



Our world seeks quick and easy solutions to the stresses and problems of life. Jesus certainly nails it when he said, "Enter through the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the road broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who go through it. How narrow is the gate and difficult the road that leads to life, and few find it." (Luke 7:13-14) Jesus does not beat around the bush when he discusses life now and eternal life after judgement. Choosing the quick and easy does not lead us to a glorious life with God in eternity.

So I am thankful for the timely reminder from a Desiring God article that a friend recently forwarded to me, suggesting 5 prayers for those who wait. The article basically moves from Scripture to confirm our experience of life: the path to life is a marathon on a difficult road. And an appropriate response to trusting God as we walk that path is to wait – to be patient, endure, or persevere. The article encourages us to express our endurance through biblically-informed prayers. At the end of the article, we are called to realise we are in fact waiting on Jesus.

I've started reflecting about what a year of prayer might look like. Yet those final paragraphs in the article got my brain ticking. What more does Scripture tell us about waiting for Jesus? This idea prodded me to reflect further on one of my favourite Psalms: the Christ's prayer during extremely hard times (Psalm 27). King David proclaims his faith in God while facing evil opposition (v.1-3). His desire is expressed in prayer: to meet and be with God; to be protected by God during his various struggles; to be led on a level path (v.4-12). The Psalm concludes with a statement of faith and a call to patience: "I am certain that I will see the Yahweh's goodness in the land of the living. Wait for Yahweh; be strong, and let your heart be courageous. Wait for Yahweh." (Ps 27:13-14).

I wonder if those were Jesus' words to himself on the cross: trusting in God's resurrection graciousness and a constant personal reminder to wait and trust God through his crucifixion. The cross is Jesus' path for all of us into eternity. Prayer for perseverance while we wait for Jesus' return is certainly a fitting pursuit. What other passages in Scripture can you think of, that encourage us to wait on Jesus?

**Mark Groombridge**

\*The article can be found at: [www.desiringgod.org/articles/five-prayers-for-those-who-wait](http://www.desiringgod.org/articles/five-prayers-for-those-who-wait)

Link: <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/five-prayers-for-those-who-wait>

### Prayer Points

**Sunday**, Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**Monday**, that we may create time and space in our busy lives to be open to God and reflect on His call to each one of us.

**Tuesday**, that we may be open in our lives to those things that set us apart from God and be ready to make changes.

**Wednesday**, that we may recognize those things in our community that are unjust or unfair and be willing to speak up for what is right.

**Thursday**, that we may be open to other people's needs, our neighbours, friends, family and also those we may pass by in our streets.

**Friday**, that our words, thoughts and actions may be kind and patient reflecting Christ's love at work in us.

**Saturday**, for our Christmas services, may they be filled with your word and may you be glorified.

### Keeping in Contact

#### Senior Minister

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We acknowledge the  
traditional custodians  
of this land, the  
Wiradjuri people.

On this land they taught their children their beliefs, knowledge and culture and we pay our respect to them as we seek to do the same for our children.  
As we gather on these ancestral lands, we also acknowledge our God and heavenly Father who made the heavens and the earth, and to whom we are responsible for the current stewardship of this land that has been entrusted to us.

**The King's Line**  
**Matthew 1:1-17; 28:16-20**

**Who do you think you are?**

**The new beginning of the promises of God (v.1)**

The new genesis (Gen 1:1; 5:1)

God's covenant with Abraham (Gen 12:1-3; 15:1-20; 17:1-21; 22:15-18)

God's covenant with David (2 Samuel 7)

**Jesus' family tree (v.2-16)**

The history of the nation of Israel

The shame of the nation of Israel

- Four scandalous women (Gen 38:27-30; Josh 2:1, 9-13; 6:17, 25; Ruth 1:16-17; Deut 23:3; 2 Sam 11)

- The Babylonian exile (v.11-12)

**The new Christ (v.16-17; 28:16-20)**

The king is born (v.1, 6, 16, 17)

The risen king brings cleansing and renewal (28:16-20)

## Notices

**Fresh food Day today**

**Christmas Services**  
**Friday Dec 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
**Carols 5pm at Lithgow**  
Family Friendly followed by  
Dessert.

**Sunday Dec 24<sup>th</sup>**  
**9am at Lithgow**  
Followed by Bacon & egg rolls  
**5pm at Portland**  
BBQ Church with carols

**Monday Dec 25<sup>th</sup>**  
9am at Lithgow

**January Services**  
**9am at Lithgow**  
**Followed by Bacon & Egg Rolls**  
**5pm at Portland**  
BBQ Church

## Connection Card



## Monthly Giving

How to support our gospel ministries financially:

Account Name: ANGLICAN  
PARISH OF LITHGOW DIRECT  
GIVING

BSB: 062591

Account No.: 10085204

Or please use the offertory box at  
the back of the church.

## Notices for Newsletter

Please send to [office@lpachurch.org.au](mailto:office@lpachurch.org.au)  
by 4pm Thursday



