

40

JULY 27-SEPTEMBER 5
2020

DAYS OF PRAYER

WHEN YOU PRAY, I WILL LISTEN...JEREMIAH 29:12-13

"Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need."

Matthew 6:33 NLT

"Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think."

Ephesians 3:20 NLT

Bayside
Community Church

"I know what I'm doing. I have it all planned out - plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for. When you call on me, when you come and pray to me, I'll listen." (Jeremiah 29:11-12 The Message).

During the discernment process of finding a new Lead Pastor of Bayside Community Church, the Pastoral Search Team have felt very strongly it is important for us as a whole church family to enter into a committed time of prayer. During this time of prayer we feel we need to be asking God to act decisively, and we need to be confident that God is going to do that. We also need to ask God to ready us as a church to welcome and support a new Lead Pastor, as God wants us to do that. This will be done via what we are calling **40 Days of Prayer**.

This booklet provides a simple structure for prayer that we would like the entire church family to follow for forty days. We are asking you to let it shape the pattern of your daily prayers. Each day will include a prayer point from the Pastoral Search Team. It will be repeated weekly, on the same day of the week. The second prayer point will be varied (see the following page). The third prayer point will be for people in our Bayside family.

The second prayer point will follow the pattern of:

Monday - A school connected to Bayside

Tuesday - A community we reach

Wednesday - A ministry of Bayside

Thursday - A mission partner of Bayside

Friday - A global issue

Saturday - People in leadership

Sunday - A fruit of the Spirit

Every week begins with a brief devotion on prayer, and at the end of every prayer session there is a brief concluding prayer.

Every Sunday there is a Time of Reflection, and on Sunday 16th August there will be a Mid-Way Reflection Time as a Church, as well as a Final Reflection Time on Sunday 6th September once we have finished our 40 Days of Prayer.

A huge thanks to Pastor John Macindoe and the people of Pennant Hills Baptist Church for providing the structure for this that we were able to adapt for our own situation here at Bayside Community Church.

A Helpful Structure for Prayer

A brief look at the prayers of the Bible, even our own experience in talking to God, will show that prayer should include more than just making requests. Prayer should involve a mix of praise, thanksgiving, confession, and asking (supplication).

However, for the sake of simplicity, each day of '40 Days of Prayer' has an emphasis on making requests to God. This is not something we should be reluctant to do. It shows that we trust God and recognise that he is Lord over all.

Asking God to bring about change may naturally cause us to recognise God's majesty, confess our sin and give thanks before we ever get around to voicing what it is that we are asking for. Many, however, find it helpful to follow a set structure when they pray. ACTS is a pattern for prayer that may be of benefit to you in helping you structure your prayer life as you undertake 40 days of prayer.

A Helpful Structure for Prayer

A – Adoration

God deserves our highest esteem. To adore and praise the Lord in prayer. Focus your thoughts on his majesty and power. Tell him that you love him. Extol his worth. If you find this difficult read a passage in the Bible, particularly the Psalms, to express your praise eg. Psalm 111. Alternatively, sing a song of praise that comes to mind.

C – Confession

Confess your sin to God. Ask him for forgiveness and cleansing and then be assured of receiving it in Jesus' name. *'If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.'* (1 John 1:9)

T – Thanksgiving

'Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus' (1 Thessalonians 5:18). We have so much to be thankful for. As the old song says, 'Count your blessings name them one by one... and it will surprise you what the Lord has done'.

S – Supplication

Pray for other people, other ministries, other concerns beyond yourself and your own needs.

Pray for yourself. The Lord loves you and cares for you and is delighted when you unload your concerns and anxieties upon him.

REJOICE ALWAYS!?!

Philippians 4:4

Our world is in the middle of a global pandemic. Millions of people have been infected by COVID-19 and hundreds of thousands of people have died - and this number is increasing daily. However, this is only one tragedy in the midst of a suffering world. Each of us also have our own hard times on top of the pandemic – financial hardships, health issues, poor marriages, death of loved ones, singleness, childlessness, unemployment, emotional neglect or manipulation...how can Paul say "Rejoice always?"

If we didn't know anything about Paul we might be tempted to think he just didn't understand life. But this is the Paul who writes this letter to the Christians in Philippi while in gaol. He was no stranger to suffering – beatings, stonings, shipwrecks, conflicts, accusations by his own people...how then could he say such a thing?

The key is in the verse, '*Rejoice in the Lord always*' (Philippians 4:4). The command isn't to just rejoice and laugh about suffering; it is a call to keep being thankful and rejoice "in the Lord." In the Lord who never changes despite the circumstances. In the Lord who always loves, always blesses (though sometimes those blessings come in strange packages), always works for the good of those who trust him. Like Paul, if we choose to keep rejoicing in the Lord in ALL circumstances, both easy and hard, then we will mature and grow more like Jesus. We will be able to persevere and grow in patience and joy no matter what.

