

## Prayers to celebrate a Same Sex Commitment

Loving and gracious God, who made us in your image and sent your son Jesus Christ to welcome us home; protect us in love and empower us for service. Through the power of the Holy Spirit may **N and N** become living signs of his love and may we uphold them, in the promises they have made to each other, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Jesus told us to 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength and with all your mind' and love your neighbour as yourself.' For the love that we receive, and give, let us all thank God, saying together....

**Almighty God, source of all being, we thank you for your love, which creates and sustains us. We thank you for the physical and emotional expression of that love; and for the blessings of companionship and friendship. We pray that we may use your gifts so that we can ever grow into a deeper understanding of love and of your purpose for us, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

## Reading from Scripture

### **1 John 4 7-12**

*Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.*

## Prayers of Hope and Commitment

Almighty God, we pray that **N and N** may be to each other companions in joy and a comfort to each other in times of trouble. That together they be given rich opportunity for love to deepen. And, in the sharing their love and lives with each other they may be assured of your presence and love with them in their wholeness and brokenness, success and failure. **Amen**

Loving God, whose son Jesus Christ welcomed strangers and called them his friends, grant to **N and N** such gifts of grace that they may be bearers of your friendship and their home a place of welcome for all. **Amen**

**N and N** in your lives together, will you live for one another and serve each other in true humility and kindness?

**With the help of God, we will.**

In your lives will you welcome each other in times of need, and in your hearts celebrate together in times of joy?

**With the help of God, we will.**

Holy Spirit of God, guard and defend **N and N** in their life together, protect them from evil, strengthen them in adversity until you bring them to the joy of your heavenly kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**



Let us now pray that **N and N** may be sustained by God's love.

Spirit of God, you teach us through the example of Jesus that love is the fulfilment of the Law, help **N and N** to persevere in love, to grow in mutual understanding, and to deepen their trust in each other; that in wisdom, patience and courage, their life together may be a source of happiness to all with whom they share it; and may the love of God Almighty, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer be with you to guide and protect you, and all those you love, today and always. **Amen**