

Father God, we celebrate that so many people working in and around the City of Sydney are here this morning, sharing time together in fellowship and in prayer.

We are brought together by our faith in your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and it is through Him that we are saved and hold onto the promise of eternal life.

Father, we know you love all people of all nations. This morning we pray particularly for the people of Sydney, and we lift up the people who live or work each day in the CBD.

We praise you that you have shown us what love truly is, by your actions and your precious Word.

In professing our faith this morning in Jesus as our Lord and Saviour, we humbly confess that we often fall short of putting this faith we profess into action. We know we fall short every time we fail to truly love our neighbours as we love ourselves.

In the words of James 2:14-26

*What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.*

Lord, please instil in us your heart for the needy, build up our courage to speak out for the oppressed. Remind us daily of the teachings of your Son Jesus so that we may look upon all the people of Sydney as neighbours, regardless of their personal circumstances, especially those who will be wondering where they will be sleeping tonight; the homeless; those struggling to pay bills; people trying to make ends meet; or to afford to live anywhere near employment opportunities.

Too many people that you love Heavenly Father, are suffering and do not even have access to shelter. We know this grieves you Lord, we are sorry we turn our eye away from your children, so we pray with all hearts that you give us wisdom to know

what actions are required from each of us who count ourselves as believers, to help relieve their suffering and to meet their daily practical needs.

Father, we pray all of this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, Amen.