

Prayers for each week

June/July 2020

These prayers are taken from the URC Prayer Handbook 2020 'Prayers from the Heart'. As required, in order to reproduce them in print, we also acknowledge the author. The Bible passages on which the prayers are based are given at the start of each week and are part of the lectionary readings for each of the two months.

Week commencing June 7th

2 Corinthians 13: 11-13 Matthew 28:16-20

God of community and mutuality, you call us together with purpose:
Your love and peace equip us to make disciples of all nations.

God of the commissioning, you entrust to us the birthing of love and peace, even as you inspire us to remain purposefully in communion.

Through this we are sustained by grace.

Because of this, there is always hope.

From this comes the blossom of eternal love.

Stephen Best

Week commencing June 14th

Matthew 9:35 to 10:8

Jesus, there is heaven in your eyes of compassion – noticing human fears and tiredness, and yearning to see people gathered and refreshed.

Jesus, there is heaven in your voice of possibility – knowing that the harvest is ready, good fruit in lives that seemed bruised and dry.

Jesus, there is heaven in your touch of wholeness; for hearts and bodies strained and scarred, good news comes with healing hands.

Jesus, heaven is near, when you are near; the kingdom is here, for you are here. Save us, summon us, show us, scatter us – to discover the realm of good news, and the reign of grace.

John Proctor

Week commencing June 21st

Matthew 10:24-39

Jesus, your word reaches for the light, for the public places, for a wide hearing, across the nations, stirring and summoning. It's not a secret that your kingdom is coming.

Yet those who live by that kingdom are called to places of conflict and criticism. Your values are resisted, your truth challenged, and it would be easier if we could be secret disciples.

So you remind us of the sparrow, seen from heaven, as it falls to earth. And you remind us that God sees the life of earth with the love of heaven.

Then you speak of a sword, dividing where we thought we were safe, destroying what seemed secure, splitting, severing, sundering.

Jesus, give us courage, not to seek secrecy for our faith, not to fear the sharp edge of truth and never to forget the loving eye of God.

John Proctor

Week commencing June 28th

Psalm 13

O Lord, sometimes I think you have forgotten me –
when I suffer pain that doesn't go away;
when things appear to get worse instead of better;
when I am alone and no one seems to care.
It's as if you hide yourself away from me, and I feel weak,
bereft and defeated.

And yet, O Lord, you have been good to me.
All my life you have been beside me.
Through troubles and misfortunes you have upheld me.

I rely on your constant love and care.
You will strengthen me and save me.
I will rejoice and be glad.

Isabel Bala

Week commencing July 5th

Matthew 11:25-30

Praise to Jesus, who comes to meet us

Not tangled in complication, not above our minds or beyond our powers, but opening our hearts, as a child's, to discover the gentle wisdom that guards our living.

Praise to Jesus, who comes to meet us

Not to burden us, damage us or weary us, not to crush us, clash with us or compel us, but to take our hand, as a friend's, and to refresh us in the work we do with him.

Praise to Jesus, who comes to meet us

Not to lock us up in religion, but to bring us the reality of God in the midst of our living, and to beckon us forward, as disciples, embraced and energised by heaven.

Praise to Jesus, who comes to meet us

John Proctor

Week commencing July 12th

Psalms 119: 105-112

Like shining light are your words, O God, lighting the dark, scattering fears, showing the path, pointing the way. As I travel on shadowy ground, my lamp and light,

I praise you.

There are traps and snares in the world, O God, drawing us in, bringing us down, hurting, harming, hindering. As I walk across uneven land, my guard and guide,

I praise you.

As laughter and gladness is your truth, O God, lifting our hearts, enfolding us with love, turning us towards goodness, teaching us to trust. With a heart that rejoices in you, pulse and power for my journey, **I praise you.**

John Proctor

Week commencing July 19th

Genesis 28:10-19 Psalm 139:1-12 and 23-24

God-who-knows-us, we are amazed, we are humbled, we are grateful that you know us and still want us.

You see us wandering in desert places, hiding in dark places, shrinking from fear;

You read our heart-thoughts, our hopes and dreams, our secret shames;

You are familiar with the hairs on our heads, with our paths, before we know them, with all our ways.

And yet, knowing even what we hide from ourselves, you still bring us into your family as beloved, welcomed children.

In suffering or in ease, you are with us, even when we do not feel it.

On Sunday and on Monday and on every day, you are with us, even when we do not remember it.

When we stray far from you and when we return, you are with us, even when we do not recognise it.

God-who-knows-us, may we so deeply know you. **Amen**

Fay Rowland

Week commencing July 26th

Matthew 13:31-33 and 44-52

Lord, we are small and easily overlooked, but in your eyes we are seeds which contain within them unlimited growth.

Lord, we are only a teaspoon of dust, but in your kingdom we are yeast which brings life to the heaviest of doughs.

Lord, we are seeking prosperity, but when we find your treasure we discover a joy greater than wealth.

Lord, we are searching for the secret of life, but we will discover it when we are caught in the net of your love.

James Ashdown
