Thy kingdom come 2025: Daily prayers and reflections from the Association of Interchurch Families.

These prayers honour the particular calling and witness of interchurch families and their unique place in the ecumenical journey.

Day 1 - Ascension Day (29 May)



Theme: "Our Father"

#### Reflection:

In every Christian tradition, we begin with "Our Father" — a shared declaration that we belong to one family, across traditions, cultures, and expressions. For interchurch families, this unity is lived daily in homes where different traditions are held in love.

### Prayer:

God of all,

You have called us into one family.

May the "Our" in this prayer shape how we live with one another,

Especially in homes where your Church meets across its many streams.

May our family life speak of your reconciling love.

Amen.

### **Discussion Prompt:**

- How does the shared use of "Our Father" across traditions reflect our unity in Christ?
- As an interchurch family or local church, how might we help others experience the shared spiritual belonging this prayer expresses?

### Day 2 - 30 May



Theme: "Who art in heaven"

### Reflection:

God's presence transcends all earthly divisions. Heaven touches earth in every Eucharist, every family table where faith is shared, every whispered prayer between traditions.

### Prayer:

Holy One,

Lift our eyes beyond our limitations.

Help interchurch families to find their home in you,

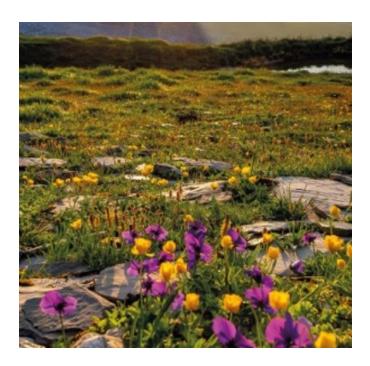
When earthly belonging is complex.

Let heaven be known in our homes, our prayers, and our shared lives. Amen.

# **Discussion Prompt:**

- How do your experiences of worship in different churches shape your understanding of God's presence?
- What can interchurch families teach the wider Church about seeing beyond boundaries to glimpse heaven?

### Day 3 - 31 May



Theme: "Hallowed be thy name"

#### Reflection:

To hallow God's name is to honour it in all we do. In the daily weaving of two traditions, interchurch families show that God's name is made holy in relationship, respect, and love.

# Prayer:

Hallowed be your name,
In our differences and our shared faith,
In liturgies we know by heart and those we grow to love.
Bless us as we bear your name together
And reflect your holiness in our unity.
Amen.

### **Discussion Prompt:**

- What does it mean to honour God's name through our family life and relationships across traditions?
- How might interchurch families and churches together model reverence, openness, and respect in ecumenical relationships?

### **Day 4 - 1 June**



Theme: "Thy Kingdom come"

## Reflection:

Interchurch families are signs of the Kingdom coming—imperfect, patient, persevering signs. In them, the Church leans into Christ's prayer "that they may all be one."

### Prayer:

Jesus, bring your Kingdom near.

Let it grow in the spaces where unity is not yet fully realised,

And let interchurch families be seeds of your peace.

Make us agents of reconciliation, bearers of your hope.

Amen.

## **Discussion Prompt:**

- Where do you see signs of God's Kingdom in your life as an interchurch family?
- How might local churches support interchurch families in becoming visible signs of Christian unity?

### **Day 5 - 2 June**



Theme: "Thy will be done"

## Reflection:

God's will is not always easy to discern. Yet interchurch families listen with care for how to follow faithfully, not just individually but together. It is a daily discernment of shared calling.

### Prayer:

Your will, not ours, be done.
When we do not know how to walk together,
Show us the path.
Let your will shape our hearts and homes,
Until your Church walks as one.
Amen.

### **Discussion Prompt:**

- How can churches work with interchurch families to discern God's will for unity, even when structures and policies seem to hold them apart?
- What does faithful obedience look like when churches remain divided but families choose to walk together?

### Day 6 - 3 June



Theme: "On earth as it is in heaven"

#### Reflection:

Unity is God's will in heaven. May it be so on earth. In interchurch families, the desire for shared Communion and mutual recognition lives in faithful hope.

