

ST. PHILIP'S MILFORD PRAYER CIRCLE



Prayers for Children

Thursday, November 10, 2022

We are in trying, tumultuous times. And the effect of this on our children, our "grands", the children in our community, in our country, in the world, is visceral and visible. When we are tempted to worry about the safety of children, their friendships, their health, and their future, we know the best thing to do is pray!

Elizabeth: Lord, we centre ourselves, in preparation to pray:

"Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me." (Psalm 51:10)

Almighty God, we thank you for your amazing power and work in our lives, we thank you for your goodness and for your blessings over us. We thank you for your great love and care. We thank you for your sacrifice so that we might have freedom and everlasting life. Forgive us when we don't acknowledge you in our lives, for who you are, for all that you do, for all that you've given. Help us to set our eyes and our hearts on you afresh. Renew our spirits, fill us with your peace and joy. We give you praise and thanks, for you alone are worthy. We ask this in the name of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

TOGETHER:

AMEN

READER: Our Psalm today is number 9, A Psalm of David:

¹ I will give thanks to you, LORD, with all my heart;

I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.

² I will be glad and rejoice in you;

I will sing the praises of your name, O Most High.

³ My enemies turn back;

they stumble and perish before you.

⁴ For you have upheld my right and my cause,

sitting enthroned as the righteous judge.

⁵ You have rebuked the nations and destroyed the wicked;

you have blotted out their name for ever and ever.

⁶ Endless ruin has overtaken my enemies,

you have uprooted their cities;
even the memory of them has perished.

⁷ The LORD reigns forever;
he has established his throne for judgment.

⁸ He rules the world in righteousness
and judges the peoples with equity.

⁹ The LORD is a refuge for the oppressed,
a stronghold in times of trouble.

¹⁰ Those who know your name trust in you,
for you, LORD, have never forsaken those who seek you.

¹¹ Sing the praises of the LORD, enthroned in Zion;
proclaim among the nations what he has done.

¹² For he who avenges blood remembers;
he does not ignore the cries of the afflicted.

¹³ LORD, see how my enemies persecute me!
Have mercy and lift me up from the gates of death,

¹⁴ that I may declare your praises
in the gates of Daughter Zion,
and there rejoice in your salvation.

¹⁵ The nations have fallen into the pit they have dug;
their feet are caught in the net they have hidden.

¹⁶ The LORD is known by his acts of justice;
the wicked are ensnared by the work of their hands.

¹⁷ The wicked go down to the realm of the dead,
all the nations that forget God.

¹⁸ But God will never forget the needy;
the hope of the afflicted will never perish.

¹⁹ Arise, LORD, do not let mortals triumph;
let the nations be judged in your presence.

²⁰ Strike them with terror, LORD;
let the nations know they are only mortal.

ALL Righteous Judge, hear the cries of your people. Rescue them from the hands of their oppressors, and save them from the gates of death, that we may always rejoice in your help; we pray this through Jesus Christ our Saviour and Defender. AMEN

READER: Our Gospel for today is from Matthew, Chapter 18, The Wandering Sheep:

TOGETHER: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

"See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven.

"What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off? And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off. In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should perish".

This is the Gospel of Christ.

TOGETHER: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

READER: Lord, we uphold to you in prayer, all children who are students:

Lord God, you are the Great Teacher. We bring before you our prayers for all children who are in places of learning. In areas where there is a lack, provide them knowledge, understanding, counsel, and fortitude. Keep them safe in their schools from all illnesses and protect them from all harm. We pray they learn from all the subjects they are taught, the activities they participate in, but also the value of wisdom and grace. When the students feel overwhelmed, be present in their lives. May they never feel alone or abandoned. Strengthen them from within, so that they will be a source of strength, confidence, and hope for your world.

We ask this in the name of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

ALL: AMEN

READER: Lord, we uphold to you in prayer, all those who dedicate themselves to children's learning & education:

Lord God, we bring the administrators, principals, professors, teachers, school secretaries, support staff, and maintenance staff of our schools and universities before you. In their vocation as educators, we pray for their understanding of the importance of balance and stability in their classrooms. Lord, we pray for your blessings over their lives, their work, their livelihood, and their families. Guide them with your wisdom. May they be empowered by your Spirit to see the needs of their students and to inspire those under their care. We bring the parents, guardians, and caregivers of our students before you in prayer. They are faced with unprecedented challenges. They have to make decisions that require your wisdom, understanding and insight. When they feel overwhelmed, be present in their lives. May they never feel alone or abandoned. Strengthen them from within, so that they might be a source of strength, confidence, and hope for their children.

