

A blue geometric graphic consisting of several overlapping triangles and quadrilaterals, creating a dynamic, abstract shape that points towards the top right.

# WAKATIPU PRESBYTERIANS

Arrowtown – Frankton – Global – Kingston – Manna

A church of the nations for the nations

Blessed to be a blessing

Living in Christ

Growing as a community of faith, hope, love and joy

Growing God's kingdom

# 40 DAYS OF PRAYER

19 OCTOBER TO 27 NOVEMBER

“Pray diligently. Stay alert, with your eyes wide  
open in gratitude”

*Colossians 4:2* The Message

**We will pray together at these times. Please join in where and when you are able. There may yet be additions to this list. Add them here when they are announced.**

- Wed 19th Oct 7pm - Praise & Prayer @ St John's Arrowtown
  - Wed 9th Nov 7pm – Praise & Prayer @ St Andrew's QT
  - Every Tuesday 7pm to 8pm at St Margaret's Frankton
  - Every Wednesday 7 to 7:30pm on Zoom (except for 19th Oct, 9th Nov)
  - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87193954062>
  - Every Saturday 9am to 10am at St Margaret's Frankton
  - Every Wednesday 12 noon to 12.30pm Contemplative prayer @ St John's
  - Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November 10am Everyone gathered at St John's for our annual meeting, to celebrate God's goodness and to worship God together. And to linger over a shared lunch.
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**40 Days of Prayer** is the invitation from Church Council to unite in prayer. We do so mindful that we serve a God who invites us to pray; to draw near where we glorify God, where we make our petitions and where we listen.

We believe God desires to do good and mighty things amongst us and will move in ways that we see us growing in Christ, in faith, in prayer, in ministry, in mission. Yet to truly know where God is taking us we need to come humbly in prayer – seek God's Word to us – allow God to challenge and convert us; and together to commit to embracing God's call upon our lives. Therefore, you are invited to 40 Days of Prayer – a time of listening, a time of commitment, a time of expectation.

In what follows there will be a number of prayer prompts to start your prayer – over the days we will pray for the local community, the various churches, and congregations. We will pray for New Zealand and for our government; and for the nations of the world. We will pray for our mission partners in Nepal and in Vanuatu; and you are invited to add your own prayers for people, for situations that God has placed on your heart.

Through it all listen to God – what is God saying to you? Is there an encouragement you need to hear, or maybe an invitation or even a challenge. What is the Lord saying to your congregation and the Presbyterian Church spread throughout the Wakatipu.

## **Where and when to pray**

This is entirely up to you – but you are encouraged to set aside a regular time in your day of at least 10 minutes. Turn off the phone, remove other distractions, and be still before God.

Have your bible with you and I suggest also have a pen and paper handy to make a note of any word from the Lord that you believe you are receiving. Ask God if this 'word' is just for you or should it be shared with others. If for others it will be wise to share it with your Minister or an elder first.

## **Biblical Prayer**

- is ultimately a form of worship. It should glorify God alone. John 14:13, 14
- Understands that prayer is an act of reverence, approaching the very throne of God to receive mercy & grace. Heb. 4:16
- Acknowledges and humbles oneself before the holy God of the universe. Prayer should affirm God's sovereignty and majesty. Matt. 6:9

- “Everything in prayer revolves around who God is, what God wants, and how God is to be glorified. That is the sum and substance of proper praying.
  - The Lord’s Prayer (Luke 11:2–4) offers a model of how Christians ought to pray as it “emphasizes the glory and supremacy of God.”
  - Purposes to confess sin and acknowledge our position before God as rebellious sinners (e.g., Dan. 9:5–11; Matt. 6:12): “We are neither worthy of the things for which we pray, nor have we deserved them, but we ask that He would give them all to us by grace, for we daily sin much and surely deserve nothing but punishment.”
  - Desires to align and submit our will to God’s. Ps. 86:11; Matt. 6:10; John 15:7; John 16:23; 1 John 5:14
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## Go on a Prayer Walk.

It is often helpful to take our prayers beyond the walls of our church buildings and homes. In effect a prayer walk is simply ‘praying for others’ on location. Though they usually walk unnoticed, prayer-walkers quickly become more aware of their neighbours, and find their prayers becoming more focused on the realities of their community.




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## The P.R.A.Y Model

If you are looking for a different structure for your prayers, try the P.R.A.Y. model, which is based off the Lord’s Prayer.

