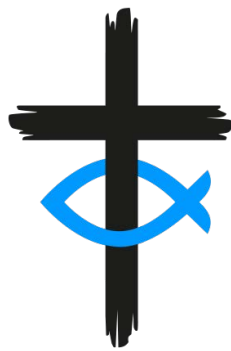


Worship: *from*



The
**United
Reformed
Church**

Advent to Pentecost

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Advent to Epiphany



Praise for God's Power

Luke 1: 46-55

Let us sing the greatness of the Lord
and rejoice because God comes to save us.

Praise the Lord of hope.

God has come down in blessing
to the one who is humble, a person unknown,
and through her is doing a great thing.

Praise the Lord of grace.

God is the unchanging one
steadfast through all generations,
and now is present with power,
in the coming of the Christ.

Praise the Lord of birth and death.

In God's coming
those are powerful
meet the eternal power
and know how small they are.
and those who are rich
meet the riches of grace
and know their poverty.

Yes, Lord, come in power.

God who led Abraham
and called Moses to his service
and spoke through many prophets,
come near us in a baby
cradled in the womb of Mary

**to be a blessing for ever,
Jesus, our shepherd king.**

Bernard Thorogood

Fulfilment

Luke 1: 68-79

A moment of crisis has come,
a time of opportunity and challenge.
Over the centuries we knew this time would come,
a time when we must face reality.

Keep us true, O Lord.

There were years of preparation,
hints of the glory to come;
Generations saw glimpses of the light
and sought the path of God.

Keep us faithful, O Lord.

But now it is a new day, a new era:
the last of the prophets is here
to prepare the way
speak the word,
and challenge our hearts.

Make us ready, Lord.

And so after a long night
dawn is coming
and the sunshine of God's truth
will burst through the clouds
to guide us home.

Let your light shine on us today.

Bernard Thorogood

Hannah Prayed

In the Temple Hannah prayed
And the tears of distress flowed
As she poured her heart out to God.

'Remember me', she cried, 'don't forget me.'
Lord, remind us that you remember us,
That you knew us before we were formed in the womb,
And that you cherish us;
Help us to rest in the secure gentleness of your love,
Assured that you know us better than we know ourselves,
Content that we are remembered.

In the Temple Hannah prayed
And the concerns of her heart
Were laid at the throne of grace.

So let us bring to God the concerns of our hearts:

For peace and unity amongst the people of earth,
Especially in Hannah's land,
That vision and generosity may vanquish fear and assertion.

For justice and equity for God's poor and put-upon ones,
That they may be allowed their share of the bounty of the earth,
And the scourges of hunger and disease be parried.

For the nurturing of hope in landscapes of concrete walkways
and urban impersonality
That strangers may be welcomed,
Cultures valued for their rich diversity
And the language of the knife and broken bottle be exchanged
for self-respect and confident friendship.

For the hurts and sorrows which cramp and confine us,
And turn us into parodies of the people we could be
That God might hear us and set us free.

Lord, you speak in Advent songs
Offering your melody of change and transformation,
A vision that things do not have to be as they are,
That we can be different
And the world dance to a different rhythm,
Lions and lambs in stately gavotte together,
The cow and the bear joined in friendship
And a little child tending them.
No hurt, no harm on your holy mountain.

Advent God, lead us to Bethlehem
That it might be so.

Amen

David G Cornick

Seeing is Believing

Luke 2:29–32

Thank you, disarming God,
for you have shown me
that my work is done.

Today I have seen
and touched and blessed
the one who will bless us all.
What a joy to be your servant today!
So now I know fulfilment.

So may we see and touch
the gift of God
in every new life we meet,
each one a fresh word of grace.

Bernard Thorogood

God of Dark and Light

God of dark and light,
we praise you
for in the Spirit of Christ
you are with us, your presence surrounds us.

In the warm dark,
in the silence of solitude,
in the stillness of night,
even in the scent of fear,
you are with us, your presence surrounds us.

In the clear light,
in the sounds of laughter,
in the security of friends
even in the scorching heat
you are with us, your presence surrounds us.

In the advent time
in the recall of faults,
in the remembering of sins,
in the repenting of mistakes,
you are with us, your presence surrounds us.

In this holy place
in the hymns of praise,
in the hush of expectation,
in the host of saints,
You are with us, your presence surrounds us.

God of dark and light,
in you is welcome,
in you is forgiveness,
in you is new life,
you are with us, your presence surrounds us.
Amen

Terry Oakley

Prayer

Lord Jesus,
prepare us for your coming.
Save us from the complacency
that can grow through familiarity with this great festival.
Save us from going through the same motions,
 the cherished traditions,
 the joyful celebrations
without seeing or understanding
the implications of your birth amongst us.

Here,
where Bread and Wine are set before us,
help us to know the full extent of what it meant
for you to take our flesh,
 to live our life,
 to suffer our fate.

Awaken us and our sleepy world.
We are not ready to receive you.
Our house is not in order,
 the naked are not all clothed,
 neither are the hungry all fed.
Many are still imprisoned
and the poor do not hear good news.

Then stir us, Good Lord,
so that we may greet you
as servants who cannot wait
for the time to come
when you will reign with justice,
 heal our conflicts,
 forgive our failures
and show us the way that leads to peace. Amen

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus,
you have warmed and welcomed us
at your table.
We came empty and you filled us,
hungry and you nourished us.
With new-found strength
and fresh determination,
help us now follow in your footsteps
and run the race of human life
until you bring us home victorious. Amen

Duncan Wilson

Bible Sunday

Second Sunday in Advent

In the beginning, God, you spoke your word
and the universe came to be.
People saw you in the beauty of creation
and glimpsed your glory in the heavens.
After we had sinned and paradise was lost
you called your ransomed people to live by your law,
written on tablets of stone.
As the ages passed, storytellers, poets and prophets
told of your saving love
and longed for it to be written in the human heart.
When the time was ripe
you spoke your last and greatest Word
in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.
Therefore with all your people in heaven and on earth
we sing the triumphant hymn of your glory:
**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Through him the Holy Spirit
makes the Scriptures come alive
and he meets us in its words:
we have felt his healing touch,
walked with him on the lonely road to Calvary
and heard him speak his greatest work of love
from the silence of his death upon the Cross.
By the power of your redeeming grace
we proclaim him risen and ascended in our midst.

[We praise you for the gift of the Scriptures
in which we read how
the Lord Jesus on the night he was betrayed
took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said:
'This is my body which is broken for you.
Do this is remembrance of me.'
In the same way he took the cup also after supper, saying:
'This cup is the new covenant in my blood.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.
For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup,
you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.']
Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

May your Spirit so move upon these gifts
that Christ is known to us in the breaking of the bread.
May he so touch our lives
that we become his witnesses today.
As we follow in his way,
treasuring his words of life,
may we be faithful in the service of his kingdom
to preach his Gospel in both word and deed,
until the whole world knows your love
and is made one in your eternal praise.

Amen

Colin Thompson

Opening Scripture

Psalm 126 paraphrase

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion
it was as if health came new to the people,
hearts filled with laughter,
voices sang aloud with joy.
'The Lord has done great things for us'
the people said.
And they rejoiced.

