



All of this is us



# #40PRAYERS

## 40 days of prayer from the Assembly to mark our 40th Anniversary

### WEEK SIX

#### Day 37 – Monday 19 June 2017 – Prayer for Refugee Week

*We continue our prayers for refugees and people seeking asylum. This prayer is from the Uniting Justice resource [Justice for Asylum Seekers: A Call to Prayer](#).*

Wise and compassionate God,  
help us to be willing to respond to the needs of refugees and asylum-seekers  
and not simply seek to shift the burden of care onto others.  
Call our leaders to justice, generosity and compassion.  
Help them create and implement strategies that are fair and just  
and treat refugees and asylum-seekers with dignity and care.

O God, our comforter,  
we ask you to comfort the broken-hearted and protect the vulnerable.  
We pray for those who live in fear of detention and removal,  
for those who are in detention at this time  
and for those who face removal to an uncertain future.  
We ask you to assure them of your great love,  
surround them with your presence and fill them with your peace.

God bless our eyes so that we will recognise injustices.  
God bless our ears so that we will hear the cry of the stranger.  
God bless our mouths so that we will speak words of welcome to newcomers.  
God bless our shoulders so we will be able to bear the weight of struggling for justice.  
God bless our hands so that we can work together with all people to establish peace.

This we pray in the name and Spirit of Jesus.

## **Day 38 – Tuesday 20 June 2017 – Prayer for Refugee Week**

*We continue to pray for refugees and those who support and advocate on their behalf. Thank you to David Busch for this prayer. David is Multicultural Project Officer with South Moreton Presbytery (Qld) and Coordinator of Redlands for Refugees.*

Gracious God, you call us to peace:

we pray for the many places across our world torn by war and civil conflict, leading to the fleeing and displacement of people in unprecedented numbers. We remember people in flight from persecution and threat in their homeland because of their religion, race, sexuality or politics. We grieve with those whose bodies and minds bear the deep scars of terror and torture. Give strength, courage and hope to those men and women, elderly and children, who leave everything behind to seek security, safety and freedom in another country. May their plight stir leaders of nations to renounce conflict and instead build cultures of peace.

Loving God, you call us to compassion and justice:

We pray for those places of hope to which refugees make their perilous and fearful journeys:

neighbouring refugee camps, where thousands seek shelter, and more distant countries where they hope for a new life, far from threat.

We grieve the policies and practices of governments which inflict further suffering on refugees who have made that journey,

and we lament the vast numbers who languish in refugee camps waiting safety at home or resettlement elsewhere.

Break down the walls of suspicion, selfishness, resentment and apathy, so that refugees may be met with goodwill and generosity, and treated with dignity, compassion and fairness.

Merciful God, you call us to serve you through serving our neighbour in need:

May your church see you in the face of the stranger who comes here pleading for safety.

Move us to act and to advocate, with courage and love, for the rights and proper care of people who come to this country seeking our protection.

May our churches be places of welcome and safety for all.

Raise us to our best selves as we respond to those whose lives are so deeply scarred by the worst of circumstances,

that those who suffer may experience, through us, the tender and restoring grace of Christ.

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Holy God, in you is our true home:

May we embody, in word and action, the true fellowship of humanity,  
restored, through Christ, to you and to each other.

We grieve the fractured, wounded state of human community,  
and we seek your vision of peace and provision for all.

Thank you that, over the years, many refugees have found opportunity and freedom in  
Australia – may their lives remind us of the transforming power of compassion and  
hope.

May we invest the rich blessings of our life in Australia into building a vision of life in all  
its fullness for everyone, here and across the world.

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## **Day 39 – Wednesday 21 June 2017 – Prayer for Intergenerational and Next Gen Ministry**

*Today we pray for all generations in the Uniting Church and the ministry which draws them together in God's love. This prayer comes from Noah Kim, Multi Cross Cultural Next Generation Project Officer for the QLD Synod.*

God,

We thank you for your faithfulness to your church and your people. Many times we failed you, we were faithless, and we were overwhelmed by fear of this world, but you continued to remain faithful to us.

God,

We lift up the generation that has gone before us to you.

We pray your Spirit may come afresh upon your people that their hearts are restored with their first love for you. We pray your Spirit may come afresh upon your people, that their hearts are comforted and filled with peace.

We pray your Spirit may come afresh upon your people, that their hearts are filled with the hope in Christ and the praise of His glory.

God,

We lift up the generation that is arising in this nation to you.

We pray your Spirit may come afresh upon us so that our hearts are restored with the our first love for you.

We pray your Spirit may come afresh upon us so that we become a generation that is known as a generation of reconciliation and servant hearts.

We pray your Spirit may come afresh upon us so that our hearts are filled with a vision of the resurrected Christ and we become a fearless generation.

God,

We honour you for who you are in this land. You are life to the lifeless. You are hope to the hopeless. You are light to the darkness.

Amen

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## **Day 40 – Thursday 22 June 2017 – Prayer for the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Uniting Church in Australia**

*This final prayer gives thanks for those who received and lived a God-given passion for unity. It acknowledge our failures to fully live out this unity, and commits us, with God, to the fullness of a reconciled and renewed creation which is Christ's unfinished mission. Thanks to President Stuart McMillan for this prayer.*

God of love and grace,  
you have led and sustained us  
in our journey over the past forty years.  
For this we humbly give thanks.

We give thanks also for the women and men  
who have been the servant hearted leaders on the journey.  
For all those who have nurtured and encouraged your Church  
as we have faithfully sought to live as Christ's ones.

Please, O God forgive our failures  
to act justly, to love with mercy and to walk humbly with you.  
When as Church we have caused others to stumble  
or caused others hurt, forgive us, and lift them up in your love.

God of abundant life  
we pray that as a fellowship of reconciliation  
we might more truly reflect  
the beauty of your creation.

May we Loving God  
be a passionate people  
who share in Christ's unfinished mission  
the reconciliation and renewal of the whole creation

Loving God you put in the hearts of men and women  
your passion for unity and called a pilgrim people to embrace this vision.  
Now, O God, your Spirit is calling us to the new things you are doing with us,  
First and Second Peoples, one in Christ.

We pray that we might in our love for one another  
reflect your love for all humanity,  
and your care and concern for the whole creation.  
In this, may your grace, love and peace renew your creation.

In the name of the Christ. Amen

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