We ask this in the name of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

ALL: AMEN

READER: Lord, we uphold to you in prayer, children who do not have enough to eat:

Lord God, it is difficult to see children suffer, especially from hunger. We know there are children going to school each day with empty stomachs. We pray you conspire with us to give the hungry daily bread today and end persistent hunger. We pray all children have the food they need to grow and thrive, where all have access to nutritious and sustainable food sources, and none live with scarcity or food insecurity. We pray you guide us to fill the stomachs of your children who are hungry.

We ask this in the name of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

ALL: AMEN

READER: Lord, we uphold to you in prayer, children who are ill and in poor health:

Lord God, you are the Great Healer, giver of life and health. And we know every child is precious to you and in your sight. We pray for the health of all your children, their mothers, their fathers, their caregivers. We pray for your comfort and relief for your children that are ill, and ask you to give your power of healing to those who minister to children's needs, that they may be strengthened in their weakness and have confidence in your loving care. Heal and strengthen their tiny bodies so they may once again experience fullness of life. Let all your children know that there are people praying for their good health.

At this trying time, we pray relief for the children's hospital emergency services, currently overwhelmed with children ill with respiratory and other illnesses. We pray for the healthcare workers trying to help these children, and the parents and caregivers, worried for their young charges. We pray for the medicine needed for restoration to good health and the current struggles in our province and country for pain relief and antibiotics for all children in need. We ask you to give guidance to those who can solve this supply shortage.

We ask this in the name of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

ALL: AMEN

READER: Lord, we uphold to you in prayer, the mental health of all children:

Lord God, we pray for the children in our community and around the world who are affected by mental health issues. We pray no child would feel stigmatised or alone because of their mental health. We pray particularly for the world's most vulnerable children who face mental health issues as well as the day-to-day battles of poverty. We thank you for those who support children as they navigate this complicated and difficult world. Let all your children know that there are people praying for their mental health.

Lord of peace, please help the children who suffer from anxiety disorders. Enable them to overcome the crippling fear and anxiety that are distorting their thoughts and disturbing their life. May all racing thoughts, lack of concentration, and restlessness leave, and may the tranquility and love fill their minds and spirit. May all worry and feelings of impending doom leave, and may they trust firmly in your love and care. Let all your children know that there are people praying for their release from anxiety.

We ask this in the name of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

ALL: AMEN

READER: Lord, we uphold to you in prayer, protection for all children:

Lord God, we pray your emotional, physical, and spiritual protection over all children. Keep evil far from them, and help them to trust you as their refuge and strength. We pray you will guard all children from harmful instruction, and grant them discernment to recognize what is truthful and appropriate. We pray you will make them strong and courageous in the presence of danger, recognizing that you have overcome and will set right all injustice and wrong one day. Let all children know that there are people praying for their protection.

We ask this in the name of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

ALL: AMEN

READER: Lord, we uphold to you in prayer, the development of wisdom:

Lord God, we pray that all children will develop an everlasting perspective with a wise sense of purpose, that comes from you, not from this earthly world. Help all children to see life – and every challenge they face – through your eyes. We pray all children learn that wisdom will continue to grow as a by-product of right choices, but also growth through mistakes. We ask you Lord to help all children make good use of the wisdom you give all of us every day when we listen to your voice. Let all children know that there are people praying for the growth and development of their wisdom.

We ask this in the name of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

ALL: AMEN

READER: Lord, we uphold to you in prayer, your work in all children's lives:

Lord God, you love all children more than we could ask, or imagine and you trust us with their lives. We know you work all things together for the good of those you created. We pray you give all children the stamina to handle trials and struggles that come and the faith to endure any hardship. Help them to hear your voice, feel your presence, and impact their faith as they live a life of confidence in you. Let all children know that there are people praying for your work in their lives.

We ask this in the name of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

ALL: AMEN

READER: Lord, we uphold to you in prayer, all children who are victims of bullying:

Lord God, we know we live in a cruel world, and it is hard to see children being hurt. We pray for the blessing and protection for all children's bodies, hearts and minds. We pray help comes to children who are being bullied. Lord, give all children the courage to tell their caregivers, teachers, family or friends, about anyone they know who is being hurt or bullied.