Restore our fortunes, Lord,
like fresh springs rising in desert places,
that those who sow in tears
may reap with songs of joy,
bringing home the harvest of their labours. Amen

Prayer

We can hardly wait, dear God.

Looking out upon a world
that is far too familiar with Isaiah's sorrows,
the mounting ashes of our failures
and the heavy heart of human suffering,
your coming cannot be too soon.

So pour out your Spirit now, today.
Bind up broken hearts
and release the good word
and the goodwill
that we have held back too long.

Announce your clear intentions now.
Garland your sorry world with joy
and clothe it with
the splendour of your presence here.
Plant a new way of life
in which truth and justice stand rooted like a tree.

Make us into a new race of people
who love justice,
cherish their commitment to each other
and are eager for your coming.
We can hardly wait. Amen

Prayer after Communion

Lord Jesus Christ,
born for us in a stable,
making your humble way into our lives,
we praise you for your tireless search for lost humanity.
Hold us we pray.
And so that we might serve you, and you alone,
grant us your Spirit's wisdom
to know and reject all that is evil and harmful,
to turn only to you for our pleasure,
and to spend ourselves for the sake of your kingdom
and its peace. Amen

Duncan Wilson

Eucharistic Prayer for Advent

based on Isaiah 40-55

God, our beginning and our end,
in whom we live and move and have our being,
we thank you for the gift of your presence
through the long night of our travails.
You led you people on their journey into freedom,
a pillar a cloud by day, a pillar of fire at night.
You spoke to them through the Law,
and when, like sheep, they went astray
you sought them and guided them home.
You comforted them in times of suffering
and called them to be a light to the nations.
Now you do a new thing in our midst:
the voice of the Baptist cries out in the wilderness
and the way is prepared for the coming of your Son.
Therefore with all your people in heaven and on earth
we sing the triumphant hymn of your glory:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Born in a stable of Mary
he comes to us in the form of a servant,
friend of the poor and forgotten,
to open eyes that are blind
and to lead the prisoners free.
He comes to preach good news of peace,
to establish justice in our midst.
to share our sorrows and be acquainted with our grief.
He comes to be despised and rejected,
to be wounded for our transgressions
and to bear our iniquities.
He is led like a lamb to the slaughter
bearing the sin of the world;
he is raised at the break of day,

and ascends to the heavenly places
that we may rise with him.
Through him the Holy Spirit comes
to bring us and all creation to new birth.

[The Lord Jesus on the night he was betrayed
took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said:
'This is my body which is broken for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.'
In the same way he took the cup also after supper, saying:
'This cup is the new covenant in my blood.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.
For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup,
you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.']
Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

May the Spirit come upon these gifts of bread and wine
that they may strengthen us on our journey
with the food of Christ's own presence.
May the Spirit so increase our faith and our commitment
that we may be Christ's servants in the world,
until he comes again
and all your purpose, Father, is accomplished,
in your eternal glory.

Amen

Colin Thompson

Christmas Eve

Of all the nights,
In each and every year.
This one is special
Time seemingly stands still
Remembering when,
Eternity collided with the present,
This re-shaping history.
Life could never be the same again.
Years of patient expectation,
Prophecies in prose and poetry.
Realised at last.
God in human form.
A sentimental story,
Just for children,
Some will say,
Tradition and myth mingled together.
A folk tale that warms the heart.
Yet these avoid the truth
Rob the revelation of its power.
The creator chose
To do things in such a way.
A plan of salvation
For this soiled earth,
He who measured our creation
With a surveyor's chain,
And positioned each star,
Chose to be re-born,
As a helpless child
In a cattle crib
On that first Christmas night.
Each subsequent year we remember,
Recalling the message that numbs the brain,
Stirs the soul,
Gladdens the heart
As we marvel at the magnitude of God's love.

Y Mochyn Daear

Christmas

We thank you God for the light of your grace
shining for us in Jesus.
In sharing our darkness
he has overcome the darkness.
In sharing his light
we have found our hope.
It is true!
You do not abandon us
Your Word is alive among us,
one of us.
We rejoice in your love,
here for good in Jesus,
and begin to live as your children
in your promised peace.

Amen

Peter Trow

This Special Night

Where are you Lord Jesus, on this special night?
Are you safe and warm in a Bethlehem manger?
Watched over by a loving mother.
Gazed on in awe by simple shepherds.
Worshipped by wise men from far away lands.
With a choir of angels to sing you to sleep.

Where are you Lord Jesus, on this special night?
Are you lonely, cold and afraid on some City street?
Preyed upon by drug dealers.
Moved on by those to whom you are an inconvenience.
Despised by the wealthy in their comfortable homes.
Deafened by the City's noise.

Where are you Lord Jesus, on this special night?
Are you lying in a hospital bed, frightened and in pain?
Or lonely and sad in your own home.
Waiting for that one person who will never come.
Isolated and unnoticed by the busy people all around you.
Longing for someone to break the lonely silence.

Where are you Lord Jesus, on this special night?
Are you hungry, thirsty and homeless?
With no idea when you will next get a meal.
Desperate for a drink of clean water.
Waiting for a rich World to drop a few pence in the
collection box.
Too exhausted to cry out at the injustice.

Where are you Lord Jesus, on this special night?
Are you there in the workplace, stressed and anxious?
Pressured to work longer and longer hours in a job you hate.
Worried that you might lose your job.
Where decisions are made based on profit and not people.
Unheard and ignored by those around you.

You are here Lord Jesus, on this special night.
We see you in the face of the street child, the sick and lonely,
You are the patient in the hospital bed,
the grief-stricken neighbour we avoid speaking to.
You are the stressed colleague at the next desk,
our unemployed neighbour.

You are here Lord Jesus, on this special night.
Waiting for us to offer a helping hand, a friendly face, a
shoulder to cry on.
The recipient of our small change in the collecting box.
May we always be ready Lord
to see you in those around us,
and to follow your example as we seek to care.

Dwell with us Lord Jesus, not just on this special night
but through all our bright days and dark nights.

Amen

Vivian Salter

Blood Red

I stopped beside a holly bush
Smothered with berries
Scarce room for a pin
Branches covered
Leaves obscured
Bright in the winter gloom

Blood Red

Gathered for decoration
Trim up the church
Hang the wreath on the door
Links with the distant past
Evergreen
Tokens in mid-winter
Holly berries bright

Blood Red

Not just borrowed
But made our own
Remembering that holy birth
'The word made flesh'
true humanity on earth
life pulsating in human veins

Blood Red

Bethlehem was just the start
a long journey home
Nazareth to Calvary via Gethsemane
Living life to the full
All too short
It ebbed away on the Hill

Blood Red

Yet put of winter gloom
Comes a message of hope
A simple tale
With profound repercussions
Not just for travelling scholars
But local labourers too
Love that is their Life Blood

Life Blood

Y Mochyn Daear

Eucharistic Prayer for Advent

based on the Great O Antiphons

We thank you, God,
for your wisdom, that from the beginning
ordered the universe and shaped the earth.
We thank you that of old
you showed yourself to Moses in the burning bush
and revealed to him the law on Sinai.
We thank you for your promise spoken through the prophets
of the One who was to come,
to open doors long closed
to bring deliverance from slavery and death.
He is the king of all the nations
binding all in one;
his name shall be Immanuel, God with us,
for whose coming we prepare.
Therefore with all your people in heaven and on earth
we sing the triumphant hymn of your glory:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

When he appeared among us
he brought light and hope to all in darkness.
His judgements were all mercy
his power was shown in words and acts of love.
He welcomed sinners and outcasts
and made them glad with his presence.
But Satan entered into human hearts
and pursued him to the death.
We thank you that death could not hold him,
that he rose again, ascended into heaven,
and that he will come again
to establish for ever his kingdom of justice and peace.

