



**We seek to invite, encourage
and enable all ages to be
disciples of Jesus Christ.**

For 26th June – 9th July 2022

Prepared by Jean Meek

Each Sunday at 7pm, Christians in every part of the UK join in prayer. Here are some prayer thoughts from Jean that you may wish to focus on.

Reach out and touch the Lord as He goes by; you'll find He's not too busy to hear your heart's cry; He's passing by this moment your needs to supply, reach out and touch the Lord as He goes by.

Frances Jane van Alstyne (née Crosby; 1820 –1915)

This old hymn (just this verse, actually), popped into my head the other day and it started me thinking about the lady who reached out and touched the Lord as He passed by on the way to heal Jairus' daughter, so I looked it up. (Luke 8:41-43, The Msg). The commentary highlighted some comparisons I hadn't noticed before: the daughter is about 12 years old and dying; the lady had been ill for about 12 years. Jairus was a man of standing, a synagogue officer, so no doubt wealthy; she was anonymous, ceremonially unclean and basically bankrupt, having spent every penny she had on doctors. He came openly, boldly, and fell at Jesus' feet; she slipped in from behind and touched the edge of Jesus' cloak. He was male; she was female - that was an important difference in those days. Two people, poles apart but the same need ... Jesus. And who's needs did Jesus meet? Well ... both! We're all at different ages and stages of our faith journey, but Jesus responds to faith no matter how weak or strong. That thought encourages me when I wobble, I pray it does the same for you.

The scenes we see in the media of the devastation in Ukraine are heart-breaking. The conditions the people are living under are appalling. Pray for restoration - of the people, of the buildings and of the peace that once reigned in that land. But Jesus calls us to also pray for those who stand against us so we must pray for Mr Putin and his cabinet of decision makers, that they would turn from this path of destruction.

Remember those in Afghanistan who have suffered as a result of the earthquake - lives, homes and livelihoods lost and broken. Pray that the help needed would be available for these people, pray for relief from their pain and pray they find their peace and strength in our Lord.

The financial outlook is daunting for many, and the prospect of real hardship cannot be ignored. Pray that we would all be 'good neighbours' sharing where and when we can.

Christians Against Poverty (CAP): Give thanks for those who have recently been declared debt free and pray that CAP would receive all the resources it needs to continue its work in bringing debt relief to many more. Pray that those who are struggling would be encouraged to take the all-important step of making contact with them.

There are many who live in a darkness that's hidden by their poverty - an unseen, unheard people, existing rather than living. Pray that God's love, in the form of *our* words and actions, will bring light to their darkness, respite to their pain and relief from their sorrow. Ask for the insight, compassion and resources to be God's messenger today.

Change is not something that everyone welcomes ... and yet when winter draws to a close, we long for the change spring brings. The Church is in a winter season and we are tasked with the ground work in preparation for the new life of spring. Pray for the Church communities, not just in the Braes area but nationally, and for those who are actively involved in the reshaping process, that we will all go forward in hope, holding to the promise that He 'will not leave us or forsake us'.

Pray for Scott, that God would bless him with the fruits of the Spirit. Pray too that God would show us how best to support and encourage him.

Health issues continue to be in the headlines. Pray for those in the Health Care sector, who have been on the front line for so long; they are tired and weary, having worked long hours for many long months. Pray they would be blessed with energy and the necessary resources to carry on their sterling work.

Pray too for those who are waiting for necessary treatments, that they would be blessed with strength to endure and that their treatment would happen soon.

Some in our circle of friends have received news they never wanted to hear. Pray that God would be in each situation bringing strength, encouragement and peace.

Lord of heaven and earth, as Jesus taught his disciples to be persistent in prayer, give us patience and courage never to lose hope, but always to bring our prayers before you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen