

### A Prayerful Reflection

Take time to sit quietly and ask Jesus to be present with you in a new way this week. As we prepare to pray, let's remember to praise God for all his goodness in and through Christ Jesus our Lord.

#### Hymn – CMP 115 (Verse 4)

When you dwell in the exile  
of the stranger,  
remember you are precious in My eyes  
*Do not be afraid,  
for I have redeemed you.  
I have called you by your name;  
you are Mine.*

#### A WORD FROM SCRIPTURE – Genesis 15:1-6

<sup>1</sup> After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: “Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward.”

<sup>2</sup> But Abram said, “Sovereign LORD, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit<sup>[c]</sup> my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?” <sup>3</sup> And Abram said, “You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir.” <sup>4</sup> Then the word of the LORD came to him: “This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir.” <sup>5</sup> He took him outside and said, “Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” <sup>6</sup> Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

**Verse 1** ‘the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision’. The use of a vision is one of the means by which God interacts with his servants. This was the third appearance of the Lord to Abram since his arrival in the land of Canaan (the first Gen 12.7 and the second 13.14-17)

**Verse 2** ‘you have given me no children, so a servant in my household will be my heir’. According to long standing custom, a man who was childless would adopt someone to be his principal heir. If the man had later, then the natural child would replace the adopted son as the principal heir.

**Verse 4** ‘but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir’. God promised that Abram himself would father a child. As we read a little further in Genesis, we read that Abram indeed fathered children (Ishmael Gen 16 & Issac Gen 21), but Issac was God’s promised son.

**Verse 5** ‘Look up at the sky and count the stars’. Only God could count the stars, the descendants of Abram would be innumerable. **Verse 6** ‘Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness’. When God made a promise, Abram believed in the Lord. We too can trust God implicitly, as we put our trust in him, for God’s word to us is true and reliable, we have faith in God’s word in the bible.

**Prayer** – Lord, thank you that your promise is ever true as we put our faith and trust in you. May we live as faithful witnesses of your goodness, grace and love, and be a beacon to others of your great love for all who will follow you. **AMEN**

## **Prayer of Intercession**

### **Let us pray.**

Holy God, make us aware of your coming to us, make us sensitive to your presence and alert to your call, that we may know that we dwell in you and you in us, and that we may give ourselves to you in love and service, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN**

We pray for the many suffering through world conflicts, for those who are having to face constant bombings. We pray especially for those who face hunger, that food, clean water and medicines may reach the many desperate people. May the borders be open to allow food to flow freely to the many in need.

Lord, we put our trust in you – **you are our hope and salvation.**

We pray for peace in our world, that lasting peace and security may be established in the nations. We pray for the peacemakers, who tirelessly work to bring about peace.

Lord, we put our trust in you – **you are our hope and salvation.**

Lord, we come to ask you for guidance. We pray for pilgrims and seekers, all who strive for a better world knowing the truth in Jesus. We pray for those who are new in their faith, all who are learning of you. Lord, guide all who in the church are leaders and teachers.

Lord, we put our trust in you – **you are our hope and salvation.**

We give thanks for all who have extended our vision, who have increased our capacity to understand and love. We pray and give thanks for all who have shared their vision with us, for preachers and teachers, for friends and loved ones.

Lord, we put our trust in you – **you are our hope and salvation.**

Lord, give us wisdom to build on firm foundations. We ask you're blessing upon all who live in poverty, those who live in tents and squalid surroundings, all who live without much hope or vision.

Lord, we put our trust in you – **you are our hope and salvation.**

Finally,...take time out to pray for those on your hearts, for those close to us, for families, friends or neighbours, for those who are known to us who are going through a difficult time. For those who have lost a loved one. We ask you're blessing upon all who are ill at home or in hospital. Lord, comfort and help those in need we pray.

## **Pray the LORD'S Prayer**

### **Peace**

*The Lord is your hope and your peace.*

*The Lord is your strength and your salvation.*

*The peace of the Lord be always with you.*

### **A prayer of blessing**

*God the creator guide you in all that you do.*

*Christ the Saviour protect you in every journey.*

*The Spirit of God give you strength for each day.*

**AMEN**