Paul doesn't imply it will be easy, which is perhaps why he gives the command twice, "I will say it again: Rejoice!" He followed this principle in his life so that he and Silas were able to sing praises to God in gaol (Acts 16:16ff), and we too can be enabled by the Spirit's strength to rejoice.

Write a list of ten things you can rejoice in today and tell it to the Lord in prayer. They can be rejoicing in God's unchanging character or his gifts to you. As you make this kind of daily rejoicing/thanksgiving a habit, you'll find that you view even hard times with a transformed perspective.

Christine Dillon

'Give thanks to the Lord for he is good. His love endures forever.'

Psalm 136:1

Today I Prayed For...

- That God would prepare our hearts to welcome and care for our new Lead Pastor (and family)

- Concord West Public School

- Carolyn & Ian Altman

Other concerns:

PRAY: Thank you Lord that you are still in charge even when my life seems out of control. Help me to remember that today. Amen

‘There is no way that Christians, in a private capacity, can do so much to promote the work of God and advance the kingdom of Christ as by prayer.’

Jonathan Edwards

Today I Prayed For...

- That God would give wisdom, discernment and protection to the Pastoral Search Team (Ian Altman, James Burton, Cas Jones, Melinda Cooper, Peter Faase and Albert Tan)

- Concord West Community

- Bryce Armstrong

Other concerns:

PRAY: Thank you that you love me even when I fail and you delight in forgiving me and giving new opportunities. Amen

‘Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.’

Read it for yourself at Luke 18:1-8

Today I Prayed For...

- That we seek God's Kingdom and trust in God's appointment of a new Lead Pastor

- KidZone

- Joshua, Jordan, Kiara, Louise & Steve Bartlett

Other concerns:

PRAY: Thank you that every breath I take comes from you. Help me to remember all my blessings. Amen

'You can do more than pray after you have prayed. But you cannot do more than pray until you have prayed.'

John Bunyan

Today I Prayed For...

- God to be at work in the heart of the person He has chosen for the role of future Lead Pastor

- Our mission partners Jonno & Heather Crane in Mozambique & Malawi and their children Samuel, Caleb, Hannah, Micah & Josiah

- Humbeiro, Patricia & Jeronimo Bolivar

Other concerns:

PRAY: Thank you for your forgiveness that means that life can be 'new every morning.' Help me to forgive myself and not listen to Satan's accusations. Amen

'Lord, I have heard of your fame; I stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord. Renew them in our day, in our time make them known; in wrath remember mercy.'

Habakkuk 3:2

Today I Prayed For...

- Wisdom for the Pastoral Search Team in knowing when and how to advertise the role of Lead Pastor, so we are aligned with God's will

- Those living in poverty in our world, and for Baptist World Aid Australia as they help them

- James and Yana Burton

Other concerns:

PRAY: Help me to always be willing to follow you, take up my cross daily and through this honour you. Use me today in my context. Amen

Jesus, warning against hypocrisy, said, *‘When you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.’*

Matthew 6:6

Today I Prayed For...

- Thank you God for what you have been doing in this season, and what you will do in the future at Bayside

- Those in Federal Government Leadership

- Ken and Sally Burton

Other concerns:

PRAY: Lord, help us to pray regardless of how we feel or where we are. Amen

'Faith, in relation to prayer, can be described as follows: it is the willingness to act on God's Word with complete abandonment and total trust... When you pray, begin to exercise the muscles of your faith by committing yourself more and more to what God has promised you in his Word.'

Selwyn Hughes

Today I Prayed For...

- That I would not grow weary or discouraged in praying for God's will to be done at Bayside, but rather would be prayerfully waiting and calling on God to act

- The Fruits of the Spirit of Love & Joy to grow and be evident in my life

- Debby and Sanjay Chandumal and their children Lucas and Marcus

Other concerns:

PRAY: Lord, help us to see prayer as a necessity to stay spiritually alive and connected with you. Amen

PRAY AT ALL TIMES

Ephesians 6:18

As human beings, we always tend to pray for someone or something: we either pray for someone's healing or we pray for a new job, a car, a house, or a good HSC result.

Sometimes, we pray for a project to take off well or for a dream to come through. Some people pray for guidance when they have to make a major decision in their life, others pray when they particularly feel like it and others maybe only when they have found the time for it.

Most of these prayers are good. God wants us to make our requests, wishes, and worries known to Him. But prayer is much more than a list of requests. It is not to be used only for special occasions. Prayer is above all staying connected with God, our Great Creator, regardless of our requests or how we feel or in what situation we find ourselves.

Prayer is essential if we want to stay spiritually healthy. It can be compared with the internal nerve system that keeps our heart beating. Just as a healthy, pumping heart is responsible for circulating blood, oxygen, and nutrients around the body, in the same way prayer provides our often spiritually depleted lives with new vigour, new life, and a renewed spirit.

