

# Midweek Prayer Time – Week 2

*We offer this liturgy for a time of personal prayer,  
hoping it will be a time of enrichment and encouragement in challenging times.  
May God's peace and blessing be upon you today and each day to come.*

## Psalm 27: 1 – 6

The Lord is my light and my salvation  
- so why should I be afraid?

The Lord is my fortress,  
protecting me from danger,  
so why should I tremble?

When evil people come to devour me,  
when my enemies and foes attack me,  
they will stumble and fall.

Though a mighty army surrounds me,  
my heart will not be afraid.

Even if I am attacked,  
I will remain confident.

The one thing I ask of the Lord  
- the thing I seek most  
- is to live in the house of the Lord  
all the days of my life,  
delighting in the Lord's perfections  
and meditating in his Temple.

For he will conceal me there  
when troubles come;  
he will hide me in his sanctuary.

He will place me out of reach  
on a high rock.

Then I will hold my head high  
above my enemies who surround me.

At his sanctuary  
I will offer sacrifices with shouts of joy,  
singing and praising the Lord with music.



**'The Light of the World'**

*Holman Hunt*

## Prayer

*Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord.*

God, who forms even our passion for prayer,  
we thank you for the gift of the word 'beseech'.

It has not the indignity of 'beg', nor the whinging irritation of 'plead',  
and not the ordinariness of 'ask'.

It expresses so well our need to put all our longing  
and a proper sense of urgency into the prayers we speak to you.

And so, we beseech you, O God, for light in the darkness.

We beseech you for peace in our warring world.

We beseech you that the hungry may be fed and that justice may come at last.

Even though we know that you hear even a tentative prayer

spoken in the gentlest whisper, even so, for these things,

for these most desperate and urgent needs, we must beseech you...

*Silence*

In and through the love of Jesus Christ, your son we pray. Amen.

## Scripture reading from the Gospel of John 8. 12 – 16 (NRSV)

Again, Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." Then the Pharisees said to him, "You are testifying on your own behalf; your testimony is not valid."

Jesus answered, "Even if I testify on my own behalf, my testimony is valid because I know where I have come from and where I am going, but you do not know where I come from or where I am going. You judge by human standards; I judge no one.

Yet even if I do judge, my judgment is valid; for it is not I alone who judge, but I and the Father who sent me."

*Hold a period of silent reflection following the reading - use the picture to help reflect.*

## Prayer

O Lord, say, 'Let there be light',  
that we might see the light and avoid the darkness,  
see the way and avoid false steps,  
see the truth and avoid vanity,  
see and avoid death.

May the light of Christ risen in glory

scatter the darkness from our hearts and minds and from our world.

Amen.

## Prayer from the World Church - The Presbyterian Church of Ireland

Grant us, God, a vision of your power breaking through the grey clouds of our times,  
lightening the path that we should take to the promised land of justice, love and peace.  
Reveal to us the glory of your Cross on which the enmity is broken down,  
the darkness overcome, that which is divided reconciled and true peace restored.  
Be born again in us, Lord Jesus Christ,  
that from the lowly manger of our land a light may glow for nations round the world:  
Your kingdom on its way.  
Amen.

## Prayers of Intercession

*A time to offer prayers of concern, for local, national or world issues,  
for thanks or for whatever is on your heart....*

Gracious God,  
we pray for all denied the opportunity to live life to the full;  
the mentally and physically disabled,  
victims of accidents and illness,  
the depressed and broken-hearted.  
Give to each help to conquer that which can so easily enslave them.  
Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers....

*Time for silent prayer, after a period of 2 or 3 minutes silence conclude ....*

Gracious God,  
help your church to offer a place of acceptance,  
welcome, and belonging.  
And help all those who feel isolated  
to find in you a true source of their being and the root of their lives.  
Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer, through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

## The Lord's Prayer...

### Closing Prayer

Living God,  
you call us each by name  
that we might know your real presence  
and live this day in the light of your glory.  
Bless us with wisdom to respond to your leading,  
in all we do,  
and with everyone we meet.  
Amen.