

## **Prayer of Repentance – September 10, 2018**

The following is the Prayer of Repentance which was corporately prayed at the Day of Prayer held on Saturday 8th September, 2018.

Heavenly Father, we thank You for our Christian heritage from Patrick and the Celtic church until now. We thank You for our history as a 'land of saints and scholars', spreading the Gospel to the world. However, today we acknowledge that for many years the world has known our land as a place of hatred and bloodshed. Throughout our history the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ, has been used to justify many things that have brought dishonour to You. Our bitter disputes and hard hearts have driven Your Kingdom from us and we have served the idols of national identity and tribal fears. We confess that we have taken Your Holy name in vain.

*Father, forgive us as we have sinned. Lord, have mercy upon us.*

We gather together today to own our sins and the sins of our fathers which have stained our land. We are truly sorry and we earnestly repent. Please have mercy on us and forgive us for what we have done against You, what we have done to this land and what we have done to one another. Together we come to the foot of the cross declaring that only Jesus can take away our sins and heal our land.

*Father, forgive us as we have sinned. Lord, have mercy upon us.*

We recognise that along with the heritage that we have received from You there are weeds and snares of compromise and untruth. We confess fear, mistrust, hatred, violence, negativity, judgementalism, entitlement and complacency. We confess that we have covenanted against one another through ungodly blood covenants and oaths that have set us at odds with one another. We plead the blood of Christ's New Covenant to release us from all unhealthy bondages of culture, wrong covenants and the unhelpful mindsets of our history, and bring us into the righteousness, peace and joy of the kingdom of God.

*Father, forgive us as we have sinned. Lord, have mercy upon us.*

## **Prayer for Current Affairs**

Below is the prayer that was used at the Day of Prayer for various current affairs:

We come to You as our Creator and the Author of all life,  
You formed our inmost being and knit us together in our mother's womb.  
We confess that as a people we have embraced a culture of death through the repeal of the 8th amendment.  
We repent of national sin and ask You to halt the advance of abortion: the murder of our children in the land.  
We pray for those who have experienced the trauma of abortion and we ask You to comfort them and help them find forgiveness and hope in Your love.

*We agree and say AMEN!*

We want to claim Ireland as an abortion free land in Jesus' name.  
We say in Jesus' name that THE NORTH IS NOT NEXT!

### *THE NORTH IS NOT NEXT!*

We pray resolve for our politicians in Stormont to stand firm against this evil.  
We declare that 'both lives matter': the mother and the child.

*We agree and say AMEN!*

We repent of how some who have claimed to represent You and Your church have abused the young, forgive us for not protecting the innocent. We ask for healing for victims of abuse of any kind at the hands of churches and the state.

*Lord have mercy upon us.*

We are sorry for how we have abused Your institution of marriage and ask that You will preserve its meaning in our land and heal the brokenness of our marriages and families.

*We agree and say AMEN!*

We pray over the uncertainty of Brexit and how it effects our border, businesses and the relationships between our islands. Lord, may Your will be done in the political future of our nations and Europe. Whatever happens, may it result in the expansion of Your Kingdom from our land to the nations of this world.

*We agree and say AMEN!*

### **Prayer Focus on Social Strongholds**

At the Day of Prayer we identified and prayed for four Social Strongholds: Families, Additions, Victims and Stormont.

#### **Families**

Our Father in heaven, may Your Name be honoured in our families.

May Your kingdom come into our homes.

May Your will be done in our lives and the lives of our children.

Meet our physical needs and let us see Your blessing.

Heal our relationships and forgive us as we forgive those who have sinned against us.

Guard us in times of temptation, and deliver us from the plans of the evil one.

Build Your kingdom and manifest Your glory in our homes and in our land.

#### **Addictions**

Father, we are thankful for Your mercy and Your abounding love. In the Name of Your Son our Lord Jesus Christ, we come ourselves and on behalf of our families and communities who are bound by many strongholds and strategies of the Evil One.

In Your Name Lord Jesus, we confess that we have partaken of sins associated with addictions.

Together we ask that by the blood of the cross and the power of Your Holy Spirit You will have mercy on us and set us free from all addictions to follow You in fullness of life. As your church give us courage and strength as we now take our stand against them.