[The Lord Jesus on the night he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said: 'This is my body which is broken for you. Do this is remembrance of me.' In the same way he took the cup also after supper, saying: 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.']
Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We pray that you will send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts of bread and wine, that we may taste his death and resurrection and serve him through our earthly journey. May he dawn upon the darkness of our time; may we be ready to receive him when he comes in glory and you are all in all, one God in Trinity of love.

Amen

Colin Thompson

Eucharistic Prayer for Christmas

Light in our darkness
Guide in our wandering
Friend in our loneliness,
one God of wisdom, power and love:
when the night was half spent
the all-powerful Word leapt from your royal throne
and came to dwell among us in great humility,
to seek and to save the lost.
Born of Mary, naked and poor,
he shone in our darkness
he revealed the way to the Father
befriending sinners, gently calling us to follow.

He is the longed-for Saviour,
in whom all human hope and longing finds fulfilment;
in whom all outcasts find welcome and shelter.
Therefore with all your people in heaven and on earth
we sing the triumphant hymn of your glory:
**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

For his kingdom of justice and peace
he gave up his life.
His love would not let us go
even in the darkest hour.
He was raised at break of day
and his light shines for ever in our midst, undimmed.
He is present with us in this sign of love
which he shared with his disciples
on the dark night of his Passion.

[The Lord Jesus on the night he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said: 'This is my body which is broken for you. Do this is remembrance of me.' In the same way he took the cup also after supper, saying: 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.']
Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

May the fire of the Holy Spirit
come upon these gifts of bread and wine
that they may stay our hunger and our thirst
through his body and his blood.
May the power of that same Spirit
touch our dying loves and raise them to a flame
until the darkness is no more:
through him who was and is and is to be,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Colin Thompson

God of Surprises

God of surprises who is not locked up by our narrow
thinking or small ways, we pray
For small children waiting for big presents
Especially for those whose parents are poor

God of surprises changing the world we live in and calling us
to new ways of being, we pray
For families who do not enjoy being together
Especially for homes where there is violence

God of surprises born to be a man on the earth and calling
us to use the earth well, we pray
For those who put themselves at risk who chain themselves
to ships and lie on train tracks
We pray for the green warriors, for the challenging ones who
work with you but outside respectable society.

God of surprises,
Surprise us at this season because we are used to you and
some are even faintly bored
God who walked the earth we pray in your name

Amen

Lesley Charlton

Sting in the Tail

There's always that sting in the tail with God.
Just when you think you've got it worked out,
 back he comes with something you hadn't thought of.
Something so blindingly obvious, but still you'd missed it –
 well, I'd missed it –
 and you're pulled up short
 and made to think again.

This Christmas thing, for example.
The carols seemed to say it all.
 "Joy to the World."
 "Christians awake, salute the happy morn."
And there's many more, of course.
So very – well, collective, somehow.

God reconciled with all sinners.
Christ came to save the world.
And of course that's right.
God did come to this world for everyone;
 his message is for all people, everywhere.

And somehow, I managed to lose myself in the crowd.
That word: "Everyone" – such an all embracing term
And so comforting at times.
You don't have to think too much about it;
You know it's large, comprehensive – and that's it.

Perhaps it's a bit impersonal at times,
 but you know what it means;
 it takes in my neighbours, the people in the next road,
 everyone out there in the High Street,
 in the next town or city;
 we know it takes in other countries –
 across the channel, across the oceans,
 other cultures, other continents.
Yes – everyone.

And you think you've got it sussed.

Then God whispers in your ear; quietly, as he always does.
And you realise there's a bit you've missed.
Everyone includes "me".
God came for *me*.
Not just me, but I'm part of "everyone"
And so God came for me.

And that's not always quite so cosy.
I can't hide under this "everyone" blanket all the time.
The impersonal suddenly becomes very personal.
If God came in his love for all people,
 then he came in his love for me.
And how should I respond to that?
And how *do* I respond to that?

Perhaps I need to think *that* through a bit more.
Perhaps I need to thank God a bit more.
Perhaps I need to understand what "God's love for me"
really means.
And to see the manger in a new light this Christmas time.

Brian Hudson

Eucharistic Prayer for Epiphany

Creator who called light into being,
Light shining in our darkness,
Fire of transforming love:
we praise you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
for the beauty of your creation,
the cost of our redemption,
the power of your renewing love.
Your love is without limit,
your purpose knows no boundaries.
We thank you that you made the first of your covenants
made with Noah and every living thing;
that you called to yourself a people
to be a light for all the nations;
that you also called others who did not know you:
Rahab the harlot, who sheltered Israelites;
Ruth, a faithful stranger in Israel and mother of kings;
Cyrus the Babylonian Emperor,
whom you used to accomplish your will.
From out of your chosen people
and from those whom you were pleased to call
you raised up your Son to shine in our darkness,
whose showing forth we celebrate with joy.
Therefore with all your people in heaven and on earth
we sing the triumphant hymn of your glory:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

For he too loved outcasts and sinners:
he made streams of living water flow
for the woman of Samaria at the well;
he healed the daughter of a Canaanite woman
because he saw her faith was great.
Yet he was despised, rejected by his own:
evil powers pursued him to the death

and darkness covered the whole land.
But yours is a light no darkness can overcome:
the flame of your love burned bright on Calvary
to change death into everlasting life.

Our age-old sickness was healed
and of that healing this bread and wine is the sign.

[The Lord Jesus on the night he was betrayed
took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said:
'This is my body which is broken for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.'
In the same way he took the cup also after supper, saying:
'This cup is the new covenant in my blood.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.
For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup,
you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.']

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

May the living flame of your love
transform these gifts of bread and wine
that they become for us the body and blood of Christ
and so nourish our lives
that we shine as light amid the dark places of the earth.
And when all your purpose is complete,
may all your scattered children come with joy
into the house of prayer for all the nations
and the whole creation join to sing your praise
through Jesus Christ and in the Spirit evermore,

Amen

Colin Thompson

Epiphany – A Prayer of Confession

Child of the promise to Mary
forgive our lack of hope and vision
and our failure to believe the good news you bring.
Child of the annunciation
have mercy upon us.

Child for whom there was no room in the inn
forgive our judgement of others
our finding no room for them in our heart.
Child of the stable and manger
have mercy upon us.

