

## PRAYERS FOR SEASONS AND EVENTS

**22 June 2017**

### **A prayer for the Uniting Church on the occasion of its 40th Anniversary**

We give you thanks for all who prayed and worked to bring the Uniting Church into being, for those who wrote the Basis of Union; for those in every locality who worked patiently to bring people together; for those who for 40 years have proclaimed the Gospel of Jesus Christ, ministered to the sick and suffering, and developed new initiatives in mission.

We ask your blessing on your Church in the coming years: that you will draw us closer to other Churches; that you will strengthen our work for justice and peace; that you will help us minister to the poor and distressed, the lonely and alienated, the confused and despairing. May your Spirit of truth and love be our guide both now and in the future, that we may be a faithful servant Church, giving of ourselves and all we have as Jesus gave himself for us. Amen.

### **The following prayers were prepared by Nan Armstrong 2014 - 2017**

Lord of all seasons 'tis Spring and we rejoice with thanks for the newness, the colourful flowers and the shoots of a new vegetable from the tiniest of seeds to grow to be a tasty meal. We welcome the change in our surroundings and we too can create a change. Gracious God, we seek strength and perception to know when, where, and how, we can change a life for the better. This may be from an encounter with just one person or an effort to touch our brothers and sisters at the other end of the earth.

Dear God, we seek healing of the spirits of the bereaved, those who have been forced to change their lifestyle because of loss of physical ability, those in hospital or rehab and those who struggle from day to day with a physical disability and for their carers.

We ask for help for those who are about to have surgery and those who patiently await the healing of broken bones.

Ever Present Lord, we seek courage to step out of our comfort zone to enrich the lives of others by giving of ourselves to our utmost. We all have gifts of some kind, which may seem minimal to us, but could be a life saver to a receiver.

Whatever we give or do is because of our faith in Jesus Christ in whose name we pray. Amen.

Ever present Lord, we have been caught up in the enthusiasm of several sporting events in different countries of the world where contestants have been striving to give of their best. Help us to have the same fervour about giving of our best to your people regardless of colour, culture, creed or choice of life style. Grant us the ability to minister in a "worthship" way in the lives we share each day, to learn from every experience we have shared with others, whether high or low AND thus be enabled to serve better in Christ's name. Amen.

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Ever-present Lord, we await the Olympics and the competitors who seek to achieve their "Personal Bests". Some may break records and receive medals but above all they will be enthusiastic to perform to their optimum in each event.

We too, though not necessarily sports enthusiasts, seek strength of purpose to perform our own Personal Bests by giving to others. Forgive us Lord when we try to help but somehow hinder by being insensitive to the situation, smothering them with clichés.

We, Lord, are a small group of your people who try to be extraordinary in our living and giving but sometimes stumble. Help us to pause long enough to be totally there for those in need. Gracious Lord, our Personal Best may be a deed, a word, a touch to someone who feels that he or she could never travel beyond the ordinary. We ask for sensitivity to know how and when we can help others to become extraordinary.

Help us we pray, to be aware of the challenges of each day and achieve our Personal Best by saying "Brother, sister let me help you".

We offer our help in Christ's name. Amen

Dear Lord, Core of our Being, in a few days we will have chosen our Government for the next few years. We ask that all leaders, from the smallest group to the largest retain as their aim fairness and policies of benefit to all.

Generous God we have been given so much - a lifetime of experiences and the knowledge that we are never given a task without the strength to undertake it.

Help us to give of ourselves to others. Move us to be sensitive to those whose physical or mental abilities are limited and who need understanding and acceptance to enable them to achieve their potential. We give thanks for their achievements in many ways.

Our cares and concerns are also with our Church Family; those who are unwell. Help us to be sensitive to the bereaved who long for that special person who is no longer able to share their lives.

We ask a blessing on those who give of themselves so willingly and undertake tasks to sustain our church. We give thanks for those who conducted worship and undertook other pastoral duties while Sylvia was unable to fulfil this role.

We all have God-given gifts. Help us to use them to enhance the lives of others, knowing that no matter how much we use these gifts, they are unending. We offer ourselves and our abilities as a service to Christ in whose name we pray. Amen

Dear Lord, our Alpha and Omega, we bring our prayer to you as we travel our individual lives.

We ask for a blessing on our Church family members who are about to travel as Companions on the Road. Grant them a time for strengthening of faith and church family ties and sharing in fellowship, fun and food. May they be enriched by their inter-actions with their companions and with others they encounter.

Those of us who are Companions on the Road, but on different highways, ask for direction to reach out and touch our family members and others with whom we interact each day, some who are struggling with grief, loss of physical abilities, hospitalisation or treatment and procedures.

Each of us has the ability to do something to help. Give us the sensitivity to know when and how, without resorting to clichés. We will go, Lord, if you send us, we will keep your people in our hearts. Each deed we offer as service in Christ's name. Amen

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Ever Present Lord, we give thanks that can celebrate the Birthday of our Uniting Church in Australia, when three became one. We have gained strength, skills and a Uniting Family willing to share in Ministry with our minister Sylvia.

Gracious Lord, we ask for the ability to use our birthday cake as a subject of our prayer. We see the mixed fruit as a symbol of the varied deeds we do for others, the rising agents as inspiration to help us raise the spirits of others and the other varied ingredients to add flavour to our living and giving. The icing on the cake, dear Lord is symbolic of the smooth and level road we can create for those who are travelling through a rough patch.

God, the Core of our Being, we ask for our spirits to be strong enough to hold the candle as a solid symbol of our belief and the flickering wick indicative of our faith which cannot be kept alive unless constantly renewed by our openness to others. We seek to continue to use these symbols to enrich others, whether they are our next door neighbour or someone at the other side of the world.

Take us as we are dear God, as we offer to serve in the name of Christ, in whose name we pray.

Our spirits bid us shine with a pure clear light,  
 Like a little candle burning in the night  
 In this world of turmoil so let us shine  
 We in our small corner of your universe divine. Amen.

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