

Prayers for all Seasons!

These prayer suggestions can be used to enrich personal devotions and quiet times where believers wish to journey with the Faith Community through the Seasons of the Church.

At *Centurion West Presbyterian Church* we use them as an intro for our Weekly Prayer Schedule, which is followed by various suggestions for Intercession for every week of the year.

I do not want to create the impression that it is completely original. It first of all is based on devotional resources we developed for the various Seasons in the past, such as for example the "Fourteen Stations of the Cross" and the "The Way of Light", where it has much in common with the traditions of the universal Church. It also draws a lot on the content of "The Confession of Faith of the Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa".

- Andries.

1. Season of Advent - Four Sundays before Christmas

Gracious God, in living our busy daily lives, keep us ever ready, ever faithful and ever hopeful for the day of Christ's return. May this hope be born into our lives anew.

Loving God, while we patiently wait for Christ's return and for your peace to ultimately prevail, enable each of us to work for peaceful solutions to the various conflicts which abound in our lives and our world. May your peace be born into our lives.

Merciful God, while we patiently wait for Christ's coming again, may each of us rejoice in our salvation; and may that joy permeate all aspects of our lives and be freely shared with others. Grant us your joy.

Gracious Creator, while we patiently wait for Christ's coming again, inspire us when we celebrate Christmas, to marvel on the fact that your love for each of us knows no bounds. May this love be mirrored in all aspects of our lives as we freely share it with others. When we celebrate Christmas, may we and all our loved ones share in your divine love.

2. The Twelve Days of Christmas – Starting on Christmas day.

Lord Jesus, you became one of us, conceived by the Spirit and born of a virgin, to save and redeem us. With the angels we bring praise and glory to your Name.

Lord Jesus Christ, you became a man to bring salvation to all, to bring hope to the poor and to set the captives free. As we worship you with the shepherds and wise men, receive our thanks and make us faithful messengers of your Gospel.

3. Season of Epiphany: After the 12 days of Christmas till Ash Wednesday.

Father God, show us the glory of Christ Jesus that we may worship and praise him every day of our lives. Grant us your miracles because we need your interventions in our lives and give us faith to believe that you will.

Heavenly Father, as we remember the teachings of Jesus, help us to build our lives on his words and to put to practice what he taught us.

Glorious Christ, who changed water into wine, also reveal to us your glory that we may worship and serve you with joy, gladness and passion.

Lord Jesus, who once multiplied bread and fish and fed a multitude, grant us your abundance, and faith that knows that nothing is impossible with God.

Once, Lord Jesus, you calmed a storm on the sea – now come and take control of every storm and every risk and danger and protect me and all your children. Give us an understanding of your power and the glorious implications of the truth that to you have been given all authority in heaven and on earth.

Father, send your Holy Spirit to reveal to us the glory of your Son, even Jesus Christ our Lord. Comfort us with the knowledge that Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

Father God, you loved us so much that you sent your only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him will not perish, but will receive eternal life. Grant us joy, faith and hope, because you love us and Jesus saved us.

Lord Jesus, as we consider your miracles and your teachings in the Gospels, may we trust you with every need and concern, because of your divine power and your mercy revealed to us. Listen to our prayers and teach us your will. We pray that you will help us to not only trust you, but also obey your will with all our heart.

4. Lent: - *Ash Wednesday till Good Friday.*

Lord Jesus, we can face life, knowing that when we humbly seek your will, your strength will be our strength, because you drank the cup of judgement to make us righteous in your Father's sight. Your loving, merciful will be done, your glorious kingdom come – also in my life!"

O Lord, as much as I hate to confess it, there is a bit of Judas in me. Forgive me for the times when I pledged allegiance to you, made promises to you, only to discard you in the way that I live. Help me to see where my message to you is a mixed one, where worship and praise and betrayal and deceit live in the very same heart.

Dear Lord Jesus, help me to understand what it means when I confess you as the Christ, the Anointed of God and glorious King of everything. May this confession lead me to a life of faithful discipleship in everything I do.

Forgive me, dear Lord, when I let fear get in the way of my relationship with you. Forgive me for all the times I have fallen short in my discipleship, because I've been afraid. Forgive me for failing to trust you when you've proven through your suffering to be completely worthy of my trust.

Dear Lord, help me to acknowledge my sins, both to myself and to you, rather than justifying myself through immature and pointless excuses and defences. My hands will only be clean, Lord, when I am washed in the blood of the Lamb.

