

Notes:

Churches Together In Sheppey

24/7 Prayer Week

May 24th-31st 2020

SHALOM

PRAYERS FOR PEACE IN STRESSFUL TIMES

Prayer Guide

Shalom—24/7 Prayer

Thank you for getting involved with the 24/7 Lockdown Prayer Week. I have sensed a nudging from God over the last few weeks that I should find a way to bring the Christians of Sheppey together to pray for our world, nation and island at this difficult time. Obviously, during a global pandemic we cannot physically join together in prayer but we most definitely can in a spiritual sense.

I sense that God wants to move powerfully among us and through us as channels of his peace.

I have had a word stuck in my head for several weeks now—it's the word 'Shalom'

Many are familiar with the Hebrew word shalom or "peace." The common western definition of peace is — the absence of conflict or war — but in Hebrew it means so much more.

"Shalom" is taken from the root word shalam, which means, "to be safe in mind, body, or estate." It speaks of completeness, fullness, or a type of wholeness.

True biblical shalom refers to an inward sense of completeness or wholeness.

I believe that God wants each of us to know the depth of His peace. To know the inner tranquility that he alone can bring. As we seek God's face in prayer I know that we will be blessed.

Numbers 6:24 -26 is my prayer for each of us as we set time aside in prayer.

Contact

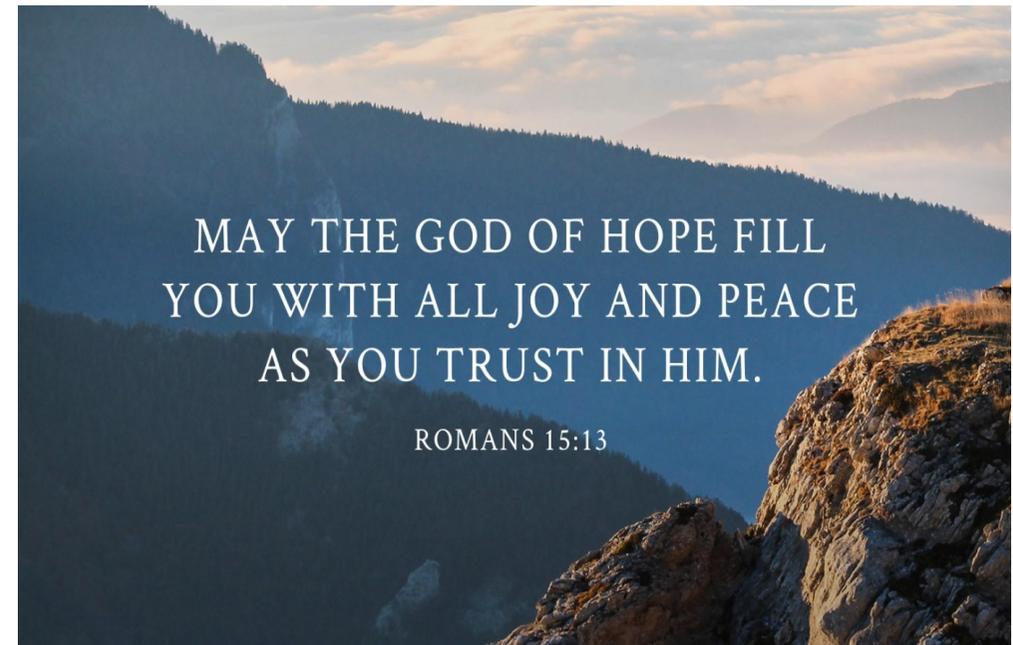
If you have any comments or questions about the 24/7 prayer week then please don't hesitate to get in touch with Lynne Clifton

Phone: 07552 874375

Email: lynne.clifton@salvationarmy.org.uk

I hope that you have enjoyed being part of this special 24/7 prayer week. Thank you for taking the time and making the effort to unite in prayer. May God be glorified and may you be blessed! Shalom!

Don't forget to tune in to Sheppey FM 92.2 at 10am on Sunday 31st May for a Pentecost Praise service .



Lord, we pray for Christians in every neighbourhood, community, and city: May your Holy Spirit inspire us to pray, to give, to love, to serve, and to proclaim the gospel, that the name of Jesus Christ might be glorified around the world. Help us to hear your voice and to be bold in you. Amen.

- ◆ There are so many other people and situations that need our prayers just now—let's bring them all before the Lord.
- ◆ Don't forget to pray for yourself!!

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your disciples, '***I am with you always***'. Be with me today, as I offer myself to you. Hear my prayers for others and for myself, and keep me in your care.

Some encouraging words from Philippians 4:5-9

"The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me – put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you."

"We have to pray with our eyes on God, not on the difficulties."

~ Oswald Chambers

***"The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;
the Lord turn his face toward you
and give you peace."***

I also believe that God wants us to pray this prayer of blessing for others. That those He lays on our hearts may know the depths of God's peace—his inner wholeness and tranquility.

There are many people who are feeling overwhelmed with sadness, worry and despair at this time. Some who feel consumed by fear, others who have never experienced loneliness or tiredness like they are feeling at the moment.

As Churches we have an incredible message of hope, love, salvation, peace and light to share with our world even in the most darkest of situations.

John 1:5 says "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

During our 24-7 Prayer week we will pray as God guides us for our world to know the fullness of God and to experience his 'Shalom'

United in Prayer

I firmly believe in the power of prayer. God calls us to seek his face. James 4:8 reminds us that as we take time to **draw near to God, so he draws near to us.**

2 Chronicles 7:14-15 says ***"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land. Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place."***

God wants us to come to him in honest, heartfelt prayer. He loves it when we stand together in unity—I firmly believe that a 24-7 week of prayer at this time will bless God, bless us and bless our world.