- |          |                              |   |
|----------|------------------------------|---|
| <b>P</b> | <b>Praise God</b>            | Start by giving God praise and adoration (“hallowed be your name”)  |
| <b>R</b> | <b>Recognise God’s Gifts</b> | Continue by recognising God’s gifts to you—take time to say thank you. (“our daily bread”)                                    |
| <b>A</b> | <b>Ask for Forgiveness</b>   | Acknowledge your sins and ask God for forgiveness (“forgive us our sins”) pause—consider is their anyone you need to forgive. |
| <b>Y</b> | <b>Your Requests</b>         | Finally, bring your requests before your Creator (“lead us not into temptation”)  |

With each step listen to the Spirit, you will be guided.

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## Examen (Prayer)

### Preparation

Get yourself comfortable enough that you can stay in the same position for an extended time. Put your feet flat on the ground, and take a few slow deep breaths. As you breathe in, imagine that you are inhaling God's Spirit as you would a pleasant aroma. Enjoy God's loving presence with you.



As you exhale, imagine that your breath (spirit) cooperates with God the Holy Spirit so that God's love permeates the space around you. The aim now is to allow God the Holy Spirit to guide you so that you can see your life in the light of God's grace.

### Examen

Review the events of your life over the past week. Look for moments of grace. How was grace infused into the words or actions of each memorable event? Rest in gratitude. Receive life again from the memory of each grace-filled moment.

Allow the Holy Spirit to search your heart as you recall moments in which you sensed the absence of grace. When were you least able to give and receive love this week? Ask yourself what was said or done in that moment that made it so troublesome. Be with whatever you feel without trying to change or fix it in any way. Take a deep breath and acknowledge God's love for you.

Give thanks to God for granting this self-awareness and examination of conscience. Consider where God is calling you to grow in this? Form your prayers of confession, petition, and praise.

Accept the gift of God's relentless tenderness.

What happens when you let go and let God?

Finally, as you begin these 40 days ask that God would give you the names of up to 6 people or situations that you need to pray for. Write them here:

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Over the following pages suggested prayers are offered for each week. Use these thoughts as a start to your prayers. Allow God to direct your prayers and speak to you. Build on these prayers – go back to them, and make a note of what God is saying to you.

## WEEK 1 – THE LOCAL CHURCH – 19 - 23 OCTOBER.

- Give thanks for God is good. Ask for help to persevere in prayer the next 40 days; and ears to hear God's Word to you.
- Give thanks for those who have gone before us – ask God what is the legacy they have left us; how can we build on it.
- Give thanks for the diversity of ministry taking place in our midst: St John's, St Margaret's, Manna, Global, Kingston. And all the groups, activities, outreach, discipleship, pastoral care, mission that flows from and within these locations.
- Pray that the vacancy for our children's & family worker in Arrowtown be fulfilled and that the plans for a similar role across the rest of the church be developed, resourced and filled.
- Pray that we be lead and resourced to a suitable way to develop our presence on the Frankton flats, to house our ministers, and to discern the best approach for Kingston.
- For the families coming to Mainly Music, that they would experience the kindness and love of God, and grow in their curiosity to know Jesus. Likewise for the children who meet our Remarkable Readers, and that our kids and young people (and adults) would grow strong and deep in their faith.
- Pray that we be attentive and responsive to the Holy Spirit's leading for how we share the Jesus story in our community.
- Pray that this Christmas across the district we will be enabled to lead people to worship Jesus with a wonder like the wisemen of old.

Pray for the office bearers and congregation members that we may be enabled to see God's vision for ministry in the Wakatipu (and beyond) – help us all to agree together and work together to ensure that we do not miss the opportunities that God is giving us.

## WEEK 2 – MISSION – 24 - 30<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER

This week remember before God our key mission partners: Santo Bush Mission in Vanuatu; and in Nepal the Hasta Memorial School and the Aashish Presbyterian Church and our sponsored church planters, Badri – working in Hile, and Simon in Chitwan.

- On the 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> the Aashish Church meets for their National Convention. At this time their parent body: Presbyterian Free Church, India, will hand responsibility for leadership to the local church and a council of Nepalese will be appointed. Pray for the office bearers and executive members who will be appointed.
- For good health, effective preaching and sensitive spirits for Badri & Simon and for a hunger for God's Word of the people. For safety and health for their families.
- For Hasta that God will provide for the completion of the hostel and home, that the government agrees to register the hostel and for teachers who are strong in English and have long term commitment. Pray also for Anjali that she be strengthened by God and filled with wisdom, compassion, and love and that she with her husband, Binod, and son, Luke may be a shining light for their Lord and Saviour.
- For Vanuatu pray for Ps Tueni and Nanjoo as they continue to serve the Santo Bush Mission. For health and Godly wisdom and for the teachers, preachers, elders, farmers, builders, and all workers as they build a community that is God honouring and serves the people.

Pray for the office bearers and congregation members that we may be enabled to see God's vision for ministry in the Wakatipu (and beyond) – help us all to agree together and work together to ensure that we do not miss the opportunities that God is giving us.

