

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 181

*God forgave my sin in Jesus' name,
I've been born again in Jesus' name,
and in Jesus' name I come to you
to share His love as He told me to.
He said:
 "Freely, freely you have received,
 freely, freely give;
 go in my name
 and because you believe,
 others will know that I live.*

A WORD FROM SCRIPTURE – Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵ When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?" ¹⁶ So they sent word to Joseph, saying, "Your father left these instructions before he died: ¹⁷ 'This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.' Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father." When their message came to him, Joseph wept.

¹⁸ His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. "We are your slaves," they said.

¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. ²¹ So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

Verse 15 *'When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead,.. What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs, we did to him'* Now that Jacob is dead, Joseph's brothers are afraid, they fear Joseph will finally "pay them back, for their treatment of Joseph.

Verse 19 *'But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives'.* Here it shows the heart of Joseph, He reassured his brothers that he harboured no ill will towards them, understanding that what they meant for harm, God meant for good. Joseph's ability to forgive his brothers despite the pain they caused him reflects the biblical principle of forgiveness that is echoed throughout the Bible. Jesus teaches the importance of forgiveness in **Matthew C6:14-15**, stating, *"For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you."*

Prayer – Lord God, help us to be like Joseph, when faced with betrayal and hardship, he chose to speak kindness and provided for others. Help us to bear the same spirit; when others may lash out in fear or anger, grant us the wisdom to respond with grace and compassion. In Jesus' name we pray.

AMEN.

Prayer of Intercession

Let us pray.

Good and gracious Shepherd, we rejoice in your protection and care, we know you will seek us out and saves us. Guide us Lord and keep us in the way that leads to peace, through Christ Jesus our Lord and Saviour. AMEN

We pray for shepherds of your flock, for all ministers, pastors, priests and Deacons. Lord bless their ministry as they bring the living word to your people. We pray for all who have strayed from the faith, all who have got lost in various ways, especially any whose lives are in danger.

Good and faithful Shepherd – **guide us into ways of life and peace.**

We pray and ask you to be with all who walk in darkness, may your love and light protect the depressed and despairing. May your strength and hope be known to the discouraged.

Good and faithful Shepherd – **guide us into ways of life and peace.**

We pray for our Circuit ministers, for Rev Gill, our part-time Superintendent, for Rev Richard, for Deacons Kathy and Clare. We pray and ask you Lord to bless our Supernumeraries, for Rev Roger, Rev Derek and Rev John who have faithfully served this you're your circuit. Lord bless them with health and strength.

Good and faithful Shepherd – **guide us into ways of life and peace.**

We pray for this our church, that you will lead us and guide us to be the church you call us to be. We pray for a worship leader and musicians to lead our worship. We give thanks for those who serve with the gifts you have given them.

Good and faithful Shepherd – **guide us into ways of life and peace.**

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

*Christ, the good Sheperd, seeks out those who are lost until he finds them and brings them home and to peace.
The peace of the Lord be always with you.*

A prayer of blessing

*God, who cares for you as a shepherd cares for his sheep, protect you.
Christ the Good Shepherd, who seeks out and saves the lost, be with you.
The Holy Spirit of God, who is your Guide, lead you into the ways of peace.*
AMEN