So Paul urges us to pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. It's essential for our spiritual health. *'And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.'* (Ephesians 6:18)

Maarten Lecompte

Jesus said, *‘When you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.’*

Matthew 6:7-8

Today I Prayed For...

- That God would prepare our hearts to welcome and care for our new Lead Pastor (and family)

- Homebush West Public School

- Joyce Chang

Other concerns:

PRAY: Lord, help us to encourage each other to be ‘constant’, prayerful people. Amen

“Open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it” (Psalm 81:10, KJV). ‘What an encouragement to pray! Our human notions would lead us to ask small things because our deservings are so small; but the Lord would have us request great blessings. Prayer should be as simple a matter as the opening of the mouth; it should be a natural, unconstrained utterance... See how the little birds in their nests seem to be all mouth when the mother comes to feed them. Let it be the same with us... God is ready to fill us if we are only ready to be filled. Let our needs make us open our mouths; let our faintness cause us to open our mouths and pant; yea, let our alarm make us open our mouths with a child's cry. The opened mouth shall be filled by the Lord himself. So be it unto us, O Lord, this day.’

C H Spurgeon

Today I Prayed For...

- That God would give wisdom, discernment and protection to the Pastoral Search Team (Ian Altman, James Burton, Cas Jones, Melinda Cooper, Peter Faase and Albert Tan)
- Rhodes Community
- Michael Chau

Other concerns:

PRAY: Lord, we thank you that you have given us the gift of prayer, a way of communicating with you in, and through, all circumstances. Amen

Jesus said, 'This, then, is how you should pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.'

Matthew 6:9-13

Today I Prayed For...

- That we seek God's Kingdom and trust in God's appointment of a new Lead Pastor

- Crosseyed Youth

- Melinda Cooper & Vinny Do

Other concerns:

PRAY: Lord, we thank you for listening to us even when we are often lost for words. Amen

‘At the time of the sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward and prayed: “O Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command. Answer me, O Lord, answer me, so these people will know that you, O Lord, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again.” Then the fire of the Lord fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench. When all the people saw this, they fell prostrate and cried, “The Lord – he is God! The Lord – he is God!”

1 Kings 18:36-38 (Read the whole chapter for the full story)

Today I Prayed For...

- God to be at work in the heart of the person He has chosen for the role of future Lead Pastor
- Our Mission Partner Bob Prouty (Internet evangelism)
- Daniel & Renee Debenedetti and their children Gabriel & Dominic

Other concerns:

PRAY: Dear God, thank you for this day and for all you have made. Thank you for sustaining everything until this day. Help me to delight in you today. Amen

'We need to win the battle of the threshold. To help me persevere in prayer, I sometimes imagine a very high stone wall, with the living God on the other side of it. In this walled garden he is waiting for me to come to him. There is only one way into the garden – a tiny door. Outside that door stands the devil with a drawn sword ready to stop me. It is at this point that we need to defeat the devil in the name of Christ. That is the battle of the threshold. I think there are many of us who give up praying before we have even tried to fight this battle. The best way to win, in my experience, is to claim the promises of Scripture, which the devil cannot undo.'

John Stott

Today I Prayed For...

- Wisdom for the Pastoral Search Team in knowing when and how to advertise the role of Lead Pastor, so we are aligned with God's will
- Refugees around our world and those Agencies that are helping them
- Craig & Clara Dengage

Other concerns:

PRAY: Dear God, thank you for another day to serve you and delight in you. Help me to honour you with my words, thoughts, and actions today. Amen

'Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.'

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Today I Prayed For...

- Thank you God for what you have been doing in this season, and what you will do in the future at Bayside

- Those in State Government Leadership

- Mick, Tammy, Jack, Mark & Harry Dunne

Other concerns:

PRAY: Maker of heaven and earth, thank you that you have heard my prayers! Nothing is impossible for you! I commit all these things into your hands. May you do with each of them as you please. Amen

‘Prayer is the most important tool for your mission in the world. People may refuse our love or reject our message, but they are defenceless against our prayers. Like an intercontinental missile, you can aim prayer at a person’s heart whether you are ten feet or 10,000 miles away.’

Rick Warren

Today I Prayed For...

- That I would not grow weary or discouraged in praying for God's will to be done at Bayside, but rather would be prayerfully waiting and calling on God to act

- The Fruits of the Spirit of Peace & Patience to grow and be evident in my life

- Dorothy Elliott

Other concerns:

PRAY: Gracious Father, thank you for your love that sent your Son to the cross for me! Help me love those I see today with your same love. Amen

4. What have you been inspired to pray about with greater commitment?

5. What answer/s to prayer have you seen so far? Share these with someone else in the church.

PRAYING IN PAIN

James 1:2-5

“I’m suffering! Yippee!”

Is this what James was talking about when he wrote *“Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds...”* (James 1:2)?

Should we be happy when suffering comes our way? Am I befalling James’ command when I give in to grief? And how do I pray, then, amidst (or in expectation of) suffering?

