

Prayer and Praise

Prayer and praise celebrations have been happening throughout this year, as corps intentionally respond to the call to prayer: *Make Room, Come Aside, Come Together*. Such times of prayer and praise invite us to enjoy being in God's presence together for the express purpose of ... well ... prayer and praise!

By coming together for prayer the scene is set—often assisted by enthusiastic leadership from musicians or an audio recording—and a clear call to prayer is given. The use of some well-known songs and the reading of Scripture that affirms our faith and desire for this time of seeking God together, provides a focus and a starting place.

It's helpful to have a plan—like a roadmap which takes people on a journey. Prayers of praise and adoration and making requested prayers for your own people is just the starting place. From here we look outwards to our communities, neighbourhoods and cities, before looking even further out to our nation and the world.

The ever-widening circle of prayer concerns can be helpfully introduced by someone who has prepared with a comment and prayer of their own before inviting others to join in. The transitions between prayer focuses can be assisted by the use of songs or video clips.

When we gather together to pray with others, not everyone has the confidence to pray in a larger group, so breaking up into clusters of three to four people can be helpful to give everyone the opportunity. Some people prefer to read a prayer that's been written out and handed to them.

A prayer and praise event should be quite dynamic and participatory. It also offers time of silent reflection. The plan provides a roadmap; the pace is set by the Spirit, as together we make room for the time to unfold, and we may be surprised how quickly the hours pass. And we are a changed people.

**By Colonel Heather Rodwell
24 July 2021**