> (or Meeting ID: 846 9100 8512 Password: 316)

May God bless you this week.

Toby