

Opening Prayer (Word in the World & Michael Jagessar)

Loving God,
open our eyes to the beauty of your holiness
open our ears to the message of your word
open our minds to the challenge of your truth
open our hearts to the power of your love.
Open our lives to the coming of your Spirit
that we may truly worship you, now and forever

God-of-righteous-dreaming,
give us an enlarged imagination to dream new possibilities,
to imagine a world where transformation will happen,
where creation is mended and restored,
and where exiles and strangers can find a home and live in peace.
Give us overflowing and extravagant hearts
so that our whole lives may be full of and mirror your dream and promise of
goodness and abundance.
Amen

Prayers of concern (Michael Jagessar and JP)

God-who-walks-with-us, ahead, beside, behind, above, below and around us,
you who journey with wandering and displaced people:
clear our eyes to see you in the many displaced sisters and brothers at our borders,
gates and doors;
give us just minds and confident hearts to protest, challenge, and partner with others
to turn hard, callous and inhumane policies into habits of generosity, compassion
and welcome at our gates;
and through your Spirit strengthen our resolve to work towards a new world where all
can share in full and flourishing life.

God-who-walks-with-us, ahead, beside, behind, above, below and around all people,
we pray for justice in our world – racial justice so that those who face discrimination
or persecution because of how they look, or which tribe or group they belong to or
which country they were born in, will be valued equally.
We pray that those in power who abuse their position will come to understand the
value of all human life as sisters and brothers created equal by God.
We pray for everyone living as slaves in these times where such appalling
exploitation should be no more.
Help us all to learn from the horrors of the past to work tirelessly in the present to
build the future where diversity is prized and the gift from God we know it to be.
God-who-walks-with-us, ahead, beside, behind, above, below and around all people,
we ask in prayer you help that those we name now, out loud or in our hearts.

- > Everyone involved with Princes St as they prepare for the final service next Sunday
- > For Revd Bruno and his preparations for his next move in ministry

And we pray for ourselves too. Loving God you know our needs and hurts, our hopes and our joys. Be with us we pray as we walk the way following in the footsteps of Jesus.
Amen

Bible reading

Paul's letter to the Galatians, Chapter 3, verses 26 to 28
New Living Translation

“For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus.
And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have put on Christ, like putting on new clothes.
There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female.
For you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

For reflection

WHAT YOU ARE HIDES WHO YOU ARE! – a poem by Richard Becher

Thank you, Lord, that you see us for WHO we are not WHAT we are!

WHAT we are is young or old; strong or weak; rich or poor; black or white; male or female, but you see us for WHO we are so thank you, Lord, for seeing in us more than WHAT we are.

WHAT we are can be defined by place of birth; our faith belief or our tradition or how we look but you see us for WHO we are so thank you, Lord, for seeing in us or how we look but you see us for WHO we are so thank you, Lord, for seeing in us more than WHAT we are.

WHO we are is made by You with you in us and us in you shaped by love to live and grow to be your peace, with words of hope and healing hands.... Thank you, Lord, that you see us for WHO we are not WHAT we are!

Forgive us, Lord, when we see people for WHAT they are without knowing them for WHO they are so miss you in them and will never know which one you were.... Open our eyes, Lord, to see what you see because WHAT people are can hide WHO they are..... AMEN