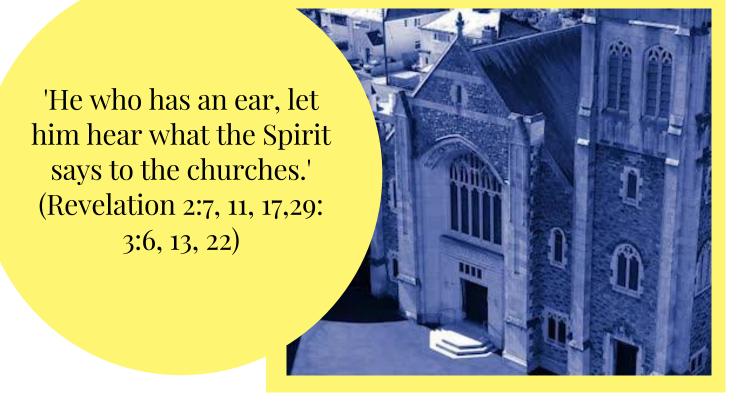
PRAYER FOR LOWE

PRAYER LETTER - MARCH 2022



Each day you may wish to use the prayer for renewal, together with one of the five prayer sections.

A prayer

We pray for renewal.

Make us ready and willing, Lord
to update the ways
in which we organise our affairs
and express our faith;
but above all else
renew US!
Renew us from within
and let the new wine of the Gospel
flow through us to the world.
(Edmund Banyard)

1 Lowe

Gracious Heavenly Father, come among us by your Holy Spirit to refresh, restore and renew us. We thank you for the technology which has connected many of us over the past 2 years in worship services, prayer gatherings and fellowship groups. We thank you for our pastoral care network, and especially for Julie, who has been bringing help and comfort in the name of Jesus to many. Thank you for our Session: please lead them as they consider the way forward. May they develop a dependence on you and together understand how you are directing us as a congregation. Thank you for all who have encouraged and challenged us through the preaching of your word. Help us so to love you that we may serve you to the very best of our ability, with joy, because you are worthy.

2 Our Country

God of the poor, Friend of the weak, we pray for the rapidly growing number of families struggling to make ends meet and to afford adequate housing, food and fuel. We thank you for the many agencies helping food insecure households, supplying meals for hungry schoolchildren or providing good, low-cost clothing and household items. We especially pray for Christians working or volunteering to alleviate poverty. May they be sensitive to any feelings of humiliation among those they help. Enable them to be effective witnesses for Jesus. Lord we also pray for greater financial equality in our society, for good education and employment opportunities, and for a stable, sustainable economy that works for everyone.

"God of the poor, Friend of the weak,
Give us compassion we pray,
Melt our cold hearts,
Let tears fall like rain,
Come, change our love
From a spark to a flame."

3 Missionaries and Associates

Loving Heavenly Father, we thank you for sending us your Son and the good news of the gospel – we are more grateful than words can say. We thank you for those who have moved out from our congregation, or with whom we have other links, who are spreading the gospel in the UK, Europe, Africa and around the world.

We ask your blessing on Werner and Cecelia in London. We lift up Werner to you with the London City Mission as he maintains the mission's dwellings and demonstrates a loving concern for the needs of the residents. Remember Cecelia as a volunteer speaker for Mercy Ships UK, promoting ministry opportunities for medical professionals to serve on board.

Lord, we pray with Michelle, during her year on Operation Mobilisation's ship Logos Hope, that she will make the most of this challenging but exhilarating experience and manage her time well. Grant her physical safety and deep joy in her service to you.

4 Pandemic

Creator God, Giver and Sustainer of life, we are immensely grateful to you for the medical developments and care that have brought us thus far through the pandemic. We rejoice at the greatly reduced risk of serious illness for the immunised and we are encouraged by the falling hospitalisations and declining infection rate. We remember, however, those who have lost loved ones or who are suffering from long Covid, the many in our society still at high risk - the immunocompromised and the very elderly, those with chronic respiratory conditions and those who have developed mental illness. Keep us mindful of these people, consciously valuing their wellbeing, acknowledging their fears, and understanding their hesitancy in resuming previous patterns of behaviour. As expressions of practical love and care for them, help us to take what steps we can to reduce their risks or anxiety.

5 World: Afghanistan and Ukraine

Father, inspired by our Moderator's request that we remember the cry of the needy, we once again bring before you the catastrophic situation in Afghanistan. Forgive us when we try to shield ourselves from bad news, forgetting your word that we are to love our neighbour as ourselves. For millions in Afghanistan, poverty, cold, hunger, thirst, disease and fear are daily companions. As we sit down, morning, midday and evening, to good, affordable food, give us 'humble, thankful hearts', and stir us to generosity for those who find themselves, through no fault of their own, in such dire straits.

[Afghanistan is top of The World Watch List 2022 of the countries in which it is most difficult to be a Christian.]

In the midst of all the brokenness of Afghanistan, Lord, please surround your followers that they may they find comfort in your nearness. Protect those secret believers who fear they are already known to the Taliban and who are at risk of being killed. Give them courage to remain faithful, and the insight to realise that they share in the sufferings of Jesus and are precious in his sight.

At time of writing the devastating Russian invasion of Ukraine has just begun. Please pray for peace and protection for a terrified population.

[The weekly Prayer Points in 'The Lowe Down' will follow developments.]