Gracious, merciful Lord, how hard it is to read and hear of the abuse you suffered even prior to your crucifixion. What can I say in response, but "Thank You" for walking the path of grief, suffering and shame for my sake. You took the abuse that I deserved, and gave me your glory in return.

Dear Lord, you chose the cross. Those who led you to Golgotha were simply working out what God had willed and you, Lord Jesus, had freely and lovingly chosen. How can I thank you for this costly choice? Because you took up the cross, I am forgiven and can take up life in all of its fullness. Make me eternally grateful, Lord Jesus.

Dear Lord, help me to take up the cross and follow you. I sometimes resist this call, even though I know that in dying to myself I find true life in you. So help me, Lord, to give my life to you, that I might receive the abundant life of your kingdom.

Lord Jesus, may my weeping and grieving when I remember your suffering be the result of my sorrow over my own sin that caused your pain. Now turn it to joy when I recognize the majesty of your grace and mercy.

Gracious Lord, how can I ever thank you enough for dying for me on the cross? Your death has given me life. Your sacrifice has led to my blessing. Help me never to take your death for granted, forgetting what you did for me and neglecting its significance. May the reality of your sacrifice press itself upon my mind and flood my heart.

Dear Lord, thank you for your mercy. You give us, not according to what we deserve, but according to your infinite grace and love. Thank you for hearing my cries and responding, remembering even me. Thank you for the promise I have of Paradise beyond this life.

Merciful Lord, thank you for your perfect life and sacrificial death. Thank You for taking my sin upon yourself, and giving me your righteousness in return. I look upon your cross with wonder. I'm astonished by your willingness to suffer and die for me, the Righteous One for the unrighteous.

Lord Jesus, we remember that you really died. You experienced the ultimate penalty for our sin, for my sin. Your death opened the door for me to experience real life. Faced with such a merciful mystery, I cry: "Amazing love! How can it be, that Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?"

5. Season of Easter (of the Resurrection) - 50 days from Easter Sunday till Pentecost Sunday.

Heavenly Father, your Christ has risen indeed! Dear Lord Jesus, because you are alive, I too shall live.

Lord Jesus, you were dead and now you live forever. Fill my heart with the joy and peace of your eternal life.

Dear Jesus, without you finding me, I would be lost. You called me by my name, even when I did not recognize you. I worship you, my Saviour and my Lord.

Lord Jesus, you are alive! Grant me hope through the Word that brings me your life!

O Lord of life, your Word will soothe our burning hearts. Thank you, Lord Jesus, for your persistence in teaching your Word to even me.

Lord Jesus, you are truly alive! Grant me hope through the Word that shows me your hands and feet and your broken body and thus give me faith and life.

Heavenly Lord, you made me your messenger to proclaim the forgiveness of sins. You truly bring good news to all who receive you in faith.

Oh holy Christ, my Lord and my God! In you I find the power to live, to be free of doubt, and to know you always.

Dear Lord Jesus, I commit my life to you who calls and enables me to live wholeheartedly for you.

Forgiving Christ, I do love you. I will express my love by keeping your lambs and grazing your sheep. I will express my love by building up your Church.

Heavenly Lord, you are with me always. I pray that I will know you, and bring others to see your power and love.

My Lord, you have risen from the grave, and you have risen to heaven. Help me to stand firm that I will be ready on the day when you descend from the clouds to reign forevermore.

Lord Jesus Christ, help me to pray with patience and endurance, never losing faith in your passion to save sinners.

Fill me Lord, with your Spirit. You alone are my hope and all light comes from you. The Spirit has come and Jesus will soon return.

6. Season of Pentecost - *six Sundays after Pentecost Sunday.*

Heavenly Father, you poured out your Spirit on the Church after your disciples prayed for ten days. Make us a praying Church that expect every aspect of our lives to be filled with your power, with faith, hope and most of all with love.

Lord, on the first Pentecost Sunday you gave a miracle to your Church when the apostles could preach your Good News in the languages of all the people that gathered in Jerusalem. Now make us passionate to spread the Gospel to every language, people and tribe on earth through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Father, your Spirit makes us thirsty for salvation and hungry for being obedient to you. We believe that Jesus Christ is our Saviour and Lord and that you made us a part of his Body by the baptism of Christ. Help us to renew our vows to always love and follow you.

Dear Lord, thank you that your Word was not only given to the Hebrew people, but also to the gentiles. And that you then also gave your Spirit to Roman and Greek people. You include us and indeed gave us your Spirit to share in the power of the risen Christ. Let us live and serve as people who received your Spirit, your passion and your power.

