

Leading the Church Prayers

Introduction

Thank you for being willing to lead the Church Prayers (also known as intercessions). This is an important part of our worship together. Please bring your passions and your whole self to this task. A variety of prayer styles can be helpful; however, leading public prayer is different from private prayer. You are helping the whole church prayer and collectively we bring before God the needs of the world, the nation, and our community. If there are significant events going on in the world or our church community, these need to be brought to God in prayer.

These are the most important things to remember:

- Prayers should take no longer than 5 minutes, and most of this time should be spent praying collectively.
- Please lead people in prayers that everyone can say 'Amen' to.
- Your prayers should be simple, informed, and direct.
- Please encourage the church to pray outwardly as well as inwardly.

Practical Guidelines

1. Please prepare prayerfully, it is only through the Holy Spirit that we can pray (Romans 8:26). Please prepare with an awareness of what is going on in the world, nationally and locally & our church.
2. You can involve the church in your prayers by using responsive prayers, but this needs to be explained clearly. For example, you can say '*when I say 'Lord, in your mercy' please respond with 'Hear our prayer.'*' You can practice this with the congregation and ensure that your first prayer is short.
3. Church prayers are usually made up of intercessions (asking), but you can include thanksgiving. Praise and confession are usually covered elsewhere in the service.
4. Move to the front in good time and avoid unnecessary gaps.
5. Speak clearly and confidently. Project your voice and do not rush.
6. Use 'we' rather than 'I' so the congregation feels included.
7. Feel free to be creative if you wish, but remember that people need to feel comfortable with what you ask them.
8. For guidance on All-age prayers, please speak to Ros or Tim.
9. If you are unable to lead, please arrange a swap or inform the service leader.

Unless it is a communion service, please close the Church Prayers with The Lord's Prayer. Please lead this confidently, beginning with each line, at a slow pace.

Thank you for your help in this important ministry.

February 2026