Child of poverty and humility
forgive our love of wealth and power
and the slavery in which they hold us.
Child of the gift of gold
have mercy upon us.

Child of miracle and wonder
forgive our spoiling of the beauty of the world
and our failure to live holy lives.
Child of the gift of frankincense
have mercy upon us.

Child of great sorrow to come
forgive our fear of pain, suffering and death
and the despair which tempts us and haunts us.
Child of the gift of myrrh
have mercy upon us.

Child of poverty and persecution
forgive our complicity in systems which crush others
and condemn the innocent to death.
Child of the wrath of Herod
have mercy upon us.

Child with nowhere to lay your head
forgive our indifference to the homeless
and to the plight of refugees.
Child of the flight into Egypt
have mercy upon us.

Epiphany

The star was there in the sky for all to see –
but not everyone saw it.
Just those men with open and enquiring minds.

A bit like the shepherds –
only a few heard the message of the angels
and came to see the baby in the crib.

The rest of the world got on with its work,
unaware, blind to the immensity of what was happening.

Save us, Lord, from being so busy
that we don't see the star in the sky,
that we don't hear the angels bringing your message.

Forgive us when we miss the immensity of your incarnation.

Open our eyes to the truth and reality of what your birth means,
not just as a December treat, soon to be forgotten,
but as a guiding light for the months of the new year
and as a message to lead us, all the days of our life.

Brian Hudson

Lent to Pentecost



An Opening Prayer

Lord God, your commitment to us is clear:
We see it in the life of Jesus.
Your commitment to us is complete:
We see it in the crucifixion of Jesus.

Our commitment to you is often mixed:
What do we want for ourselves?
What shall we give to you?
With what measure of love shall we serve you?

Help us now, in this time of Lent,
To walk with Jesus on his Calvary journey,
That our commitment may be clear
And our love complete.

Duncan Tuck

Hold Us Tight Lord

Take us Lord, to the end of the road.
Take us Lord, to the cross.
Lead us Lord, to the centre of our being
Lead us Lord, where things fall apart
where people are denied life.

Hold us tight Lord, as we cry out for peace.
Hold us tight Lord and shoulder our burden at your cross.

Vaughan Jones

During Lent

Opening Scripture: Psalm 40

Patiently I waited for the Lord;
he bent down to me and listened to my cry.

**He raised me out of the miry pit,
out of the mud and clay;**

he set my feet upon rock
and gave me a firm footing.

**On my lips he put a new song,
a song of praise to our God.**

**Happy are those
who put their trust in the Lord. Amen**

Prayer of Approach

With what great heart, dear God,
do you love the world.

We are the people you made,
yours is the earth we walk
and all the good things we have
come from you.

**You are not only the origin of our life
but the source of our strength and hope.**

**We are glad to meet you here
where heaven and earth combine**

**in this bread and wine
to spell out your purpose and your love
in Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen**

Prayer

Again you come, dear Lord,
the table is set,
the bread is baked,
the wine is poured,
and you await your friends.

brief silence.

**But all is not right with us,
we feel it and cannot escape it..
We know we are not invited
because we are worthy
but because you are gracious.
Nonetheless,
we wish we were more ready to meet with you.**

Frustrations accumulate,
differences go unresolved
and our best intentions come to nothing.

**Called to take up our cross
we have barely picked up our feet.
We wonder how can you find pleasure
in our company?**

And yet you do.

**So set a table in our hearts,
and call it acceptance.
Spread a cloth
and call it forgiveness.
Come and sit with us, Lord,
where we are,
as you always do. Amen.**

A Prayer after Communion

Bread is broken,
 and his love revealed,
Wine is poured,
 and the promise sealed.
Hands reach out,
 and lives are filled,
Hope is born
 and conflict stilled.
Christ who entered sin and death
 is now our life, our very breath.

Duncan Wilson

Eucharistic Prayer for Lent

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal:

Have mercy upon us.

In the beginning your Spirit moved across waste and void
and you formed a world of wonderful beauty out of nothing.

You called forth life in many forms;
you looked on all that you had made
and saw that it was good.

Yet we could not bear to live in harmony with your will.

We spoiled the beauty of creation;

we lost the peace you gave us,
and still we pollute and we destroy.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal:

Have mercy upon us.

Out of this lawless world you called a people to be your light;
you fed them in their wanderings and gave to them your Law.

Many prophets called them to repentance;

few were those who heard them
and walked the paths of justice and of peace.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal:

Have mercy upon us.

Finally you sent your own beloved Son.

His was a birth both poor and humble,
yet earth rejoiced and heaven sang.

Therefore with all your people in heaven and on earth
we sing the triumphant hymn of your glory:

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Before he began his great work of healing

your Spirit led him into the wilderness

where he was tempted as we are, yet without sin.

Faithfully he walked the way of his Cross;

lovingly opened his arms in death to reconcile both earth
and heaven.

Yet he was rejected and despised.

Even his disciples fled in that dark hour;
only faithful women saw him give up his life.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal:

Have mercy upon us.

Yet in your infinite mercy he was given to us
to bear and to heal the sin of the world,
to rise from the darkness of death
and to flood the world with light and hope.
In him the wastelands of our earth and of our hearts
grow fresh and green and break forth into song:
for he has broken the hold of sin and death
and the gates of paradise stand open before us.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal:

Have mercy upon us.

[The Lord Jesus on the night he was betrayed
took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said:
'This is my body which is broken for you.

Do this in remembrance of me.'

In the same way he took the cup also after supper, saying:

'This cup is the new covenant in my blood.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup,
you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.']

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

May the Spirit who moved across the waste and void
descend upon these gifts of bread and wine
that they may be for us the fruits of his Passion,
his body and his blood, given for the life of the world.

May your power be made perfect in our weakness;

may your purpose be accomplished through us,

until the pain and hurt of all creation

finds healing through the wounded Christ:

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal:

Have mercy upon us.

Colin Thompson

Passion Sunday

Opening Scripture: Psalm 130

Lord, out of the depths have we called unto you,

Lord, hear our cry.

If you, Lord, kept account of sins,

who could stand?

But with you is forgiveness,

so that you may be revered.

We wait for you more eagerly

than watchmen wait for the morning.

For in you is love unfailing,

and great is your power

to set us free from our sins.

Prayer

Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-4

Dear Lord,

battlefields are not the only graveyards

where the eternal struggles between good and evil

have been fought.

Human hearts are also heavy

with the dead weight of failure,

of loves denied and hopes dashed to pieces.

The bright mornings of human goodwill,

raising our spirits,

too often give way

to dark nights of fears and doubts

that drain our confidence and sap our strength.

Sometimes, all that remains

are remains, the shambles of our lives.

But faced with such devastation

we reach out with Ezekiel

to touch the eternal promise

that you will make all things new.

This is our faith

Broken families, failed relationships,
hard work come to nothing:
- an endless variety of hard knocks
do not prevent your grace
from loving new life into being.

This is our hope

Out of the fragments of the past, dear Lord,
build anew your temple within us
and take the sobs and sighs of grief or regret
and make of them the first breaths
of our re-creation.

**This is our prayer,
for you are the bringer of life.**

Amen.

