

Forty Days of Prayer



Never stop praying. 1 Thessalonians 5:17.

Forty days on the ark. Watching. Waiting. God rescuing his people. Returning them into the right relationship with him. To the Eden way to walk.

Forty years in the desert. Rescued from slavery. God heard the captive cry. He did something new. Redeemed them from their oppressor. Pharaoh. God blessed the people of Israel so they could be a blessing to others. He brought them through the waters into new life. He was their God and they were his people. They were to reflect to the world who God WAS. IS. IS TO COME.

For I am about to do something new.

See, I have already begun! Do you not see it?

I will make a pathway through the wilderness.

I will create rivers in the dry wasteland. Isaiah 43:19

Jesus born a baby. The God-child. Redeemer of all humanity. Come to show the world who God WAS. IS. IS TO COME. Where humanity failed, he would not. Died for all. Bought at a price. The blood price. RED becomes WHITE. DEATH becomes LIFE.

Jesus baptised in the Jordan river. That very river that flows, begins its journey from Mount Sinai. The place from which the ten commandments were given. The ten commandments, ways to live to reflect the character of God to those around you '**For I am about to do something new. See I have already begun! Do you not see it?**' Isaiah 43:19. God blessed the people of Israel so they could be a blessing to others. Just like we are blessed to be a blessing to others.

Forty days Jesus was in the wilderness. ***'I will make a pathway through the wilderness'*** 'Isaiah 43:19. Preparing. Praying. Getting ready for what's ahead. The pathway to his ministry was cleared.

Never stop praying. 1 Thessalonians 5:17.

Forty days in the wilderness.

'Fought he' for you with his blood.

Forty. Fought he. For you.

Never stop praying. 1 Thessalonians 5:17.

Forty days @ CBC

Over the next forty days -let's go to him, take our church to him, take his bride to him. To see what new thing he is about to do and discover what he has already begun! To seek the pathway through the wilderness and to find the rivers in the dry wasteland and pray life into valleys of dry bones -Amen!

'I will create rivers in the dry wasteland'. Isaiah 43:19.

"Anyone who is thirsty may come to me! John 7:37

Use the prayer bookmark to guide you on our prayer journey.



PRAYER

Dear Church

I am so excited that we are beginning this season in unity of purpose as we seek God together. It is so essential, critical even, that prayer is a foundational part of our shared community. It would probably be easier just to blithely run forwards making our own way with our own choices, putting our own preferences first, but that's the world's way! We are called to 'Seek first the Kingdom of God' and to follow Jesus' example for whom prayer and seeking the will of the Father was so central to his life.

For these 40 days I'm asking that each of us sets some time aside each day to pray specifically for the themes and points in the accompanying material. We are going to pray for the church and the community. By church, of course I don't mean the building but rather us, followers of Jesus.

As we seek, it does mean asking hard questions – what is God calling me to be and do as a follower of Jesus in these times? What must I/we do to be obedient to the Great Commission? Are we willing to change and lay our own preferences aside to step out in obedience?

As someone once said to me, when we pray we have to be prepared to be part of the solution.

To help us pray, each household will have received the book '5 Things to Pray for your Church' which we will be using over the 40 days. You will also have received a wonderful bookmark that Lucy has created to prompt you to pray for the church and community for section 1 – we are going to pray through two church based themes and a community theme for 10 days at a time.

CBC isn't just a church of Clayton Village, rather we are spread to wherever you are, as you are church, reflecting God's love and light wherever you are. So, for this first 10 days as we are praying for schools and education let's aim to pray specifically. Below there are three options that you can choose from to help you pray more specifically in addition to the themes.

<i>Option Matthew</i>	<i>Option Mark</i>	<i>Option Luke</i>
Contact a parent you know and ask how you can pray for them and their children.	Contact a teacher or someone in education and ask how you can pray for them.	Write down your local school(s), praying for them by name. Find out what the specific issues are in the school that you can pray for: eg. Poverty, bullying, staff shortages/stress.

God bless,

Kenny