If we continue reading Verse 3, we see that our joy is not to be found in suffering itself – it is right to grieve amidst trials and suffering – our joy is directed towards the maturing of our faith that happens as we persevere through suffering; *“...because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance.”*

So should we pray for suffering, so that our faith may mature? I don’t believe the Bible encourages us to pray for suffering. What it does say, however, is to pray for wisdom. It is no tangent that James goes on to warn against lacking wisdom, for it is the key to persevering through suffering! Verse 5: *“If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God”*.

What is wisdom? Wisdom is seeing the world through God's lenses. It is seeing things with a heavenly perspective, not an earthly one. Only as we pray for wisdom and receive it, will we begin to look at the world and our immediate circumstances through God's lenses. Only then can we begin to have any kind of joy in suffering, for then we will desire the maturity of our faith above anything on earth!

Lord, I pray for wisdom – that you would allow me to see my world through your lenses.

I pray that should trials and suffering come my way, you will use these to mature my faith. I pray I would have such a heavenly perspective that I will be able to have joy in this refining process, amidst the grief and pain. Amen

Jade Chong

Paul's Prayer Request: *'Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly as I should.'*

Ephesians 6:18-20

Today I Prayed For...

- That God would prepare our hearts to welcome and care for our new Lead Pastor (and family)

- Newington & Wentworth Point Public Schools

- Amanda, Anneliese & Peter Faase

Other concerns:

PRAY: Dear Father, thank you that you call me your child. Help me to understand fully what it means to call you 'Father'. May I be pleasing to you and find joy in being your child. Amen

A Prayer of David: *'I call on you, O God, for you will answer me, give ear to me and hear my prayer. Show me the wonder of your great love, you who save by your right hand those who take refuge in you from their foes. Keep me as the apple of your eye; hide me in the shadow of your wings.'*

Psalm 17:6-8

Today I Prayed For...

- That God would give wisdom, discernment and protection to the Pastoral Search Team (Ian Altman, James Burton, Cas Jones, Melinda Cooper, Peter Faase and Albert Tan)
- Wentworth Point & Sydney Olympic Park Communities
- Amy, Cassandra & Mark Falson

Other concerns:

PRAY: Father God, thank you that you are our Father. Thank you that you know all things. Thank you that you are in complete control of all things. Help us to trust you completely. Amen

‘The important thing about prayer is that it connects us to God. Prayer is getting close to God and finding out what he wants us to do and asking for strength to do it. God is absolutely wonderful and the more knowledge we have about him, the more we will want to pray.’

Cliff Perriam

Today I Prayed For...

- That we seek God's Kingdom and trust in God's appointment of a new Lead Pastor

- Sunday morning services and the Worship/Music Ministry

- Shirley Gerasimov & her daughter Sophie Zhu

Other concerns:

PRAY: Father God, help us to focus totally on who you are! Help us not to be distracted by our own circumstances but help us to keep our eyes on Jesus, who lived and died for us. Amen

‘Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes, its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.’

Jeremiah 17:7-8

Today I Prayed For...

- God to be at work in the heart of the person He has chosen for the role of future Lead Pastor

- A new Mission Partner for Bayside

- Chris & Elizabeth Greef

Other concerns:

PRAY: Father God, we pray for those in difficult situations. Father we ask that you would be their strength, their wisdom at all times and in all the difficulties of life. Amen

'You aren't stuck in the real world. Just the opposite, you are one step away from the house of God. Wherever you are. Whatever time it is. Whether in the office on Thursday or at soccer practice on Saturday, you are only a decision away from the presence of your Father... When your car is stuck in traffic, you can step into the chapel. When the gust of temptation unbalances your stride, step behind the wall of his strength. When the employees belittle you, take a seat in the porch swing next to your Father; he'll comfort you.'

Max Lucado

Today I Prayed For...

- Wisdom for the Pastoral Search Team in knowing when and how to advertise the role of Lead Pastor, so we are aligned with God's will
- People around our world that are facing/have faced natural disasters and those Agencies that help them
- Andrew Ho & Rhonda Lin & their children Aaron & Ethan

Other concerns:

PRAY: Father God, help us to be so totally devoted to you that nothing and no one turns us away from completely serving you with all that we have and all that we are! Amen

A Prayer of Daniel: 'Now, our God, hear the prayers and petitions of your servant. For your sake, O Lord, look with favour on your desolate sanctuary... We do not make requests of you because we are righteous, but because of your great mercy. O Lord, listen! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, hear and act!'

Daniel 9:17-19

Today I Prayed For...

- Thank you God for what you have been doing in this season, and what you will do in the future at Bayside

- Those in Local Government Leadership

- Lana Hor

Other concerns:

PRAY: Father God, help us to live our lives in your service, wherever you take us, whatever you give us to do. May we always serve you and may we always be in touch with you by prayer. Amen

‘Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust.’