Duncan Wilson

Palm Sunday

Scripture: Isaiah 42 paraphrased

The servant whom God upholds is coming,
the chosen one in whom God delights.

**On him God's Spirit firmly rests,
by him God's justice will be done.**

He will not shout or raise his voice.

He will not falter or be crushed.

In him God's holy arm is bared.

Through him God's sure salvation comes.

Then let the watchers shout for joy

and let the desert places sing!

Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a

Prayer

Gracious and patient God.

it can be hard to bear rejection at any time
but especially so

when we are trying to give our best to others.

Like your Servant,

we have sought to console the weary
with a timely word –

and in a busy world,

to follow the Maker's instructions,

to sharpen our ears to your voice,

and to shrug off life's knocks, if we can, with a smile.

Today we rejoice in the final journey

of the Prince of hard knocks,

the Servant King –

who bore so patiently

his fragile and short-lived popularity,

the unpredictability of his followers

and the lonely walk towards our salvation.

Teach us, therefore,
with him,
to lift our eyes
to that greater purpose
you cherish for all humanity
compared to which
all present discomfort with our fractious world
fades into insignificance.

May there be no halting to lick our wounds,
rather, forgetting what lies behind,
may we press towards the goal of his eternal kingdom.

Prayer

Ride on,
carpenter King,
uneasy in your majesty.
Open your heart to the people's welcome
and ride your donkey
through their brief glimpse of glory.

**And show us,
who dip our palms in homage
the things that honour peace,
as mounted in humility,
you proclaim the reign of God.**

Enter our world
of strutting armies and commercial empires
and cure our addiction
to worldly notions of power and glory.

**Come,
cry over our cities,
the endless trail of refugees,
the tragic list of human atrocities,
the raping of our silent planet
until your pathway of peace
makes headway in our stony hearts
and stirs our stale assumptions.**

Then may your kingdom Come – **not ours;**
and your will be done – **not ours;**
for yours is the power and glory – **not ours.**

**And may our hosannas
no longer sound the hollow note
of those who join in the singing
but not the striving.
But with sincerity and truth
may the gates of our hearts be open
to receive you,
our humble,
patient,
servant king.**

A Meditation

Make no sound, gentle beast,
but firmly place your hooves
on what becomes,
even as you pass,
ground made more holy
by your precious burden.
Even the stones
(he says so himself)
are bursting to shout 'hosanna!'

For this is not a day
for keeping praise
locked up
in the dungeon
of our despair.
Then let it out –
all that longing
for one, just One Chosen,
to take hold of the reins
of our weary existence;
someone worth following
who tells no lies
but lives the truth so well
that he will even die

to plant its seed
in out little plot of hope and love.
Go gently, then,
towards his Jerusalem
and our salvation.

Duncan Wilson

Good Friday

Father, Forgive Them, They Know Not What They Do.

A long night.
Interrogations,
Anger
Mocking
The cup is there, waiting to be drunk.
Brutality and expediency are taking their course.
Now is the time for hiding,
for counting the cost of denial,
Being numbered amongst the betrayers.

Such love,
such sacrifice.
A love that is willing to be broken,
shattered, eliminated,
whilst we fade away into the night of Jerusalem,
too scared by the cost of discipleship
too afraid to take the ultimate risk of giving all into God's hands.

We have not changed Lord.
On countless Good Fridays
We have wielded the hammer,
driven in the nails,
pushed down the crown of thorns
The evidence is all around –
the jagged edges of broken relationships,
the distended bellies of the starving,
the holes in the ozone layer.

Praise be to God
That you have not changed Lord,
On countless Good Fridays
You let our sins nail you to cruel, unyielding crosses,
Your love unbreaking,
powerful beyond our imagining
in powerlessness.

And from your love flows forgiveness
and new opportunity

Lord, we confess our sins,
and we crave your forgiveness

Hear the words of Jesus:
- Father, forgive them, they know not what they do.

David G Cornick

Good Friday I

Opening Scripture: Romans 4

It was while we were still helpless that,
at the appointed time,
Christ died for us whilst we were sinners
and that is proof of God's love towards us.

And so, since we have been made right
by Christ's sacrificial death,
we shall all the more certainly be saved through him.

We exult in God
through our Lord Jesus

for he has won our reconciliation.

Meditation

How many times, dear Lord,
you must have wished for blessed solitude -
from the daily demands of people hungry for hope,
 anxious for healing or reassurance –
 a crust, a touch, a word from God.
And then the constant surveillance
 of hostile eyes and ears
 and the nagging drip
 of disapproval.

What wouldn't you give, just now,
for one friendly, familiar face or voice!

You expected it would come to this
 and in the Garden it is finally settled.
Among the olives
 you have wrapped your love
 around the fragments of humanity,
 the discards and disasters,
 and borne the gross weight
 of history's damned, appalling record.

This is your cup.
It will cost you everything.
But we cannot ask it not to do.
Our life is hidden in your death,
our hope in your despair.
In the very moment
when you feel you are forsaken, poured out,
generations are graced into life.

Duncan Wilson

Good Friday 2

Opening Scripture: paraphrased

John 12

Jesus said:
in very truth I tell you,
unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies,
it remains a solitary seed and nothing more;
but if it dies, it bears a rich harvest.

Whoever loves himself is lost,
but he who disregards himself in this world
will be kept safe for eternal life.
If anyone would serve me, they must follow me;
where I am is where my servant will be.

Now my soul is in turmoil and what am I to say?
'Father save me from this hour?'
No, it was for this very purpose that I came to this hour.

Now is the hour of judgement for this world;
now shall the prince of this world be driven out.
And when I am lifted up from the earth
I shall draw everyone to myself.

This he said to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

2 Corinthians 5

For anyone united to Christ,
there is a new creation:
the old order has gone,
the new order has already begun.

God was in Christ
reconciling the world to himself
no longer holding our misdeeds against us.

Christ was innocent of sin,
and yet God made him one
with the sinfulness of humanity

so that in him
we might be made one
with the righteousness of God.

Prayers of Approach

- 1.** We gather to worship, O God,
under the shadow of the cross,
sign of human shame and symbol of divine grace.
Like Jesus, we would follow faithfully
the way you set before us;
like Jesus we would die to self and live for you.
Here we offer you our worship and our lives.
May your name, so often derided by our world,
and sometimes dishonoured by our own actions,
be praised throughout your church
as we open ourselves to your love and mercy;
through Jesus our Lord. Amen

- 2.** At the foot of the cross
we gather, dear God,
to witness again
the dying of your Son,
our friend,
our saviour,
Jesus.

We came also to bear witness
how his suffering and death
touch and change us,
save and redeem us.

Beyond words of explanation
we know
that he is here, upon the cross,
on account of his love for us
and people everywhere.

Therefore
we are not here as voyeurs
of some grotesque drama,
nor mourners come too early for the wake,
but suppliant of his mercy
with hearts grieving,
yet more grateful
than prayers can express.

This, then, is our simple offering,
that we keep faith,
so far as we may,
and watch with him,
even over him
for your sake. Amen.

