

Day 5 — Sunday, October 25: Comfort for the Grieving

The God Who Weeps With Us

Key Verse

“...to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve... to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning.”

— Isaiah 61:2–3 (NIV)

Prayer Walk Focus

Grief touches nearly every street — the death of a loved one, a marriage that ended, a diagnosis, a job lost, a dream that didn't come true. Today, ask the God of all comfort to meet those in our city who are grieving, seen and unseen.

Suggested Prayer Points

Those recently bereaved — Pray for families in Ballarat grieving the death of a loved one, that they would know God's comforting presence in the darkest days.

Grief that isn't visible — Pray for those grieving losses others don't see — miscarriage, infertility, a broken relationship, a difficult diagnosis, a dream that died.

Anniversaries and hard days — Pray for those approaching an anniversary of loss, a birthday, or a season that reopens grief, that God's grace would meet them there.

Those who support the grieving — Pray for chaplains, funeral directors, grief counsellors and support groups across the city, for compassion and endurance.

The church's ministry of presence — Pray that Churches of Ballarat would be quick to show up for the grieving — with practical care, patient presence, and real hope.

Worship Songs

“It Is Well” — Kristene DiMarco / Bethel Music (2017) [► Listen on YouTube](#)

“Living Hope” — Phil Wickham (2018) [► Listen on YouTube](#)

“O Come To The Altar” — Elevation Worship (2016) [► Listen on YouTube](#)

Extended Scripture Reading

2 Corinthians 1:3–7 — *The God of all comfort, who comforts us in our troubles.*

Psalms 23 — *"Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me."*

John 11:17–36 — *Jesus weeps at the tomb of Lazarus — grief meets the compassion of God.*

Extended Devotional: The God Who Weeps With Us

One of the most striking verses in the Gospels is also one of the shortest: "Jesus wept" (John 11:35). Standing at the tomb of His friend Lazarus, knowing full well He was about to raise him from the dead, Jesus still wept. Comfort, in the biblical picture, does not rush past grief to get to the resolution — it enters the grief first.

Isaiah 61 promises a God who comforts "all who mourn" and provides for "those who grieve" — not a select few, and not only the most visible losses. Grief takes many shapes: the loss of a parent, a marriage, a pregnancy, a health, a future once assumed. Much of it goes unspoken because there is no clear ritual or permission to mourn it.

Psalms 23 offers a companion image — not the removal of the valley, but a presence within it. "Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me." The comfort of God is not the absence of the valley but the certainty of accompaniment through it.

This shapes how we, as His people, are called to comfort others. 2 Corinthians 1 says God comforts us so that we, in turn, can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received. Practical presence — a meal, a phone call, simply showing up and staying — often communicates this comfort more than words ever could.

As you walk today, hold before God every home in Ballarat currently walking through loss, seen or hidden. Ask Him to be near, as only He can be, and ask that His people would be quick to notice, quick to show up, and slow to rush anyone through their grief.