You inspired the Holy Scriptures of the Old and the New Testaments, o Holy Spirit of God! Now inspire us to listen to your Word, to consider and contemplate your message and meet Jesus revealed in the Bible as the only Redeemer and Lord of all.

Father, as we seek your face – grant us your presence through the work of the Holy Spirit that we may love Jesus more every day and follow him wholeheartedly!

7. Prayers for Kingdom Time - *after the Season of Pentecost till the Feast of Christ the King, the 5th Sunday before Christmas at the end of November.*

Heavenly Father, humankind has fallen into sin and has fallen under your judgment. In this predicament our only hope and comfort, in life and in death is your Son, Jesus Christ; for in him God has acted to redeem and sanctify us. Grant us faith in him.

Lord our God, Adam and Eve portray how, from the beginning, we have turned away from you and in pride aspired to be self-sufficient without you. Help us to trust and obey you, Father, and help us to discern what is right and what is wrong in your eyes.

Holy God, you alone can make yourself known and you do so in and through Jesus Christ. Lord Jesus, you are God's own eternal Wisdom and his Word. Make us wise and open our hearts to receive what you came to teach us about God, our Father.

Lord Jesus, you made God's grace known to sinners and you healed the sick in body, mind and spirit. Now give us an understanding of the Father's heart and heal us according to his grace, love and his perfect will.

Before you, almighty Creator, we bow in awe; before you the holy and righteous Judge of the universe we stand in fear; but dear Lord, in you as our loving and merciful Father, we confidently trust.

Almighty God, your dominion is no human enterprise that we bring about, build or extend in any way. Grant it to us, your children by your grace and sovereign power.

O God who heard the cry of the Hebrews in Egypt. You liberated them from oppression, provided them with food and water in the desert and led them to the Promised Land. You indeed are the Ruler of all. Bring justice to the oppressed and make us, your children just and righteous to bring honour to your Name.

Father, by grace alone, in the power of the Holy Spirit, your Word breaks through our spiritual deafness, convicts us of sin and moves us to repent and accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. Lord, have mercy upon us and grant us your salvation.

Sovereign Lord, your dominion broke into our history through the life and ministry of Jesus. Lord Jesus, through your healing, miracles and the forgiveness of our sins, may we experience the power and comfort of your resurrection, your exaltation and the outpouring of the Spirit.

Lord Jesus Christ, you reign from God's right hand as Lord and King over every area of life. Though your kingship is hidden from unbelievers now, manifest and implement it in its fullness, bringing salvation to us and to the entire world.

We confess, dear Lord that this world is not as it is meant to be; instead it is in the grip of evil. Help us to live in eager anticipation of your dominion that triumph over wickedness. Make us obedient and willing to strive to conform society to your will.

Lord Jesus, Head and King of the Church, we accept that your Church is the community in which your dominion breaks visibly through when it is a Church for others. Make us care for others and help and protect us in our struggle for a just and free society.

Dear Lord, every partial victory of good over evil, of personal holiness over sin and of justice over injustice, is a sign of your coming Kingdom. Here we are, use us that your dominion will impact the world, for in the end your Kingdom will triumph eternally.

Holy God, every time you impute Christ's righteousness to us, the Spirit, by uniting us with him, always sanctifies us, cleansing away all our sins by his blood. In this way, Lord, may your Spirit give us new birth as God's children in Christ.

Father, we receive grace through faith alone. As faith comes through hearing the good news, help us to believe, not only in sound teaching, but by accepting the living Christ as our Lord, trusting in him alone as Saviour.

Lord, faith hungers and thirsts for Christ and lays hold of Jesus who has first laid hold of us, even if at times we struggle to cling to him. Hold us Lord, in your hand of mercy.

Father, help us to in faith look beyond the present to see your future. Help us to live by faith in the crucified and risen Christ in such a way that it brings us hope in his coming and his eternal universal Kingdom.

Almighty God, on a day only you know when, the Lord Jesus Christ will come in power and great glory. He will triumph over all evil and tragedy and all powers opposed to God's rightful sovereignty and establish God's full dominion in the world, as it is in heaven. Prepare us for this day.

For the Feast of Christ the King: (5 Sundays before Christmas.)

Almighty Christ, King of all, we celebrate your glorious victory. We gladly bring honour to you, who has not only saved us from our sins by your cross and resurrection, but also ascended to the right hand of God. We pray that your Kingdom come on earth, just as it is in heaven. Glorify your Name!

The Seasons of the Church end with the Feast of Christ the King, and start again next week with the Advent Season.