Duncan Wilson

Good Friday - Evening

Scripture: Ephesians 1 and 2 paraphrased

Blessed be the God and Father
of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Before the foundation of the world
he chose us in Christ to be his people,
to be full of love.

In Christ our release is secured
and our sins forgiven
through the shedding of his blood.
In the richness of his grace
God has lavished on us
all wisdom and insight.

God has made known his secret purpose,
that the universe,
everything in heaven and on earth,
might be made one in Christ.
In our natural condition
we lay under the condemnation of God.
But God, rich in mercy,
and because of his great love towards us,
brought us to life with Christ
when we were dead because of our sins;
It is by grace we are saved.

Prayer

We gather, dear God, as evening falls
to recount the events of this day
and to keep a vigil over our dying Lord.

We come to bear witness
to One whose whole life
was lived in the light of your truth and love.
We come, if we may, to keep faith with him
in his loneliest hour, to show our thankfulness,
and to mark his self-less sacrifice. Amen

Duncan Wilson

Easter

Lord My Heart Sings

Lord my heart sings,
Like the blackbird,
Feathered flautist,
Serenading the snowdrops,
Heralding the spring.

Lord my soul leaps
Like a hare,
Bounding across the fields.
Bursting with energy,
Heralding the spring.

Lord my spirit soars,
Like a bird, high above,
Descending to gather twigs,
Build a nest,
Heralding the spring.

Lord my hearts sinks,
Plummeting into black despair,
Caught in a severe late frost,
Confronted with a sealed tomb,
Winter with no hope of spring.

Lord, bird song proclaims your victory,
Light floods the garden,
Revealing an empty grave,
Christ is Risen!
My heart sings.

Risen Lord, you sprang forth,
Strode out,
Into all the world,
Meeting people on their own patch,
My soul leaps.

Living Lord, we are uplifted!
Filled with joy and hope
Legacy of your costly victory,
Gaining direct access to God.
My spirit soars.

Lord my heart sings,
A glorious Easter Anthem,
Proclaiming Christ is Risen,
Happiness surges within me,
Lord, I will never stop singing.

Y Mochyn Daear

Easter Morning

Wow!
Amazing,
stupendous,
incredible,
remarkable,
startling,
marvellous,
wonderful,
glorious,
splendid,
superb,
astounding,
astonishing,
stunning,
fantastic,
extraordinary.
Jesus Christ is risen!
Hallelujah!

Nigel Warner

Easter Day

Creative God,
you turn the shadow of death
into the brightness of a new morning
lift our hearts and minds
with the hope and joy
of the Easter Gospel;
you transform the suffering of earth
into the wholeness of heaven
heal our brokenness and division
with the peace and love
of the Easter Gospel;
you transpose the injustice of society
into the pattern of friendship
change our selfishness and suspicion
with the truth and trust
of the Easter Gospel.

Jesus,
no longer sealed by stone in death
but revealed as Redeemer of life,
you live in us!

Jesus,
no longer mocked as misguided Messiah
but celebrated as cosmic Christ,
you live in us!

Jesus,
no longer banished as a has-been
but transformed into today's truth,
you live in us!

Holy Spirit, breath of life,
re-awaken us to powers of good;
renew us in practices of forgiveness;
refresh us for patterns of praise.

This is the day that God has made.

We will rejoice and be glad in it.

Alleluia!

Amen

Terry Oakley

An Easter Prayer

From old wood new life grows.
From death sprouts forth the buds of spring.
And from you, Lord of our hearts,
come all that we need to be your people.
In love you draw us to you.
In grace you offer a way through our sin.
In weakness you show the power of sacrifice.
And here we give ourselves afresh.
We recognise your hold on our lives,
not because you are stronger, or hold all the aces,
but because your love, which knows no end,
nailed you to the cross – for us.
In gratitude, we give you our praise.
We say again – you are our Lord.
We give ourselves to you.
Take us and use us,
for your glory.
Amen

Duncan Tuck

Easter 3

The Risen Christ in Everyday Life

Can it be you, Lord?
The way the sun,
filtering through the leaves
strikes the muddy pool
and makes it gleam,
as if it were clear and clean –
 Can it be you, Lord, doing the same with me?

Can it be you, Lord?
The flicker of recognition
in a stranger's face
that quickens to a smile
as though finding a friend
but not being sure –
 Can it be you, Lord, doing the same with me?

Can it be you, Lord?
The morning paper
dropping through the letter box
a world of misery and deception
in pages of faces
looking up at me,
but surely not in hope ? –
 Can it be you, Lord, doing the same with me?

Can it be you, Lord?
In every moment of the day
a nudge of wondering
if you also pass this way,
not like a ghost, all cold and fear,
but like fresh air, bright light,
warm hand, familiar voice -

It must be you, Lord, coming this way with me.

Duncan Wilson

Easter 4

Reading: John 10:1-11

Prayer Good Shepherd Jesus

Good Shepherd Jesus,
inwardly, we hunger and thirst
but most of the time
no-one suspects we do.
Surrounded by people, even family,
we can still feel isolated, undervalued, even unloved.
We hunger for recognition, intimacy, assurance –
we thirst for absent joy.

Can you, will you, nourish and refresh us,
Good Shepherd Jesus?
Can you, will you, love and cherish us?

We hunger also for peace and for truth.
Our world sets before us a diet of deceptions,
plying us with a thin gruel of empty attractions
and unpalatable attitudes
that neither fill nor feed our spirits,
while daily strife and violent conflict
are meat and drink to a whole generation
of child soldiers and refugees.

Can you, will you, nourish and refresh us,
Good Shepherd Jesus?
Can you, will you, lead us in the paths of truth and peace?

Good Shepherd Jesus,
you lead us and feed us,
you call our names,
you guard our door,
you come between us and evil,
you lay down your life.

We recognise and welcome your voice.
Help us then to follow you,
to reject all impostors and to keep faith with you. Amen

Prayers for Other People

Lord Jesus Christ,
who, in the image of the Good Shepherd
revealed not only your love
but also your responsibility for all humankind,
we would be good shepherds too.

As we have received all creation as a gift from you
and as you have made us brothers and sisters
to one another,
may we watch with you over those people
who are least able to protect themselves.

Make us ready to challenge exploitation and abuse
wherever we find it
and to stand with those who feel powerless
against commercial interest and political greed.

Make us sensitive also
to those whose lives stand to be ruined
by personal experiences of rejection or failure.

In our relationships with others help us to imitate
your gentleness and mercy with us.

Amen.

Duncan Wilson

Easter 5

Opening Scripture: Psalm 31 paraphrased

In you, Lord, is our refuge;
you do not expose us to shame
but by your power you save us,
you bend and hear us
and hasten to our rescue:
You lead and guide
where evil will not ensnare us
and, therefore, in you we put our trust
and your face shines upon your servants
with unfailing love.

Amen.

The Gospel: John 14:1-14 'Put your fears to rest'

Prayer

We do worry, dear Lord,
especially about fending for ourselves
when the guidance and confidence
of leaders we have come to depend upon,
is no longer near at hand.
For some it may be the loss of a mother or a son,
for others, a friend or a teacher.
Like your disciples,
we are uncertain about the future,
our own abilities and strengths
and how to make the right decisions.

