

## Prayer for November 2021

Dear God, we give you thanks and praise for who you are - the creator of the world and the provider of all good things.

As we start a new year in the church, we pray earnestly for eyes and ears to be opened to see and hear the women that you are calling into ministry in our church. Please remove the barriers that stand in the way of your gospel of salvation through Christ being preached by both women and men from church pulpits across Australia and New Zealand.

We know that for many years, women have been called by the Holy Spirit into service in your name including being called to be pastors. Many have responded to that calling and have been trained, often in environments that are quite hostile to women. We call on you to please release the church from these shackles of the past - the man-made rules that stifle the voice of women from being heard in our church.

Thank you for emboldening Pastors to invite women to preach. We pray for continuing efforts of congregations to bring about change, and thank you for the leadership of St Stephens congregation in Adelaide to bring congregations together for encouragement.

As we go through Advent, may our focus be on Love, Hope, Peace and Joy.

*Love*

- that love comes to life through both women and men serving in public ministry together in the LCANZ.

*Hope*

- our hope for the future is that both women and men can proclaim the gospel message from the pulpits and minister to those in need according to their calling.

*Peace*

- that peace will prevail across our church, and that differing views can be respected, not suppressed or oppressed.

*Joy*

- that the Joy of Christmas - the gift of Christ to the world - can be preached by both women and men this Christmas.

May our words and our actions bring you praise and glory.

We pray in the precious name of Jesus Christ, and with faith that comes from the Holy Spirit.

AMEN