Acts 14:23

Today I Prayed For...

- That I would not grow weary or discouraged in praying for God's will to be done at Bayside, but rather would be prayerfully waiting and calling on God to act

- The Fruits of the Spirit of Kindness & Goodness to grow and be evident in my life

- Cas, Jim & Matthew Jones

Other concerns:

PRAY: Father, now that you have heard me, give me the grace and peace to accept your will and to rejoice in what you will give. Amen

PRAYING AT ALL TIMES AND IN ALL SITUATIONS

Daniel 3:1-30

At the time of this story the Jews were in captivity in Babylon. Among them were 3 young men: Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. King Nebuchadnezzar was on the throne. He decided to make a gold statue of himself and he issued a decree that all people were to bow to the ground to worship this statue when they heard the sound of musical instruments. Failure to do so would result in death in a blazing furnace!

However, despite the warning, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were committed to the one true God and they refused to bow down to this statue. Word of their disobedience got back to the King. He was furious and ordered them to be thrown into the blazing furnace. Before he did so, he gave them one last opportunity to obey his command. Their response was simply amazing: *'...if we are thrown into the blazing furnace the God whom we serve is able to save us. He will rescue us from your power...but even if he doesn't, we want to make it clear to you...that we will never serve your gods or worship the gold statue!'* The result was that God did save them from the furnace...God received the glory and these 3 young men were promoted!

These young men had been in a life-threatening situation. Did they pray? I am sure they did! Did they know their God? I am sure they did! They had no doubt that God could save them! And they had no doubt that even if he didn't, he had a better plan! We may not always be in life-threatening situations, but I am sure that we often ask God to save us from the daily problems and stresses of life! Do you know your God? Can you trust him so completely that whenever you pray you too can say, *'Father, I know you can, but even if you don't, I will still worship you, I will still serve you!'* One thing is certain; our God wants us to pray at all times and in all situations! We need to know the One to whom we pray and we need to remember that he is the Almighty God!

Joy Atkinson

‘We only learn to pray by praying. Although reading books and attending conferences can be helpful, we must consistently show up for practice in our prayer closet alone with God’.

Gregory Frizzell

Today I Prayed For...

- That God would prepare our hearts to welcome and care for our new Lead Pastor (and family)

- Concord High School

- Fred Kho & Liza Rodriguez-Kho

Other concerns:

PRAY: Father, teach me to be content with what you have given me. Help me to remember that all of life is a gift from you, and to be thankful. Amen

'Israel was helped in fighting them, and God delivered the Hagarites and all their allies into their hands, because they cried out to him during the battle. He answered their prayers, because they trusted in him.'

1 Chronicles 5:20

Today I Prayed For...

- That God would give wisdom, discernment and protection to the Pastoral Search Team (Ian Altman, James Burton, Cas Jones, Melinda Cooper, Peter Faase and Albert Tan)

- Homebush & Strathfield Communities

- Keryn & Rob Kirk

Other concerns:

PRAY: Father, help me to trust you today, especially amongst the busy-ness, the temptations, and the choices I need to make; let me choose what honours you. Amen

‘There is something about prayer and intercession which calls for more self-denial than any other work to which the Spirit calls us. The greater part of the work of intercession is, of course, done in secret; and work of this kind requires the expenditure of greater effort than work which can be seen of men... It is easy enough to get people to preach. Many are anxious to preach and are offended if not asked to do so. And we who are asked to do so, are so zealous that when we once get into the pulpit it is difficult to get us out again. But there are not many who are willing to take upon themselves the self-denying work connected with prayer, because it is neither seen nor appreciated by men.’

O Hallesby

Today I Prayed For...

- That we seek God's Kingdom and trust in God's appointment of a new Lead Pastor
- DNA Groups
- Dorothy Key

Other concerns:

PRAY: Father, we pray that Jesus would come soon and bring in the fullness of your kingdom; that all would see you are Lord and worship. Amen

'I cry to you for help, O Lord; in the morning my prayer comes before you.'

Psalm 88:13

Today I Prayed For...

- God to be at work in the heart of the person He has chosen for the role of future Lead Pastor

- Our Schools Outreach

- Hoon Lee

Other concerns:

PRAY: Father, give me the strength to do the things you've given me to do. And help me to be faithful. Amen

'Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.'

Romans 12:11-12

Today I Prayed For...

- Wisdom for the Pastoral Search Team in knowing when and how to advertise the role of Lead Pastor, so we are aligned with God's will
- Those infected with the COVID-19 virus
- Bob & Chris Prouty

Other concerns:

PRAY: Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for the loving forgiveness you have shown to me for the sins I have committed. Please help me to love you and be forgiving like you. Amen

‘Honest dealing becomes us when we kneel in his pure presence. In our address to God we like to speak of him as we think we ought to speak, and there are times when our words far outrun our feelings. But it is best that we should be perfectly frank before him. He will allow us to say anything we will, so long as it is to himself. ‘I will say unto God, my rock,’ exclaims the psalmist, ‘why hast thou forgotten me?’ If he had said, ‘Lord, thou canst not forget. Thou hast graven my name on the palms of thy hands,’ he would have spoken more worthily, but less truly.’

