

CLAY 2025

A PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH



God of all,

The church doesn't always recognize or value young people.
But we are the past, present, and future of this church.

We have talents to offer if there was space for us to share them.
We have building spaces that we aren't using to their full potential.

By giving youth the chance to invest and sow seeds into the church,
we will grow old and reap the benefits of a church we built together on the rock of Christ.

CLAY understands that youth hold the future of the church,
but what work will be done beyond CLAY?

Jesus said, "let the children come to me,"

We pray for a church like Jesus welcoming people from all backgrounds, ages, and status,
because it is through the wideness of that community that the church exists today.

So, God,

We pray to be conscious of the needs of the people around us and our own.
To be a church where we take what we need and no more.

A church that focuses more on keeping the cause alive, not just the building.
We pray for a church shaped by love, humility, forgiveness; a church that gives us purpose.

A Church that knows how to welcome new people, even when it means change.
A Church for everyone.

We long for a church of loving your neighbour. An enthusiastic community.
A church shaped by youth's perspectives. Hospitality. Compassion. Acceptance.

We have a theology of grace that can be an antidote to bad religion,
because we recognize the unconditional love of God.

We pray to be a church that focuses even more on raising up the next generation of youth.

We pray for a church that breaks down barriers. An intergenerational community.

This is the church we pray for, God.

This is the church we hope to be.

Amen.

**From CLAY 2025 Rooted & Rising - This prayer uses the unedited responses of youth participants to the following questions:*

1. What is a key message of Jesus that you think the church has forgotten and needs to remember?
2. What is one gift you see in the church that you want to draw the church's attention to?