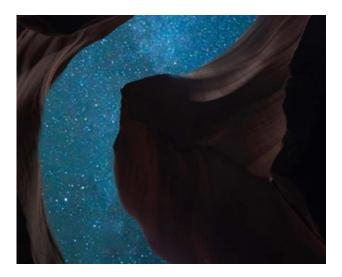
## Prayer:

God of heaven and earth,
Let the unity you will in heaven be lived in our homes.
Where our churches remain apart,
May our love reach across the gap
As a sign of your presence.
Amen.

## Discussion Prompt:

- What would it mean for our churches to reflect the unity God desires "on earth as it is in heaven"?
- How can interchurch families encourage and challenge both their churches to live into that hope?

### **Day 7 – 4 June**



Theme: "Give us this day our daily bread"

### Reflection:

Bread is central to our prayer and our divisions. Interchurch families often hunger for shared Eucharist, yet find ways to live the Gospel together, nourished by Christ.

### Prayer:

Jesus, Bread of Life,
Feed us with your love.
Nourish us in the longing we carry,
And sustain us with your presence
Until all may gather together at one table.
Amen.

## **Discussion Prompt:**

- How do interchurch families experience both spiritual nourishment and spiritual hunger?
- How can churches support families who cannot yet share fully in the Eucharist together?

### Day 8 - 5 June



Theme: "And forgive us our trespasses"

#### Reflection:

Forgiveness is the soil of unity. Interchurch families model how to live in grace with one another's traditions, learning to forgive misunderstandings and assumptions.

## Prayer:

God of mercy,

Forgive the hurt we cause in your name.

Teach us to forgive,

Especially when we struggle to understand each other's ways.

Let your forgiveness flow through our families

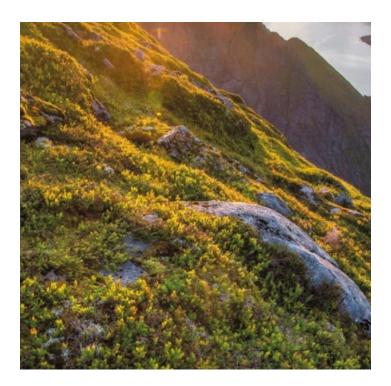
And into your Church.

Amen.

### **Discussion Prompt:**

- How have misunderstandings or exclusions affected your experience as an interchurch family or church community?
- What steps toward healing and reconciliation are possible—personally, pastorally, or ecclesially?

### Day 9 - 6 June



Theme: "As we forgive those who trespass against us"

## Reflection:

Interchurch families often forgive not only each other but also the Church, which can unintentionally wound those seeking unity. Yet grace abounds.

### Prayer:

Help us forgive, Lord,

Not only once, but again and again.

Where Church policies hurt or exclude,

give us grace and resilience.

Let our lives be witnesses to the power of love and forgiveness.

Amen.

## **Discussion Prompt:**

- How can interchurch families offer a living witness to forgiveness within and between churches?
- What role might mutual forgiveness play in the wider journey toward Christian unity?

### Day 10 - 7 June



Theme: "And lead us not into temptation"

#### Reflection:

Temptation in ecumenism can be despair or impatience. But interchurch families show what it means to persist in love, trusting in God's timing and grace.

### Prayer:

Faithful God,
In times of frustration, hold us.
When the way is unclear, guide us.
Keep us from bitterness or apathy.
Strengthen us with the joy of knowing you are always leading us forward.
Amen.

### **Discussion Prompt:**

- When the path of ecumenical living feels discouraging, what sustains you as a family or church?
- How can churches walk alongside interchurch families with encouragement and hope?

## Day 11 - Pentecost Sunday (8 June)



Theme: "But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom..."

### Reflection:

On Pentecost, we celebrate the Spirit who speaks in every language, draws all people together, and gives courage to live new realities. The Spirit is already at work in interchurch families—proclaiming that unity is not only possible, but already here.

### Prayer:

Holy Spirit,

Deliver us from all that divides.

Let your fire fall on your Church again,

that we may speak with one voice in many tongues.

We trust in your Kingdom,

coming in power, love, and reconciliation.

Amen.

### **Discussion Prompt:**

- How do you see the Holy Spirit at work across the churches and in interchurch families today?
- What gifts might the Church receive if it listens more closely to the lived experiences of interchurch families?