

Prayer of the Church – Sunday 3rd October, 2021 - *Pentecost 19B*

Dear heavenly Father, thank you for joining us together through the gift of families. Please bless each family in your church, as they support each other and look to you with childlike faith for all they need. Bring all people back to your family through your Son, so that we may live together in love and unity, both now and in eternity. Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Please equip with your gifts of service the bishop elect of our church, Paul Smith, the new assistant bishop of our church, Neville Otto, and the newly elected members of the General Church Board. Give us unity and peace as we live under your word, and grow us in love for each other. Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are married, that you will build their commitment and loyalty to each other, and by the power of Christ bring mutual forgiveness and renewal where there is sin. Strengthen all married people to resist temptations to be unfaithful; heal and renew marriages which are struggling; and prevent anyone from willfully separating what you have joined together. Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Please give your Spirit of wisdom, patience, and perseverance to married couples who are separated; protect all who are abused in marriage and bring the abuse to an end; and give your encouragement and peace to those who have been abandoned by their husband or wife. Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

We pray Lord for those who wish to marry but who have not yet been able to do so. Give them firm faith in your constant presence and care, and give them the companionship they need. Watch over all widows and widowers, and take care of all orphans. Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Heal all who are sick among us according to your good and gracious will, particularly David Hermann, Jill McGregor and those we name before you in our hearts. Comfort those who mourn and let your holy angels uphold and guide them. Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Loving heavenly Father, you sent your only Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who being very God is not ashamed to call us brothers and sisters. In him we are able to come before you as your children, your family. Hear our prayer, glorious Lord, that all may know your greatness. Through your Son we pray, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**