Therefore, we are glad of your assurance
that you will not leave us bereft,
also that you will send your own spirit,
whose power and gifts are endless,
to be our encourager.

It does not seem possible that any one of us
might do greater things than you
yet we see from history how great have been the deeds
of those who put their trust in you.

Therefore, our prayer is
that we may hold nothing back,
but learn to take you at your word,
and expect you to work wonders even through us.

Help us to test our desires and motives
so that we may want only
that which honours your name
and serves your loving purpose for our world.

May we not shrink back when we realise
what it may cost for our hopes, and your will,
to become a reality.
Amen.

Prayers for Peace

Lord Jesus,
sometimes we feel that the world is falling apart.
Perhaps every generation has thought the same.
We see the breakdown of family ties,
the gradual erosion of community,
and poor people cast adrift
by a world more wealthy than ever before.
But your life and teaching strike a different note
that calls for building each other up.

Help us find ways to do this.

Give us grace

to discover you in both friend and stranger,
to accept other people with open hand and heart,
to be ready to share whatever we have.

Help us to say and do

whatever will give people greater confidence in you
and help them realise how much you care.

Help us make fast with bonds of peace

the unity which your Spirit gives.

Amen

Duncan Wilson

Easter 6

Prayer

As so often happens, dear Lord
you come to us when least expected,
when we are busy and preoccupied
and least inclined to turn to you.

It makes us wonder
at the depth of your thoughtfulness,
your anticipation of our moods.

God of surprises,
come near when least expected
and make ordinary moments bright.

As to Peter and Thomas, and all their friends,
so to us you come
with every dawn and breakfast table.
You spread the feast of your love and goodness before us
and the failure of our labours melts away.
Just when we are looking back at wasted effort,
or facing the day empty handed,
you turn disappointment into anticipation.

Tired or discouraged,
your companionship transforms us.

God of surprises,
show us how good can come
even from 'lost causes'.

When, therefore,
we encounter others in our daily lives
who are heavy with things gone wrong
or at odds with the world,
put something in our hands or our hearts,
or in our conversations,
that may give to them what you have given us –
your unconditional acceptance,

the assurance of your love,
and real purpose for the future.

God of surprises,
Show us that we always have something to give
though it may take some finding.

Amen.

Duncan Wilson

Eucharistic Prayer for Easter

responsive passages from the 'Exultet'

Living God, out of chaos and darkness
your creative word called light into being
and life in all its fulness.

Though in the garden we chose to disobey you
and death entered our world
you are the bringer of life from the places of death.
You saved Noah and his family from the Flood
and passed over the children of Israel
when death struck the firstborn of Egypt.

You led your people out
from slavery in Egypt and exile in Babylon.
You saved Jonah from the belly of the whale
and Daniel from the lions' den.

By your power Sarah and Hannah brought forth sons
and Ruth the stranger became the mother of kings.

Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!

Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendour!

Christ has conquered! Jesus Christ our King is risen!

Glory fills you! Darkness vanishes for ever!

Rejoice, O Mother Church!

The risen Saviour shines upon you!

**Let this place resound with joy,
echoing the mighty song of all God's people!**

Therefore with all your people in heaven and on earth
we sing the triumphant hymn of your glory:

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Born on a dark night,
during his life on earth
the light of your Son's presence
brought hope to the lost
and healing to the sick.
He preached good news to the poor
and ate with sinners.
For this he was pursued to the death.

[For this, the Lord Jesus on the night he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said:

‘This is my body which is broken for you.

Do this is remembrance of me.’

In the same way he took the cup also after supper, saying:

‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.‘]

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We praise you that the darkness could not hold him
for he was raised at dawn
to bring new life to the world.

**By his power sin is purged,
innocence restored to the fallen,
joy to the mourners;**

hatred is vanquished, tyranny laid low;

**harmony reigns, heaven and earth are united
and humanity is reconciled with God.**

The Morning Star has risen, never again to set.

His light is become our light; his Spirit is ours;
may our lives shine with the radiance of his glory
and this bread and wine lead us to the feasting of the Kingdom,
where we shall be raised up to see him face to face,
in the glory of the blessed Trinity, through all ages.

Amen.

Colin Thompson

Pentecost

Pentecost

Lord, we come with expectancy on this Pentecost Sunday when we remember how the Holy Spirit first came to the disciples filling them with power and courage. We praise you for the strength and purpose given to them that day to tell others about you. Fill us too Lord as we worship this morning and may we too be given the strength and courage to witness for you in our world.

Jennifer Martin

Spirit of Love, Joy, Peace

Sung Response: Ubi Caritas

Spirit of Love, you pour out your life into young and old,
we pray for all those who are vulnerable, marginalised,
and abused because of their age.

May your love inspire our love in our community
so that all are included.

Ubi Caritas

Spirit of joy, you pour our your energy into the poor and
oppressed,

we pray for all those who are exploited, downtrodden,
and made slaves because of our economy.

May your joy of freedom drive our work for justice
so that all are liberated

Ubi Caritas

Spirit of peace, you pour out your comfort into all who
are in conflict,

we pray for all those who are caught up in war, violence
and estranged because of hostility.

May your peace lead us towards reconciliation,
so that all are living in unity.

Ubi Caritas

Terry Oakley

Peace-making Christ

Jesus said to them 'Peace be with you.'

Peace making Christ,
Our world is racked with violence and disquiet.
The politics of terror and calculated response
Leave behind rivers of broken lives and tormented consciences.
The pressures of living gather like storm clouds
And sometimes they break and batter and bruise us,
Driving us to the very edge.

We come open-handed,
Eager for your gift of peace,
Ready to be enfolded in your Father's blessing,
Longing to see the universe from the perspective of your love
And know in the depths of our souls
That you are Lord
And that all shall be well
And every manner of thing be well.

Lord, give us the gift of peace.

Jesus said to them, 'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.'

Commissioning Christ,
Uncertainty reigns.
There is no centre any longer.
People turn this way and that,
Seeking a fulfilment which always eludes them,
Their laughter tinged with sadness,
Their success haunted by hollowness.

The world needs your Word,
For in it lies the Truth
That all life is woven from your Father's love,
And that meaning is to be found in returning to him
And living lovingly.

So we pray for your church,
The bearers of your commission.
We give thanks for this place
Where your word has been spoken and heard
Your comfort received and your challenge heeded.
We ask that you will send us out again
To be bearers of your love and heralds of your Word
That the world may hear and rejoice.

Lord commission us anew.

‘He breathed on them, and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit”’

Pentecostal Christ,
The task seems overwhelming,
Our resources so slender
Just as once it did in Jerusalem,
The world hustling and bustling,
Speaking every language but yours.

Then the breath of your Spirit
Transformed weakness into strength,
Forging the world’s hope from the crucible of despair,
Reversing Babel
With good news which each heard in their own language.

Touch us with Pentecostal fire,
Breathe your Spirit into our lives.

