

PRAYERS 27 February 2026

Lord, we bring before you all those who suffer through poverty, are hungry and thirsty, without adequate shelter; those desperate for work; and those sick in body or mind.

We thank you for the many individuals and organisations who do so much, mostly unacknowledged, to attempt to alleviate this suffering. We thank you for the many who daily strive to do what they can to contribute to the greater good of all, abundantly so in many parts of this country and more broadly.

We pray that those in authority --- both in the public and private domains--- would display just a fraction of the qualities of care, respect, and decency which lie at the heart of the efforts of those who seek to live out the lessons Christ taught us.

Almighty God, we thank you for the abundant blessings and resilience of the natural world so freely available to us in such richness and diversity especially in this country. Bless those who work and organise to protect these natural resources from the scourges of greed and destruction.

During this Lenten time, let us re-examine our daily practices, our priorities, our complacency, our indulgences, mindful of the manifest inequities which confront us at every turn; let us take the time for honestly critical introspection, and be open to removing the obstacles to a simpler life. Let us at the same time celebrate and reaffirm our faith in the magnificent triumph exemplified by the teachings and life of Christ, and the abundant reconciliation and hope which it inspires.

We remember and rejoice with all those rooted in their faiths of every type, such as Father Desmond, who resisted the tyranny of apartheid and capitalist exploitation in this country. We ask that you continue to inspire the leaders of all faiths to rise and stand united in confronting the evils of greed, corruption, and abuse of power.

We pray for all those whose lives and dreams have been destroyed by the horrors of systematic oppression, conflict, and war, wherever they occur, but particularly in Gaza, the West Bank, and Israel, the Ukraine and Russia, Myanmar, the Uyghurs in China, the people of the Sudan, Ethiopia/Eritrea and the Congo.

May we continue to keep faith with the pursuit of peace.

We also ask for God's guidance and mercy in the political life and national government of South Africa and in exposing and combatting the deplorable levels of dishonesty and corruption which seem only to escalate.

May wisdom, compassion, and respect for the dignity of all predominate in the party-political contests and wrangling that pervade public discourse and may effective and just ways be found to hold to account those that abuse and deceive public trust.

We give thanks for our family and friends. Within our Friday group, we celebrate continued fellowship and compassion, remembering those who face particular challenges of all sorts at this time.

Finally, we remember that the pursuit of peace begins with each of us as individuals, in everything that we do and say, that we must stand with the righteous against the forces of exploitation and oppression.

In the words of an older prayer:

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made.

We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.

And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days.

And Micah 6 v 8:

God has told us what is good. And what is it that the Lord asks of us?

Only to act justly, love loyalty, to walk wisely before your God.

Amen.