David MacIntyre

Today I Prayed For...

- Thank you God for what you have been doing in this season, and what you will do in the future at Bayside

- Those in our Baptist Association Leadership

- Ai Lin & Albert Tan

Other concerns:

PRAY: Lord, help me to be honest and true in whatever I say and do today. I pray for your Holy Spirit to give me the strength and courage to stand for what is right and to walk in your light. Amen

Ezra’s Prayer of Confession for the sins of Israel: *‘At the evening sacrifice, I rose from my self-abasement, with my tunic and cloak torn, and fell on my knees with my hands spread out to the Lord my God and prayed: “O my God, I am too ashamed and disgraced to lift up my face to you, my God, because our sins are higher than our heads and our guilt has reached to the heavens...”’*

Ezra 9:5-6 (Read the rest of the Confession in Ezra 9:6-15)

Today I Prayed For...

- That I would not grow weary or discouraged in praying for God's will to be done at Bayside, but rather would be prayerfully waiting and calling on God to act

- The Fruits of the Spirit of Faithfulness & Gentleness to grow and be evident in my life

- KC Thor, Audrey Liau & their children Daniel & Jeremy

Other concerns:

PRAY: Lord, we acknowledge you as our Creator God who knows our every need and is in control of every area of our lives. Help us to be joyful and thankful in all circumstances. Amen

WHAT CAN WE ASK FOR

Matthew 6:8

In principle, there's nothing that the Christian can't ask for in prayer. Christian asking is built on the foundation of the generosity of God our Father, who already knows what we need before we ask (Matthew 6:8) and who loves to give to those who ask. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for bread, will give a stone? Or if the child asks for a fish, will give a snake? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him! Asking God is much better than violently wrestling for things with others (see James 4:2-3).

We pray not only because of God's general providence, but also according to his special providence. We learn to pray for God's will to be done – not because this is some inevitable and impersonal force, but because we recognise his wisdom and sovereignty as well as his Fatherly care of us. And we are also permitted to wrestle with God in our prayers. We see this most clearly in the Psalms that express real human doubts. Perhaps the most remarkable instance of this is Jesus' prayer in Gethsemane. The pleading of Jesus – that it be some other way – clearly doesn't fall outside of the bounds of what is righteous behaviour for one of God's creatures. At the same time he acknowledges the priority of the Father's will – which is done, and revealed to us, by the crucifixion of the Messiah.

Remember that our prayers are heard by our Father, who wants our good; one who has provided for us in Christ. Remember that he loves to use and respond to our prayers; in fact God responds to our prayers in 'real time', not just by chance when our prayers coincide with what he's decided beforehand. And we should expect to receive counsel and the knowledge of God's will that the Holy Spirit gives as we pray.

Jonny Lam

'Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tyre?'

Corrie Ten Boom

Today I Prayed For...

- That God would prepare our hearts to welcome and care for our new Lead Pastor (and family)

- Strathfield Girls & Homebush Boys High Schools

- Simon Thorne, Kathy Elliott & their children Taj, Zach and Noah

Other concerns:

PRAY: Dear Lord Jesus, we thank you for the example you have set in words and deeds while you were on earth. Help us we pray to serve and care for one another with humility by seeking only the other's interests. Amen

‘O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise because of your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.’

Psalm 8:1-2

Today I Prayed For...

- That God would give wisdom, discernment and protection to the Pastoral Search Team (Ian Altman, James Burton, Cas Jones, Melinda Cooper, Peter Faase and Albert Tan)

- Liberty Grove Community

- Eng Khong Toh, Becky Tieng & their children Chloe & Natalie

Other concerns:

PRAY: Thank you Lord for your Word. Fill our hearts with words that will be a blessing to others today. Amen

Paul's Prayer for the Ephesians: *'I kneel before the Father from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.'*

Ephesians 3:14-17a

Today I Prayed For...

- That we seek God's Kingdom and trust in God's appointment of a new Lead Pastor

- Pastoral Care through Bayside

- Janice Tsang

Other concerns:

PRAY: Our Father in Heaven, thank you for being a good God who cares for me. I pray that I may remember that I can trust you with all things in my life. Amen

‘God loves the guileless soul even when in his ignorance he is actually guilty of rashness in prayer. The Lord can soon cure his ignorance, but for insincerity no cure is known.’

A. W. Tozer

Today I Prayed For...

