



INTERIM MINISTRY PRAYER GUIDE



St. Lawrence Church, Eastcote

Prayer for interim process at St Lawrence, Eastcote

Heavenly Father, in his life and death
St Lawrence testified that
God's people are the treasure of the church.

We pray for St Lawrence, Eastcote
during this period of interim ministry.

As individuals and as a church family, help us
to value our past,
to understand who we are today,
to seek together a future in which
we praise your holy name in Spirit and truth,
and to love our neighbour as ourselves.

This we ask in the name of Jesus, our Lord
through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Introduction

This guide is offered for us to use, as we unite as the family of St Lawrence Church to seek God's guidance during this time of interim ministry.

It is intended as a framework - not a set of rigid prayers - that can be used each day, on a weekly cycle, for our individual prayers.

Each day offers a different focus, with suggestions of subjects for our prayers.

Bishop Pete has written that the time of an interim ministry is an opportunity for a church to:-

- Understand and celebrate the past, lose old fears and find new hopes, and perhaps discover a fresh identity;
- consider its future witness, mission and ministry;
- reassess its resources, needs and priorities
- see where and how it needs to change, and work through the inevitable transition
- make plans for the future and prepare for the next chapter of its life.

These objectives underlie the suggestions for our prayers, which are intended just as starting points. As we spend time talking with, and listening to God, other themes may come to mind.

We give thanks for our church, which has nurtured God's people in the past and we look forward with faith & trust to the worship & work that God calls us to in the future.

Monday – Thanksgiving

Be still before the Lord and wait for him Ps. 37.7

Gracious God, I ask that you still my heart and open my mind that I may know your presence with me now. Amen

Stay in a few moments of silence

Loving God we hold our church family before you in thanksgiving and ask for your guidance as we seek to do your will. Amen

We give thanks

- for God's unconditional love for us and the whole of his creation
- that God welcomes us as we pray and listens to our prayers...
- that God encourages us to discuss, and embrace, his will...

**Grant us Lord,
faith to believe
and strength to do your will. Amen**

Tuesday – Where we are

Be still before the Lord and wait for him Ps. 37.7

Gracious God, I ask that you still my heart and open my mind that I may know your presence with me now Amen

Stay in a few moments of silence

Loving God, we give thanks for the blessings of our church life and acknowledge & repent those times when we have fallen short of how you call us to be. Amen

We pray

- For times of joy and fellowship we give thanks ...
- For the support that others have given us in times of illness and sadness we give thanks ...
- For times of worship and learning together, we give thanks...
- For times when we have failed to follow your ways, we ask for your forgiveness and healing ...

**Grant us Lord,
faith to believe
and strength to do your will Amen**

Wednesday – Growing in faith

Be still before the Lord and wait for him Ps. 37.7

Gracious God, I ask that you still my heart and open my mind that I may know your presence with me now Amen

Stay in a few moments of silence

Loving God, we give thanks that you meet us where we are and desire to draw us ever closer to you. Amen

We give thanks

- for those who have gone before us, building up this place of worship...
- for the opportunities we have to worship you...
- for the opportunities we have to talk with, and listen to, you...
- for the opportunities we have to study your ways...

We pray

that through the Sacraments, Scripture, and the love and service of others, we will be united & strengthened as we grow in faith

**Grant us Lord,
faith to believe
and strength to do your will. Amen**

Thursday – Outreach

Be still before the Lord and wait for him Ps. 37.7

Gracious God, I ask that you still my heart and open my mind that I may know your presence with me now. Amen

Stay in a few moments of silence

Loving God, as we live our daily lives may we be channels of your love to those we meet. Amen

We pray

- for those groups that reach out into the community to welcome others to share our lives –
- (eg the lunch club, film club, drama group, Social club , Crafties, Uniformed organisations...)
- for those who visit our church to worship or attend social events...
- for our support of charities, serving those in need locally and throughout the world...
- for your strength and guidance to go into the world and meet people where they are ...
- for the grace to welcome, listen and encourage those we meet...

**Grant us Lord,
faith to believe
and strength to do your will. Amen**

Friday – Our Church Family

Be still before the Lord and wait for him Ps. 37.7

Gracious God, I ask that you still my heart and open my mind that I may know your presence with me now. Amen

Stay in a few moments of silence

Loving God, we give thanks for Christ's example of love and care for everyone

May the Holy Spirit strengthen us to follow his example. Amen

We pray

- for the fellow members of our church family...
- for those individuals for whom we are concerned...
- for any with whom we have had a disagreement or who we find difficult.
- for our church groups (eg Youth Groups, Sunday clubs, Home Groups, PCC)

We ask that we will have the grace

- to welcome newcomers and visitors, with sincerity & understanding...
- to encourage one another and share our experiences of our Christian faith...
- to make room for all , showing our care for any who are in any particular need
- to care for those who are ill or elderly or housebound...

**Grant us Lord,
faith to believe
and strength to do your will Amen**

Saturday – Service

Be still before the Lord and wait for him Ps. 37.7

Gracious God, I ask that you still my heart and open my mind that I may know your presence with me now Amen

Stay in a few moments of silence

Loving God, May we know the power of your Holy Spirit in our lives. Amen

We give thanks

- for the gifts of the Holy Spirit, given to our church...
- for our own individual gifts...

We pray

- that we may recognise our gifts
- that we may have the confidence to use them to do God's will
- that we may be alert to the needs of others...
- that we may have the grace to allow others to serve us...

**Grant us Lord,
faith to believe
and strength to do your will. Amen**

Sunday – Into the future

Be still before the Lord and wait for him Ps. 37.7

Gracious God, I ask that you still my heart and open my mind that I may know your presence with me now. Amen

Stay in a few moments of silence

Loving God, during this time of our interim ministry, we pray that you will lead us onwards in faith & outwards in love. Amen

Remembering Christ's prayer that all his followers may be one,

We pray

- for Fr John, giving thanks for his leadership at this time...
- that we will celebrate the past but will also have courage to take on new things...
- that we will understand & accept that change is a necessity for growth...
- that we will be open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit...

**Grant us Lord,
faith to believe
and strength to do your will. Amen**

