

How to pray for the local church this Christmas



In our society today, we are often inundated with overwhelming news about global poverty. It can sometimes be hard to know where to start with our prayers. Or even to imagine whether our prayers will make a difference. But that is why Philippians 4:6-7 can be a good place to start. It's a wonderful reminder that we do not need to be anxious about anything, but in every situation, God is able to hear our prayers.

‘Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.’

Philippians 4:6-7

Below you'll find a selection of prayers to help your congregation pray for local churches in some of the poorest communities in the world this Christmas.

Feel free to adapt these to the needs of your church and allow the Holy Spirit to guide your time together with God.



A prayer for the sick and the hungry

Lord God, we pray for mothers and fathers who are unable to afford to feed their children today, let alone buy special ingredients to celebrate Christmas together. We pray for people who are going without, so that what little they have can be given to the ones most in need.

Lord, we commit those who are suffering into your hands and ask that you will heal the sick and in pain.
Lord, make a way for sickness to dissipate.

Lord, we pray for the miraculous this Christmas. We pray for churches around the world to reach out to those in their communities who need it most. We ask that through your intervention, families living in the poorest communities in the world will find themselves facing abundance rather than scarcity.

Amen



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A prayer for church leaders

Lord God, we thank you for the pastors who have been envisioned through Tearfund's Bible-based training and have taken it back to their churches.

We give thanks for Pastor Amani from Ivory Coast and so many others who have embraced Church and Community Transformation training and, in doing so, have equipped their congregation and wider community to realise and unlock their God-given potential.

We join Pastor Amani in praying that God will help his church to extend the benefits of the training. We pray that they will be able to reach many more churches and communities with this life-changing training this Christmas season and beyond.

Amen



A prayer for new beginnings

Father God, we praise you for the transformation that is taking place in communities around the world, thanks to the unleashing of the power of the local church.

We praise you that families like Rene and Odile's can proudly support their children and the wider community through the running of their successful pineapple business.

We praise you that churches around the world that have taken part in Tearfund's training are now seeing opportunities to raise funds from within the church to support the most vulnerable in their communities.

We thank you Lord for new beginnings and stories of hope that are rising up from across the globe.

In Jesus' name, Amen



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A prayer for peace this Christmas

This Christmas, let us join together in praying the words of Odile from Ivory Coast.

‘Lord, we pray for my family and all the families in the world.

May God grant them peace and joy during Christmas and all the time.’

Lord, we thank you that you sent your son at Christmas to bring peace to the world.

In Jesus’ name, Amen



A prayer for Ivory Coast at Christmas

This Christmas, Pastor Amani invites us to pray for his country and his people.

‘Lord, we pray for peace in families. We ask that children across Ivory Coast will be able to receive education and become the next generation of leaders.

‘May there be peace and stability in Ivory Coast as political leaders step forward in wisdom and listen to the needs of their people.

‘We pray that inflation will reduce and communities across Ivory Coast will have the chance to flourish.’

Lord, we join with Pastor Amani in committing these prayers to you this Christmas.

In your precious name, Amen

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