

Prayer of Declaration & Blessing 2022 – Rick Prosser

We come together this day and acknowledge Jesus as the hope of the world. Together we speak hope over this city.

We speak hope over our young people.

We speak hope over our children.

We speak hope over every life in Jesus name.

May **hope** arise.

May **hope** arise over despair, anxiety and depression.

May **hope** arise over hopelessness.

May **hope** flood into every dark place.

We pray for courageous leadership to arise across every sector of our community.

We pray for creative solutions to the stubborn issues that suppress human flourishing.

We pray for visions and dreams to surface and materialise through your people.

We pray for a release of resources and provision over this city that everyone and everything prospers

We pray that this city would be an example and hope to the cities of the world.

We pray for healing and forgiveness to flow like a river.

We pray for a deep sense of peace to rest over us.

Our **hope** is that this city reflect heaven on earth.

To God be the glory. In Jesus name. Amen

BENEDICTION - BISHOP PETER STUART, ANGLICAN CHURCH NEWCASTLE

Bishop Peter Stuart made the following remarks before praying the Benediction at the Lord Mayor's Prayer Breakfast.

"As the Anglican Bishop of Newcastle I lead and represent the Church that came with and is deeply connected with colonisation. We know that our story is joined with the bad and good of the change to this region. We know that our good and know with deep sadness that our bad impacts the region. So in humility and with deep lament I come to pray a blessing. There are times when the Church can fall into the trap of believing that God is only working within the Church but that is not what God has promised. God works in creation and in people, all of whom are his beloved. We know that by watching and listening to and learning from the community we also witness God at work and are built up in our hope."