Father, may your Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth and Love pursue us all, may He rest on us and fill us.

May He protect us from the illusions and the false inspirations that addiction encourages and feeds off. Set us free to recognise Your presence, to see clearly, and walk in Your ways.

We ask that You would disarm these destructive forces in our society. We ask that You will dispense Your holy angels to fight on our behalf and for our children and future generations. Amen

### **Victims**

Lord thank you that you are a God of justice, grace and mercy, help us to be like you in sharing that grace, mercy and justice to others.

Lord as we pray for victims we acknowledge that in our failure to reconcile our past and in our failure to take responsibility for sin in the church we have caused a deeper pain and wounding in many victims in our communities. We are sorry for our lack of love and compassion, our silence, our inaction and indifference. Father have mercy on us, forgive us and help us to be Your instruments of healing, reconciliation and peace. We choose to love and bless in the way You love and bless us.

Father as you bring release from the hurts we have caused to each other and freedom to those who are in bondage to past hurts and pain may those who are victims find comfort, peace, healing and acceptance.

Lord we ask that the cry of the victims would not just be heard but listened to. May they also find the true justice, understanding, support and breakthrough they are looking for. AMEN

### **Stormont**

Lord open up my heart and mind to your grace, so that a tide of forgiveness may flow through me. Cleanse my own bitter stained heart, and forgive me for my wrong attitudes and sins, as I forgive others who are different from me for their attitudes and sins.

Father help me to share the grace you have shown to me with others who are different from me, but who's hurt and brokenness is as valid as mine.

May we all get to revel in your love, forgiveness and grace, undeserving sinners, rescued from our past enmities.

Pour out you Holy Spirit upon us as we respond to your forgiveness and grace, and may our voices resound with the words of Psalm 124 "Like a bird out from the net we have broken free, we have been saved from destruction."

Lord we ask that your incoming tide of grace would lift the politicians that need it most, the ones who hark back to bad times and who carry personal hurts and grievances.

Free from the anchor chains of the past those who play old tunes and who wave old banners of conflict, and those who celebrate battles and violent acts that took innocent lives.

Lift political parties and their electorate, up out of the mud, safely around the rocks, and put us on course for a peaceful future together.

### **Declaration/Prayer for Ireland – September 10, 2018**

Father, Lord of heaven and of every tribe, tongue and nation on Earth. We as Your church affirm that "All authority in heaven and on earth" belongs to Jesus and He has commissioned us to "Go make disciples of all nations".

Today we speak into existence a new mindset in the heavenly realms over our land, that will allow our politicians and all our people to move forward into a peaceful and harmonious future together where there is room for all.

We declare, we will have King Jesus to rule over us, as our only Saviour and Lord, we will serve His Kingdom above all other earthly Kingdoms and we will choose to walk in His footsteps, loving and serving one another – to the glory of God the Father, in the name of Jesus the Son, and in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## **Blessing for Ireland – September 10, 2018**

**Ireland**, in the mighty Name of Jesus we bless you that you might prosper under the mighty hand of God. We bless you that justice and righteousness might take their proper place within your boundaries and you would know a healing of your wounds. We bless you that the favour and mercy of the Lord might rest upon you and give you peace.

Ireland, we bless you that the Father's compassion might fall upon your people, we bless them with health and wholeness. We bless relationships in every household that there would be love, peace, healing and understanding flowing between everyone. We bless your poor and needy that they might be lifted up. We bless your schools and colleges that they may be secure, safe places for teachers and pupils alike and we bless your children's capacity to learn and to develop good healthy relationships.

Ireland, we bless your governments, police forces and health and social services that they may serve with compassion, diligence and integrity. We bless your businesses and enterprises that they may prosper and be successful; giving much back into the community. We bless your land and fields to be fruitful. We bless the people of God in Ireland that they might rise up with servant authority and become a people of blessing.

We bless the churches in Ireland, may the Holy Spirit and the Word of God flow out through them in power and may they serve in love and humility with a heart for unity.

Ireland, we bless you that the knowledge of Jesus might come amongst the people of your land like a flood, may His presence and His Kingdom fall upon them. Ireland, we bless you that the joy of the Lord might be your strength. Amen.