## WEEK 3 – OUR WORLD – 31 OCT - 6 NOVEMBER

Our God, you hold our lives in your hands. You have promised to give us a new heart and to put a new spirit in us.

We pray:

renew us everyday. Forgive us where we have failed to be good stewards and to be good neighbours.

Give us the courage to think beyond our own lives; to live and consume responsibly so that our near and far neighbours can experience their full dignity, and that we can help restore and admire the beauty of our communities and of this earth.

Our God, you hold our world in your hands. You hear your creation groaning but you have promised to liberate it from its pain.

We pray:

renew our world. Forgive those of us who haven't used their power wisely. Give us and our leaders the courage to think beyond our own economies; to seek genuine partnerships so that all people can experience the fullness of life, and that our planet is known to be the common home for all creation and future generations. Amen

Pray for the office bearers and congregation members that we may be enabled to see God's vision for ministry in the Wakatipu (and beyond) – help us all to agree together and work together to ensure that we do not miss the opportunities that God is giving us.

## WEEK 4 – THE NATION | 7 - 13 NOVEMBER.

Take a few moments to catch up on the news: ask God to direct your prayers.

- For our political leaders

God, thank You for those who serve our country in leadership roles and for their families. Give them peace when their work takes them away from their families. We also pray specifically for the wives, husbands, and children of our leaders. We ask that You draw near to them and give them the wisdom on how to best support one another while their loved one is away working. Lord, we are so grateful to be living in a democracy where many play a part in making sure the needs and desires of the nation's citizens are heard and met. As our leaders work together to find solutions to difficult problems, we ask that You guide them to speak respectfully and with humility to one another. Help them to show Christ-like love to those they interact with and be an advocate for their constituents and others.

- Pray for Southern Presbytery meeting Friday and Saturday. Pray for incoming Moderator James Watt
- Across the land we pray for hearts that are opened to God, for awareness of our sin and willingness to repent, for an outpouring of God's love.
- For unity between churches, that our message is not weakened by discord but is carried and increased by love.

Pray for the office bearers and congregation members that we may be enabled to see God's vision for ministry in the Wakatipu (and beyond) – help us all to agree together and work together to ensure that we do not miss the opportunities that God is giving us.

## WEEK 5 – YOU AND GOD | 14 – 20 NOVEMBER.

- Pause and be still before the Lord.
- Pray: Holy God, You know me more intimately than I know myself. I still myself before You asking You to show me my sin, to make me aware of failings, to open my eyes to my brokenness. I and we all have gone our own way. Today I need Your wisdom and guidance to show me your path of truth and life, for I am lost without Your grace. Search me, O God, and know my heart. Test me and know my troubled thoughts. Awaken repentance in me and dear Lord continue Your transforming work so that I can live for You, love and serve You. In Jesus' Name Amen.
- Consider 1 Timothy 4:7-8

"Have nothing to do with profane myths and old wives' tales. Train yourself in godliness, for, while physical training is of some value, godliness is valuable in every way, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come."

- Joel 2:28 (Acts 2:17)

"And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions."

Allow yourself to dream God inspired dreams...

- Luke 1:37

"For nothing will be impossible with God."

Pray for the office bearers and congregation members that we may be enabled to see God's vision for ministry in the Wakatipu (and beyond) – help us all to agree together and work together to ensure that we do not miss the opportunities that God is giving us.

## WEEK 6 – THE CHURCH | 21 – 27 NOVEMBER.

- Give thanks for the Word of God proclaimed and lived in these parts since the gospel first arrived.

William Carey – the father of modern missions said this: "Expect great things from God. Attempt great things for God."

- Ask God what we can expect from him – ask God for the boldness to attempt what he puts before us.
- Give thanks for God's Word to us. The Word that gives life, hope and direction. We give thanks for our diversity: different peoples – one faith, one baptism, one Lord. Read Hebrews 10:24-25
- Our forebears worked hard and gifted us with buildings from which to share God's Word. Yet today we find ourselves asking questions: how best to use those buildings for God's ministry today? Where best to be located? What changes are needed? Do we have the courage and faith to make those changes?
- Give thanks for our ministers and elders, for the small group leaders, those that teach young and old, those who provide music and clean spaces to gather, yummy food and a ready smile.

Pray for the office bearers and congregation members that we may be enabled to see God's vision for ministry in the Wakatipu (and beyond) – help us all to agree together and work together to ensure that we do not miss the opportunities that God is giving us.

Remember we gather on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November for the Annual Meeting,  
worship and celebration of our God.

10am at St John's Arrowtown – followed by a shared lunch.

Everyone is invited.