

LEAP
(Leave Everything And Pray)
Wednesday 2 September 2020

***“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”***

(1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

After six years of corporate prayer ministry (LEAP) this is the last time we will gather together to pray, and because of COVID 19 we will do so from our homes. First I thank God, and those who have joined over the six years either at the Choir Vestry or from home to this vital ministry. The number of people joining at the Choir Vestry has fluctuated from time to time but there have been a core group of people who hail, rain or shine (moon shine) were always there. Thank you for your commitment. For the final session of LEAP I have chosen the above verse from Paul for it marks three important characteristics of a Church.

Firstly, it is a *happy* church. Over the last six years we have experienced many tragedies in home and abroad, (Bushfire, drought, flood, earthquake, terrorism, COVID 19 are just a few) not to mention personal tragedy and sicknesses. But there also have been some exciting activities in our three congregations and Parramatta Mission. So, though we feel and share the sadness of tragedies, we also rejoice as a body in the knowledge of the unspeakable joy Christ offers to us and for the marvelous things he has been doing in and through us.

Secondly, it is a *praying* church. Prayer is an active part of Christian life - individually and collectively. From the experience of this corporate prayer ministry over the six years it can be said that the corporate prayer ministry could be better. As *Praying Heart* of Parramatta Mission we need to join our hearts and hands and bend our knees (metaphorically) before the Lord in prayer. Just to highlight the importance of prayer I would like to remind us two sayings: “Those who pray together stay together” and “They pray best together who also pray alone”.

Thirdly, it is a *thankful* church. Despite many challenges God has enabled us to do many wonderful things. Even during this COVID 19 God has enabled us to reach out to many people far and near through our manifold ministries. We need to remember that if we face the sun the shadows will be at our back, but if we turn our back on the sun the shadows will be in the front. So let us rejoice, pray and thank God always.

Prayer Points

People:

- 1 Those who are experiencing difficulties physically, emotionally and spiritually, including: Joan E, Jolame R, Mae H, Hazel K, Betty E, Bruce S, Liz deReland and family, Himmie T and family, Ruth C, Arabella M, Kyung O, Victoria, Ivan C (Jr), Kamini S and her son. communities.
2. Our shut-ins and nursing home residents.
3. Keith H, Hyun Goo J, Manas G, Amelia KB, Clive and Mary P and Sarah B. Christine BK as she prepares to begin her ministry in Penrith. The leaders of the CCLM, Leigh Memorial, Westmead, Korean Faith Community, Fijian congregation, Parramatta Mission staffs and volunteers, and all 'behind the scene' workers in our congregations.
4. Students preparing for HSC, especially Tom M, and those contemplating future directions.
5. Leaders of Parramatta Nepean Presbytery, Cumberland Zone, NSW Synod and the Assembly, our moderator Rev Simon Hansford.
6. Premier of NSW, Prime Minister, federal government and leaders of opposition, our state and local politicians – Julie O, Geoff L, Julia F.
7. Doctors, nurses and all health staffs working among COVID19 patients.
8. Scientists and researchers who are working to find a vaccine.
9. PM staffs, especially those working at reception and at Mealsplus.

Ministries:

1. Ministries of Parramatta Mission, our three congregations, the Korean Faith community.
2. Sunday School ministries: students, teachers and helpers. Youth Groups and the leaders.
3. Ministry of Chaplaincy among the WSU students and in the Children's Hospital
4. DA for Parramatta Mission, inSpire the Common Good and those working on these.
5. Ministry among the detainees in Villawood and those released in the community.
6. Women's Bible Study
7. Time Out Café
8. Ministry after 30 September
9. Ministry at 175.

Beyond the Border:

1. Better race relations in USA and around the world.
2. Peace in the world, especially in the Syria, Turkey, Hong Kong, and those working for global peace
3. Victims of natural calamities in different parts of the world.
4. Global refugee problem and also in our own shore.
5. Global warming and abolition of Capital Punishment.
6. Stopping of arms race, and disarmament of all sorts of deadly weapons everywhere.

