



# Westville Methodist Church

Sunday, 10 January 2021

## Preparation for Worship

*As you prepare to worship, let the following song help set the scene for you and draw you closer to God. [Draw me Close to You](#)*

## A Prayer for God's Presence

Lord, we thank you for opportunities for worship.

Thank you that you know each of us by name no matter where we are or how we worship. We say that we are dependent on you and desire to trust in you completely.

As we surrender ourselves in adoration we ask that by your Holy Spirit you would inspire us today.

Come fill our lives with your love,

Fill our contemplations with your grace and truth,

Fill this time of worship with your presence.

We ask this to bring you glory and praise.

**Amen.**

**Song** [Great is Thy Faithfulness](#)

(Click or tap the link to listen)

## Prayer

Lord, you have blessed us as a church over the past year with its ups and downs.

Through good times and difficult times we have felt your hand of grace, forgiveness and healing. Today, as your people, we want to personally express our gratitude to you.

We thank you for the leaders among us – for the many in our church who offer their time, energy and abilities to lead and serve us, both staff and members alike, seen and unseen.

**For these blessings, Lord, we give you thanks.**

We thank you for the next generation of our congregation. Each time a baby cries or gurgles with delight, we are reminded of how much you love them. We're also grateful for the children and young people among us, for the energy and passion they bring to us.

**For these blessings, Lord, we give you thanks.**

We thank you for the multitude of opportunities we have had to serve you, to demonstrate our love for you to our co-workers, our neighbours, our families and friends, especially in these trying times.

We thank you for the many among us who make possible the ministries of this congregation.

We thank you for all the people who reach out to others in informal ways each week.

**For these blessings, Lord, we give you thanks.**

We thank you that even when sickness and injury make our future uncertain, you are with us, strengthening, healing and encouraging.

We thank you that we can be part of the healing process as we help care for one another. We especially thank you for the healing experienced by so many in our families and community, and for all the others who have felt your healing and sustaining touch this past year.

**For these blessings, Lord, we give you thanks.**

We thank you for friendship.

We thank you for the sometimes rare but special times we have enjoyed each other's company over meals, in times of recreation and service, and in smaller gatherings.

**For these blessings, Lord, we give you thanks.**

Indeed, Lord, you have blessed us.

We have been blessed materially, physically, emotionally and spiritually.

As we look back over this past year, we realize that we have been through a lot that's been difficult yet we have much for which to be grateful.

We humbly receive the gifts you have given us, knowing that you are the giver of all good things.

**For these blessings, Lord, we give You thanks.**

Now, gathering our prayers and praises into one, we come to you, Lord, as family and pray . . .

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and forever.

**Amen.**

**Bible Reading** [Mark 1:4 - 11](#)

(Click/tap the link for the reading)

**Song** [Spirit of the Living God](#)

(Click/tap on title to go to song)

**Message** [Planning Ahead](#)

*With grateful thanks to Lorraine Bovey.*

(Click/tap on the link then on the 'world" icon to listen)

**Song** [Day by Day](#)

(Click/tap on title to go to song)

*In services at the church we take up an offering. In this virtual setting you're invited to dedicate the offering you've made or perhaps would like to make. If you'd like to know more or contribute today please click, [Giving](#) or see details below. Thank you.*

### **Prayer of Intercession**

Let us pray for all people, in all parts of this troubled world, and in all kinds of need.

Lord, shine your light upon those who live in danger of violence, persecution, oppression, displacement, loss and injustice because of race, belief, gender or who they are. We pray that the hearts of those who visit the evils of prejudice and greed upon others may be turned from darkness and awakened to the true light in the love and compassion of the Lord.

Lord, in your mercy, *Hear our prayer.*

Lord, shine your light upon those who live in fear of famine, destitution and disease – especially Covid-19, and upon those who live without hope, faith or love, that they may all know your true love and the joy of your salvation.

Lord, in your mercy, *Hear our prayer.*

Lord, shine your light upon your church and upon all people of faith that their love may shine in the darkness, uniting in their endeavours for the common good. May we, in the ministries which embrace our lives, proclaim the Good News as our faith shines forth.

Lord, in your mercy, *Hear our prayer.*

Lord, shine your light upon those who suffer in mind, body or spirit. Give them courage and hope in their troubles and bring them the joy of your redeeming love. We pray also for those who love and care for them. We name in our thoughts any known to us who are in special need of our prayers, in a moment of silence . . .

Lord, in your mercy, *Hear our prayer.*

Lord, shine your light upon those who mourn. Jesus Christ you're the light of the world, a light which no darkness can quench. We remember before God those who have died and pray that our memories of them will be a comfort that brings hope. Will you turn our darkness into light, your light that will never be dim.

Lord, in your mercy, *Hear our prayer.*

Lord, you generously invite us to bring all our needs before you and so we pray all these things today in the mighty and caring name of Jesus, the Christ with thanksgiving.

**Amen.**

*You're welcome to offer additional, personal prayers at this time or to simply be still for a moment before concluding this worship time.*

**Song** [Jesus Loves You](#)

(Click/tap on title to go to song)

**Benediction**

Go into your week knowing you are  
loved perfectly,  
saved eternally,  
and empowered as a disciple of Jesus  
to share God's love with everyone you meet.

**Amen.**

(~ Carol Penner)

*To conclude this worship time reflect on the songs, reading and message as you "wind down" and return to other responsibilities.*

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## **Westville Methodist Church**

38 Jan Hofmeyr Road, Westville | P.O. Box 47 Westville 3630

031 266 5222 | office@westvillemethodist.co.za

<http://westvillemethodist.co.za/>

<http://www.facebook.com/WestvilleMethodist>

*Compiled from original material and several online resources.*

### **Church Bank details:**

A/C NAME: Westville Methodist Church

A/C NO: 58880668126

BANK: First National Bank

BRANCH: Westville

BR. CODE: 223526



### **For Zapper:**

Please use a suitable reference when making payments. Thank you.