



Purley Baptist Church

'Thy Kingdom Come' Prayer Guide: 25 March 2020

TKC is our monthly prayer meeting on Wednesdays 8-9pm at PBC. This month, we invite you to join with us by praying in your home. You might want to phone a friend and pray with them or those of you with the technology - hold a virtual meeting with others to pray together. If you can't make 8pm please consider using this guide to pray at some point during Wednesday.

In these extraordinary times, we are asking you to fast on Wednesday, joining with others in the Church doing the same. You may decide to do a full food fast or to fast something else the Lord lays on your heart.

When TKC met previously this year, we looked at a 'hallmark' of the Kingdom of God as a way of focusing our attention and worship on our Lord. We previously looked at 'Justice' and 'Peace'. This month, it feels appropriate to focus on 'Healing'.

Let us pray together:

'Father God, as we come together as a church to pray, we turn our attention to you. We ask, Holy Spirit, that you would be our guide and our inspiration, stirring our hearts to trust in our Lord's unfailing love and desire to heal. Amen'

Read through the passage below from Isaiah, which speaks of Jesus and his crucifixion. Pause, then read it again out loud. Take time to thank God for Jesus, for the healing and salvation He brings to us through His death and resurrection. Thank God for His goodness, faithfulness and mercy towards us.

Isaiah 53: 2-5

*He grew up before him like a tender shoot,
and like a root out of dry ground.
He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him,
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.
He was despised and rejected by mankind,
a man of suffering, and familiar with pain.
Like one from whom people hide their faces
he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.*

*Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering,
yet we considered him punished by God,
stricken by him, and afflicted.
But he was pierced for our transgressions,
he was crushed for our iniquities;
the punishment that brought us peace was on him,
and by his wounds we are healed.*

We move on to pray for our nation:

In the words of a well-known song we pray: *Father, please 'Heal our nation, Heal our nation, Heal our nation, pour out your Spirit on this Land'*

- Pray for our government, scientists and those in positions of power having to make difficult decisions currently
- Thank God for our NHS. Pray for the health service, hospitals, care homes, community, emergency services. Take time to pray those you know personally who work in health care, naming them out loud before the Lord
- Pray for businesses, for those facing economic uncertainty and the loss of jobs
- Pray for those in self-isolation, particularly those living on their own, the elderly, for families coping with children no longer in school.

Ps 79:8b 'May your mercy come quickly to meet us, for we are in desperate need'

Pray for the World

- For leaders of countries - that they will work together to share knowledge and resources as they work to stem the tide of the virus, and for breakthroughs and successes in this
- For aid and missionary agencies - as they work out how to care for their staff and support the communities they work with
- Pray for the missionaries and charities you know of and support personally.

Pray for the global church

- For unity and for courage to bring God's love and hope to a hurting World.
- For the Church to carry God's healing to the nations.
- For those being persecuted for their faith, imprisoned, isolated.

Ps 18:1 'The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge'

Pray for our communities

Matt 9:35 'Jesus went through all the towns and villages... preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness'

- Thank God for the churches in Croydon. Pray they will be encouragers, generous and kind, loving their neighbours in new ways that show the love of Jesus, so drawing people to Him
- For protection and healing from the virus for our communities
- Pray for five people you know who are not yet Christians, asking the Lord to bring them to faith in Him, to know His hope and healing.

Pray for each other

Ps 28:7 'The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in Him and I am helped'

- Thank God for our ministers and staff at PBC. Pray for them as they work to strengthen and support our Church family and those in our neighbourhood
- For Life Groups and other PBC groups that can't meet at present - to stay connected and supportive of each other.

As we end our prayer time, pray out loud this blessing over your family, friends and yourself:

*'The Lord bless you and keep you; The Lord make His face shine upon you;
The Lord turn His face towards you and give you peace' Numbers 4:24-26*

Why not think about writing this blessing or a pray and sending it by email or card to someone to encourage them.