- God to be at work in the heart of the person He has chosen for the role of future Lead Pastor

- Concord West School Chaplain (GaYoung Kim)

- Tania Tsang & her children Sophie & Carter Whitehead

Other concerns:

PRAY: Dear Lord, thank you for the mercy you show to the world by sustaining it and continuing to give us the opportunity to make you known. I pray that I might take every opportunity to show your love to others around me and to tell the gospel to them. Amen

Paul's Prayer for the Ephesians continued: *'And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.'*

Ephesians 3:17b-19

Today I Prayed For...

- Wisdom for the Pastoral Search Team in knowing when and how to advertise the role of Lead Pastor, so we are aligned with God's will

- A vaccine for the COVID-19 virus and safety and protection for the frontline workers

- Anne Turner

Other concerns:

PRAY: Dear Lord, thank you for the sacrifice of your Son on the cross. I pray that I will not take this gift for granted but will strive to live a life that is glorifying to you. Amen

'What a man is alone on his knees before God, that he is, and no more.'

Robert Murray M'Cheyne

Today I Prayed For...

- Thank you God for what you have been doing in this season, and what you will do in the future at Bayside
- Those in leadership in Bayside Community Church
- Archie, Joy, Christina & Christian Viray

Other concerns:

PRAY: Our Father in heaven, I pray that you will reveal yourself more and more to me, make your will known and give me the strength and courage to follow you. Amen

Paul's Prayer for the Ephesians continued: *'Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen.'*

Ephesians 3:20-21

Today I Prayed For...

- That I would not grow weary or discouraged in praying for God's will to be done at Bayside, but rather would be prayerfully waiting and calling on God to act

- The Fruit of the Spirit of Self-Control to grow and be evident in my life

- Sue Chiang & Sunny Wan and their children Iona & Kaelen

Other concerns:

PRAY: Thank you Lord for the food we have to eat, for the homes we have to live in and for the peaceful country that Australia is. Give us generous and compassionate hearts for the poor and the hungry so we can be your true ambassadors. Amen

INTERCESSION, CHILDBIRTH & THE WILL OF GOD

Romans 8:22-27

'We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the first-fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently. In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.' (Romans 8:22-27)

This is a most interesting passage that gives us a glimpse of the Holy Spirit's work in us as we pray. It is a great comfort to know that when we do not know what we ought to pray for, it doesn't really make a difference to the outcome because the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.

I am struck by the sentence that begins, “In the same way”. I understand this to be a reference to the previous verses where it is referring to the whole creation groaning as in the pains of childbirth. So the groaning that is being referred to when the Spirit intercedes for us is like the groaning of creation which is compared to the pains of childbirth. In childbirth, we are awaiting the birth of the child which will bring the pains of childbirth to an end. So in prayer, when we pray about something our mind cannot understand, the Holy Spirit’s work brings about the answer to prayer which is like the birth of a child. Also when God searches our hearts he knows the mind of the Spirit. This is clearly because the Spirit lives within us – as our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). Also the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God’s will. Therefore we don’t have to worry about whether or not we know what God’s will is in our minds, what this passage seems to say is that God’s Spirit knows what the will of God is in a particular situation, yet he chooses to use our hearts in this process of interceding for other people (the saints).

So to conclude, all we need to do is be in the presence of God and pray. It doesn’t matter if we don’t know what to pray for or how to pray. God is not limited by my lack of knowledge or wisdom about a particular matter, yet he chooses to search my heart when I pray and in so doing he understands miraculously the mind of the Spirit who intercedes for the saints according to God’s will.

Ruby Chandraraj

'Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again; Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.'

Philippians 4:4-7

Today I Prayed For...

- That God would prepare our hearts to welcome and care for our new Lead Pastor (and family)

- Integricare Pre-school in Homebush

- Bob & Robyn Watson

Other concerns:

PRAY: Thank you Lord for all your provisions each day. Help me to see past the desire for worldly goods and look only unto Jesus for my needs. Amen (Matthew 6:28-34)

‘Oh, how we need to wake up to how much “nothing” we spend our time doing. Apart from prayer, all our scurrying about, all our talking, all our study amounts to “nothing”. For most of us the voice of self-reliance is ten times louder than the bell that tolls for the hours of prayer. The voice cries out: “You must open the mail, you must take that call, you must write this sermon, you must prepare for the board meeting, you must go to the hospital.” But the bell tolls softly: “Without Me you can do nothing.”’

John Piper

Today I Prayed For...

- That God would give wisdom, discernment and protection to the Pastoral Search Team (Ian Altman, James Burton, Cas Jones, Melinda Cooper, Peter Faase and Albert Tan)
- Newington Community
- Matthew, Mel & Maddie Wellings

Other concerns:

PRAY: Help me to pray effectively for those I meet with day by day. Help me to be a “fisher of men”. Amen
(Matthew 4:19)

‘Jesus said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the labourers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.”’

Matthew 9:37-38

Today I Prayed For...