Psalm 133 says

*How good and pleasant it is
when God's people live together in unity!
It is like precious oil poured on the head,
running down on the beard,
running down on Aaron's beard,
down on the collar of his robe.
It is as if the dew of Hermon
were falling on Mount Zion.
For there the Lord bestows his blessing,
even life forevermore.*

Suggestions on how to pray

- ◆ Pray as God leads you to, by his Holy Spirit
- ◆ All of us are from different Church traditions,. Pray as you feel comfortable,. God delights when we choose to spend time in his presence.
- ◆ Take time to listen to God as well as bringing your requests to God in prayer.
- ◆ Meditate on words of Scripture and allow God's Holy Spirit to speak to you afresh through his Word.
- ◆ Keep a piece of paper and a pen nearby to jot down anything that God lays on your heart. If you feel that God has laid something on your heart that should be shared more widely then please don't hesitate to get in touch with your minister or with Lynne Clifton from Sheerness Salvation Army who is co-ordinating the 24/7 prayer week. (07552 874375)

◆ For those feeling isolated and lonely

God of compassion, be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation. In their loneliness, be their consolation; in their anxiety, be their hope; in their darkness, be their light; through him who suffered alone on the cross, but reigns with you in glory, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Psalm 34:18

The Lord is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit

- ◆ For parents struggling to help their children through this difficult season of life.

Lord we pray for families with children at home. God, help parents to be patient and creative in these days. May kindness and gentleness be felt in every home. Help those who feel out of their depth trying to homeschool their children, give them wisdom and confidence. For parents who cannot stay home from work, assure them that you are with them and that you care for their families. Give children and young people struggling with the stress and uncertainty of this time and their parents a deep sense of your peace. Amen

- ◆ For all those trying to work out how to safely move out of lockdown and get the country up and running again—For our local schools, businesses, charities, faith groups, local government and other organisations.
- ◆ For the Church—that we may boldly share the good news of Jesus, his light & life in these difficult days. That we may lovingly care for one another and remain united in Christ when required to physically distance. That our words and actions may glorify God.

- ◆ **For those struggling with their mental health at this time, some people are feeling overwhelmed with fear and anxiety. Pray that they would know God's deep peace. Pray also for the medical practitioners and other organisations who are seeking to support people who are struggling with their mental health.**

**Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen.**

- ◆ **For those affected by domestic abuse - pray for protection and external help and support. There are several organisations in our own locality who seek to support victims of domestic abuse, let's pray for them.**

We pray dear Lord for those who are suffering physical, emotional, economic or sexual abuse in their own homes, may they be guided to help, support and safety. May they know God's love and know that they are not alone and be enabled to live in peace. Amen

Psalm 9:9 says

*The Lord is a refuge for the oppressed,
a stronghold in times of trouble.*

- ◆ Feel free to use the resources on the Shalom:24/7 facebook page or in this booklet if you think they might be helpful to you.

Ephesians 6:18 says

“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.”

Suggested prayer topics & some written prayers

- ◆ **For the NHS & Other Key workers**

Naturally we will want to spend time praying for all the NHS workers, care workers, and other keyworkers who are sacrificially serving others.

Gracious God, give skill, sympathy and resilience to all who are caring for the sick, and your wisdom to those searching for a cure. Strengthen them with your Spirit, that through their work many will be restored to health; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

- ◆ **For those who are unwell or have been bereaved.**

Merciful God, we entrust to your tender care those who are ill or in pain, knowing that whenever danger threatens your everlasting arms are there to hold them safe. Comfort and heal them, and restore them to health and strength; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For all those who woke this morning to the loneliness of bereavement – the empty bed or chair, an unaccustomed

quietness, a life now incomplete – may they know your presence in the stillness of the day, and through the love of friends who offer their condolence. And in the darker moments may they reach out to hold your hand and feel the warmth of the One who has already passed from death to life to welcome others into God's Kingdom. Amen

- ◆ **Those in leadership positions (globally, nationally, & locally)**

A Prayer for Our Leaders

Dear God,

Would You give our leaders wisdom, discernment, and strength. Keep them healthy, safe, and rested so that they can guide us through this time.

Give our **government leaders** wisdom on how to stop the virus and stabilize our economy.

Give our **spiritual leaders** Your discernment on how to meet people's needs as they glorify Your name and encourage the Church.

Give our **medical leaders** insight into how to stop the virus. Strengthen their resolve and honor their hard work in creating a treatment for COVID-19.

Give our **civic leaders** inspiration, courage, joy, and strength to meet the needs of their communities.

And **help us**, as leaders in our communities, to display courage, hope, generosity, and kindness.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

YouVersion

As Churches united in prayer we need to pray for all those in authority. We are called to do this in Scripture and during these unprecedented days they need God's wisdom, power and strength in the tough decisions that are needing to be made.

1 Timothy 2:1-4 says

"I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Saviour, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. "

- ◆ **For those working tirelessly to find a vaccine for Covid - 19**

**Lord God, giver of wisdom,
Inspire and invigorate the research doctors developing better tests to diagnose the virus, create vaccines to prevent it, and identify protocols to eliminate the disease's spread. Amen**

- ◆ **For those who are facing financial hardship**

**Dear Lord,
We pray for all facing financial hardship at this time.
Help them to find firm ground in this shaky economy.
As unemployed people seek work and assistance,
give them strength not to be anxious when they seem to be getting nowhere;
Give them patience not to despair when things look bleak;
Give them serenity to know you with them in the midst of their struggle. Grant them your peace. Amen**