

# Prayer January 2023

(This prayer was prayed at the Online prayer session on 17 January 2023 )

## GUIDING LIGHTS

Lord of the light, thank you that you are a beacon of light, helping the women and men who face personal and public challenges from those who do not support the ordination of women.

Inspire the women you have called to go 'high' when others go 'low', giving them the ability to overcome in uncertain times.

Thank you for the momentum that is challenging the long-held beliefs that have held women back for so long. Please grant resilience to break generational patterns of patriarchy and lead our whole church, women and men to a life of grace, dignity, recognition, compassion and unity.

Help all of us take one day at a time alongside the need for wisdom and discernment that will promote equality of ordination. Keep all of us willing to support the women you have and will call to promote the Kingdom of God as ordained pastors.

We acknowledge the anger, despondency and disappointment of so many women who have your call but who have borne the pain of rejection so many times.

Help us by the Holy Spirit's power to have the capacity to build, create and succeed as you open the door to these chosen servants. Help us practice ourselves into your peace in this anxious time.

Thank you for our 'Kitchen Table' friends and prayer supporters and the many people who have added their signature to the letter being sent to the College of Bishops and the General Church Board. Help us not to fall into despondency but reach out instead of recoiling inward, to you, the God of the possible!

Thank you that there are women and girls who are ready and willing to lead the way despite the closed door. Together with your will for the church, be the one who knocks down the wall and builds a bridge.

Thank you for every opportunity to keep going, choosing to remain together as we endeavour to be the church you are calling us to be; inclusive, open and united; the place where love truly comes to life.

Lord Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Life, support our flagging spirits and restore to us the joy of your salvation. To you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be all the glory, honour and praise. Amen.

*The prayer was written by SDC Member Joy Christian*