Lord God, we pray for the forgiveness of those who bully others. Bless those that harbour malice and anger in their hearts, treating others as less than what they are, your beautiful creation. Help those who willfully hurt others to search their hearts for what is hurting them, and seek help. Let all children know that there are people praying for the end of bullying.

We ask this in the name of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

ALL: AMEN

READER: Lord, we uphold to you in prayer, the safety of all children:

Lord God, please keep all your children safe. We ask that you would protect them from any harm or evil intent that would lurk close by, or assault them while they are unaware. We ask for you to cover them in your care and hide them in the safety of your powerful presence. We pray for you to protect their coming and going, and to remind them that you are always with them. Give them alertness, spiritual discernment, and wisdom to avoid temptation and to make the best choices. We thank you Lord God, that you walk ahead of them, beside them, behind them. That they can trust you to always lead the way, and will be constantly at their side. Let all children know that there are people praying for their safety.

We ask this in the name of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

ALL: AMEN

READER: Lord, we uphold to you in prayer, children who are building friendships:

Lord God, protect all children from negative influences that would lead them away from you, their families, or those who love them. Surround them with friendships and mentor-type relationships that portray what it means to live respectful and kind Christ-centered life. Allow godliness and righteousness to guide their thoughts and actions. May all children be friends that build others up, friends that influence their peers for good. Help all children to be a light in the dark world and to be encouraged by friends who will care for and stand with them. Let all children know that there are people praying for them to build happy and healthy friendships.

We ask this in the name of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

ALL: AMEN

READER: Lord, we uphold to you in prayer, the uniqueness of your beloved children:

Lord God, teach your children that they are beautiful and good in your eyes, not because of what they have done or what they look like, but because they are secure in who you say they are: treasured, delightful, known and protected. Let them not place their self-worth in accomplishments achieved, but let all children discover these deeper truths about who you believe they are and build every decision they make on that sure foundation. Let all children know that there are people praying for them to find a healthy identity.

We ask this in the name of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

ALL: AMEN

READER: Lord, we uphold to you in prayer, children with no families to call their own:

Dear Lord, the Letter of James calls us a community to embody the Love-Command, that taking care of orphans is pure and faultless in your sight. We ask you to inspire all people to take care of children who struggle to survive without care and protection. Our hearts break for these precious ones who have lost parents or have become separated from family. Be with them and bring people around them to show them your love and goodness. Let all children with no families to call their own know that there are people praying for their well-being.

We ask this in the name of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

ALL: AMEN

READER: Lord, we uphold to you in prayer, Olive, as we rejoice in her upcoming Baptism:

Lord God, surround Olive with your light and love. Lead her in your love and mercies in righteous, living on the path you choose. Order her steps and teach her true wisdom through faith in you. We pray you keep her safe all the days of her life. Please fill Olive's life with all manner of good things; love, friendship, joy, happiness. Grant that Dan, Mary Beth, and Maxime continue to provide Olive with love, compassion and direction for her life. Let Olive know that there are people praying for her, and welcoming her into a life as a fellow follower of your Son, and our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

ALL: AMEN

READER: Lord, we uphold to you in prayer, children who are finding their faith:

Lord God, help your children to know your Word and to grow in faith each day. We know that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate children from your love that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Let all children know that there are people praying for their spiritual health.

We ask this in the name of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

ALL: AMEN

READER: Lord, we uphold to you in prayer, those asking for our prayers;

Almighty and everlasting God, the comfort of the sad and the strength of those who suffer, hear the prayers of your people who are ill, suffer, or are in any trouble. Grant to everyone in distress mercy, relief, and refreshment.

And we name, either silently or aloud, others we know who are in need of prayer....

Loving God, we pray that you will comfort all who are suffering, lend skill to the hands of their healers, and bless the means used for their cure. Give them such confidence in the power of your grace, that even when they are afraid, they may put their whole trust in you. We ask this in the name of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

ALL: AMEN

READER: A closing prayer:

Lord God, hear our prayers for all children that are suffering. In your mercy restore them to the trustfulness and untroubled joy that should be theirs. Grant faith and diligence to those who look after them, teach them, heal them. We ask this in the name of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, who, taking all children into his arms, blesses them, saying "of such is the kingdom of heaven".

ALL:

AMEN

Unite us in the Lord Jesus, who is the way, the truth, and the life, and who has taught us to pray, saying:

**TOGETHER: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever,**

AMEN