

World Day of Prayer

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Jeremiah 29:11

Reader 1: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

Reader 2: God of hope, in our busy-ness may we find space to see you at work in our lives and our world. May we be people who radiate your hope as we worship in celebration today.

Reader 3: God told the people of Judah to care for the people and the place where they had been exiled. Often, we fall short of caring for God's world and God's people. So let us bring those times to God and ask God's forgiveness.



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Prayer of Confession

Reader 1: Merciful God, we come to you in confession. We are aware that much of the suffering our sisters and brothers across the world face is a result of our colonial past. We acknowledge this and are sorry that, as a country, we have often put ourselves first, at the expense of others.

Reader 2: Gracious God, forgive us

All: God, in your mercy, forgive us

Reader 3: We think of your beautiful world and how we have taken it for granted and squandered its resources.

Reader 2: Generous God, forgive us

All: God, in your mercy, forgive us

Reader 1: Our fellow sisters and brothers cry out to you; we have failed to love them well. We have not loved our neighbours as you have taught us. Sometimes we have not even loved ourselves.

Reader 2: Compassionate God, forgive us

All: God, in your mercy, forgive us

All: God, in your mercy, help us to act on your call for repentance.

Reader 3: Jesus, thank you that through your sacrifice we are forgiven. Holy Spirit, transform our hearts and minds, so that we may live and love as Jesus showed us.

All: Amen



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Voices of Women

Reader 1: The people of Jeremiah's time found themselves in a place where they did not want to be: away from their homeland and excluded from their culture, worship and homes. How can we tell all their stories? We cannot. But we can hear these voices ...

Woman 1: *Living in poverty, regularly missing a meal so that my children might not go hungry.*

Woman 2: *Living in fear because my partner abuses me, physically, emotionally, and sexually.*

Woman 3: *Living in loneliness and isolation because of my age, disability, ethnic origin or sexuality*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Reader 2: God of the past, the present and the future, we thank you that you love us faithfully and uniquely. You loved us before we knew anything about you: you care for us in every moment of our lives; you know our deepest thoughts, our highest hopes and our greatest fears; you know the best and the worst in us, and still you love us. Thank you that you never let us go. Thank you for the plans and promises you have made for us, which give us hope for today and tomorrow. God of our past, our present and our future, receive our thanks and praise, which we offer in Jesus' name.

All: Amen