David G Cornick

Transforming Spirit

Gentle breath of God,
whispering comfort to our ears,
bringing messages of hope and healing,
speaking truth and building confidence
come and inspire us now.

Strong wind of God, blowing love through the nations
of earth,
challenging injustice and confronting violence
stirring change and bringing liberation,
come and move us now.

Hurricane of God,
sweeping purposefully across the universe,
overturning deceit and hate,
removing hunger and poverty,
eradicating inequality,
come and change us now.

Terry Oakley

Blessed Be you Spirit of God

Blessed be you Spirit of God
for you inspire us, you renew our life
you restore our faith and revive our love.
Blessed be you Breath of God
for you inspire us, you remove our selfishness
you relieve our stuffiness and redeem our situation.
Blessed be you Wind of God
for you inspire us, you redirect our priorities
you recharge our enthusiasm and refill our hopes.
Blessed be you, Spirit of God,
for you rouse, refresh, reinvigorate us.
Amen

Terry Oakley

Come, Holy Spirit

Come, Holy Spirit, come air, wind and breath of God,
fill us with new life, waken us to unexpected possibilities,
speak to us your Word of Good News.
Whisper tenderly forgiveness, blow away cobwebs of fear,
inspire our songs of faith.
Come, Holy Spirit, come air, wind and breath of God,
in the name of Jesus we meet
and call for you to be present with us.
Amen

Terry Oakley

Come, Breath of God

Come, Breath of God inspire us,
remove our selfishness, relieve our stuffiness,
relax our worry.

Come, Wind of God disturb us,
redirect our priorities, recharge our enthusiasm,
refill our hopes.

Come, Spirit of God purify us,
renew our life, restore our faith,
revive our love.

Spirit of God, rest, refresh and rouse us.

When we are frightened, holding our breath,
give us confidence to face our fears.
When we are complacent, careless, apathetic,
shake us up, challenge us to care.
When we are selfish, greedy, hateful,
lead us to remorse and repentance.

Here and now, we acknowledge our need for courage.
Here and now, we ask to be awake to injustice.
Here and now, we confess our sin
and promise renewed commitment in love.
Creative, forgiving, holy God forgive us
and empower us with your Spirit.
Amen

Terry Oakley

Kairos

Mark 13:33

Suddenly it arrived,
Like a violent wind.
Rattling the windows.
Tongues of fire resting on each.
Words are inadequate
To describe this momentous moment.

Spot on. Impeccable timing.
Being in the right place.
At the precise moment.
Anxious awaiting the promised gift.
United in a common purpose.
Resolved to serve.

Even more amazing,
Was the resultant change.
In the gathered few.
No longer afraid.
Unlock the door,
Got out into the world.

No longer tongue tied.
Speak out boldly.
Proclaim the truth.
To those who want to hear
Good news for every one
The Risen Christ is Lord.

Y Mochyn Daear

Trinity

God –
Your love surrounds us
Christ –
Your peace enfolds us
Spirit –
Your breath awakens us

Vaughan Jones

God, Christ, Spirit

God,
fire - setting us ablaze
sap – flowing through our veins
ground - rooting us to the earth

Christ,
truth - planting truth within
word - encouraging our speech
heart - awakening us to love

Spirit,
cord - linking us to the stars and to the earth
breath - harmonising our breathing
guide - pointing us to God

Worship with us – God, Christ and Spirit,
unifying us each with the other
and each to all that is beyond our knowing.
Amen

Vaughan Jones

Eucharistic Prayer for Trinity Sunday

Trinity of power, wisdom and love,
God from all eternity, present in every passing moment,
we give you thanks for the wonders of creation
and for the story of your constant love.
With Moses before the burning bush
words fail us in your presence.
With Naomi we have been in exile, knowing hunger and loss;
with Ruth we have come home, but as strangers to your law.
With Isaiah in the temple, we cannot bear the vision of
your holiness
and long for your fire to burn away our sin.
Knowing our need and hearing our cry
you came to embrace our humanity
and in the longed-for Christ
tasted deep of our joys and sorrows.
Therefore with all your people in heaven and on earth
we sing the triumphant hymn of your glory:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Yet we drove him out from among us,
and he whose dying words were of forgiveness
was made the victim of our sin.
From the silence and darkness of death he rose;
his victory is ours by faith,
proclaimed and shared in this, the harvest of his sacrifice.

[The Lord Jesus on the night he was betrayed
took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it
and said:

‘This is my body which is broken for you.

Do this is remembrance of me.’

In the same way he took the cup also after supper, saying:

‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.
For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup,
you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.’]

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Come, Creator God: renew the face of the earth.
Come, eternal Word of the Father: remake us in your likeness.
Come, Holy Spirit: transform these gifts and our lives
that here on earth we may sing the songs of the new creation
and in heaven see your glory,
one God, for ever and ever.

Amen

Colin Thompson

Eucharistic Prayer for the Transfiguration

We praise you, almighty God,
Creator, Redeemer, Giver of life.
that amid the shadows of our journey you make yourself known.
You brought order and beauty out of primeval chaos;
you gave a child of promise to Abraham and Sarah;
you summoned Moses from the burning bush to fight injustice
and in cloud and darkness revealed your will on Sinai.
Hannah and Manoah saw you in ascending flame,
your name too wonderful to speak.
Elijah knew you in a still, small voice;
you called Isaiah when the temple shook
and touched his lips with fire.
He heard the seraphim calling as they flew,
and we too join their song of praise:
Therefore with all your people in heaven and on earth
we sing the triumphant hymn of your glory:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed was that hour when the Dayspring from on high
dawned upon us, full of grace and truth.
We praise you that your Son was born of Love
to dwell among us;
for the beauty of his parables and his acts of healing power.
Truly his words and deeds shone in our midst,
signs of a love which sought us when we were far from home.
On the mountain his disciples saw his glory for a moment
as he spoke with Moses and Elijah,
yet they could not understand.
Soon they forsook him and fled,
when he was led out to die.
But he came to stand among them in his risen power
and was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.
Now he is ascended to reign on high
and pours out his gifts upon us through his Spirit.

[The Lord Jesus on the night he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said:
'This is my body which is broken for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.'
In the same way he took the cup also after supper, saying:
'This cup is the new covenant in my blood.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.
For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup,
you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.']

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

May his sorrows and his victory go with us
through all our darkness and our doubt,
and transfigure them with the glory of his presence.
May we know Christ in the breaking of this bread
and in the sharing of this wine,
that we may receive him crucified and risen
in the fruits which earth has given and human hands have made.
And, at the last, may we behold him with unclouded eyes
in the new Jerusalem, city of everlasting light,
where with you, Father, and the Holy Spirit,
he reigns throughout the ages.

Amen

Colin Thompson

Strong Spirit Wind

Strong Spirit Wind
blow through all creation,
fill the world with love's transforming power.
Bright Spirit Fire
rest upon your people,
touch each of us with warmth and light.
Translate our weak words
so that all may hear and understand
the Good News of Jesus Christ.
Enthuse the Church
with courage and excitement,
so that people may be challenged and amazed
By your intoxicating joy.
Come, Holy Spirit.

Amen

Peter Trow

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