- That we seek God's Kingdom and trust in God's appointment of a new Lead Pastor

- Young Adults Ministry

- Vivian Chia & her daughter Chloe Lim

Other concerns:

PRAY: Thank you for lifting me up each day and giving me strength to walk with you. Let the sun shine into my life and the dark clouds roll away. Amen (1 John 1:7)

'I believe that prayer is the measure of the man, spiritually, in a way that nothing else is, so that how we pray is as important a question as we can ever face.'

J. I. Packer

Today I Prayed For...

- For God to be at work in the heart of the person He has chosen for the role of future Lead Pastor

- Homebush West School Chaplain (Chris Prouty)

- Suzanne Wright

Other concerns:

PRAY: Help me in giving support to those around me who are heavy in heart. Enable opportunities for me to show your love. Amen (Matthew 11:28)

Jesus' teaching on prayer: *'One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples." He said to them, "When you pray, say: 'Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation.'*

Luke 11:1-4

Today I Prayed For...

- Wisdom for the Pastoral Search Team in knowing when and how to advertise the role of Lead Pastor, so we are aligned with God's will
- Our Indigenous brothers and sisters
- Anyone that has visited our Zoom Church, and someone from Bayside that the Holy Spirit brings to mind

Other concerns:

PRAY: Help me to continue to learn more about Jesus. Open up opportunities for me to serve and encourage others. Amen (Romans 12:8)

4. Is there a new person, ministry, or circumstance that you are now prepared to pray for regularly?

Perhaps you could write a short note to let them know of your commitment to pray for them.

5. What matters do you need to continue to persevere in prayer about?

Bayside Community Church: Our Mission

We exist to love God and love people, encouraging everyone to grow into passionately committed followers of Jesus.

Bayside
Community Church

Bayside Community Church: Our Vision

We See a Church:

Deeping Relationships

With the people within the Bayside church family and within the wider community.

Expanding Influence

We envision an agile, flexible and impacting church, not centralising our ministry in one location, but expanding in response to God-given opportunities.

We see our current congregation increasing significantly in size and capacity.

We see a church that plants new congregations across our local area and beyond.

Matt 5:13-14 "You are the salt of the earth ... you are the light of the world."

Building Disciples

We see disciples raised up from every generation and family heritages transformed for good.

Psalm 87:4 "We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord."

Transforming the Next Generation

Bayside has a long and deeply embedded commitment to the discipleship, development, and inclusion of children and youth.

Bayside Community Church: Our Values

Vibrant Faith:

Where our relationships with Jesus are real and evolving

As followers of Jesus we have been invited into relationship with Him.

We believe that ongoing emotional and spiritual growth should be a reality for all followers of Jesus.

We have an "all of life" perspective on discipleship. It encompasses every aspect of our lives.

We celebrate creativity in our services, in our structures and in expressions of different congregations.

We adopt a spirit of adventure and recognise that a life of faith is following wherever God leads us, into the known and unexpected.

We believe that prayer, both individual and expressed together, demonstrates our dependency and our intimacy with God

Kingdom Living:

Where our focus is bigger than ourselves

We are intentionally missional - relentlessly seeking to connect people with Jesus.

We bias our time and resources towards those who are yet to enter the Kingdom.

Having a global as well as local engagement, we seek to make a difference in the world, promoting God's compassion, justice and peace.

We cheer on, and encourage, other churches and ministries.

Bayside Community Church: Our Values

Community:

Where everyone is valued

Opinions are valued, Diversity is valued.
There are no restrictive barriers because of gender, age or ethnicity.
People are more important than programs and we recognise their need for periods of rest to safeguard against burnout.
We support, serve and care for each other.

Where authenticity is the norm

No pretense is needed and vulnerability is OK! (or valued).
We value, and expect, Integrity, Truthfulness and Reliability
Because our identity is in Christ we are at the same time both humbled and esteemed.
We are committed to creating a 'safe place' but not necessarily a 'comfortable place'
There is depth to relationships.

Bayside Community Church: Our Values

Transformation:

Where we are being changed to become more like Jesus

We believe that we are all on an ongoing, life-long journey of transformation. This transformation is facilitated in us as we rely on, and surrender to, the work of the Holy Spirit. We seek opportunities to engage with God and allow His work to take place in us. While we accept people "as they are & wherever they are" we still yearn for God's work of transformation in their lives. Our model is that of a "Hospital not a Hospice" It is important to us to create small, intimate, supportive environments where safety can be established to allow personal vulnerability and the work of transformation to take place in community

Empowerment:

Where we see people released to be all that God intends them to be, and to experience

We recognise the Holy Spirit as the source of our power. Our leadership employs an empowering leadership model, which is collaborative in nature. We release people into ministry, and invest in their ongoing development and training. We encourage new ideas, new things and new ways and have an expectation of change, and create a safe environment for these things. We guard against complacency. We seek to employ healthy processes across all of our activities. We have empowering structures and policies that facilitate good communication and ensure appropriate accountability. We are committed to providing healthy, life-giving team environments.

