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# **Worship:** *from*



*The*  
**United  
Reformed  
Church**

ISBN 0 85346 219 4  
© The United Reformed Church, 2003

Published by The United Reformed Church  
86 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9RT  
First published July 2003  
Second printing, October 2003

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Produced and designed by  
Communications and Editorial, Graphics Office

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# Foreword

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## Worship: from the United Reformed Church

These resources for worship are offered to the church as a contribution to the conduct of public worship at the beginning of the 21st century. In 1980, eight years after the foundation of the United Reformed Church, 'A Book of Services' was issued by the Doctrine and Worship Committee under the wise and able guidance of John Huxtable. In his short preface he wrote *'The orders found here are not prescribed. It is not expected that they will be used in our churches to the exclusion of others. Yet we believe most of these services reflect the ethos of our Church and of its inherited traditions'*. These sentiments applied also to the 1989 Service Book and still hold true for this publication.

What has changed at the beginning of the 21st century is the context in which public worship is offered. We now find ourselves in a missionary setting where the church can no longer take for granted that most people understand the religious language and imagery of past generations. Language is changing and the language of worship has to take account of this. Our words may be beautiful and doctrinally sound, but if they are not *'something understood'*, they do not aid our worship. There is, of course, a measure of ambiguity and mystery lying at the heart of the most telling language of worship. However we should aim at clarity as well as elegant expression. We should be expressing old truths in new ways. We also need the language to express new truths in thoroughly Christian ways. Contemporary liturgists search for such language - and this quest can bring a creative tension with the traditional language of the church.

The current Doctrine, Prayer and Worship Committee has been aware of the need for continuity and change within the worship of the church. We have provided worship resources deeply rooted in our Reformed heritage, along with resources

which develop our liturgical tradition in the spirit of the dictum '*the reformed church is ever in need of reformation*'. We are aware of the breadth of liturgical expression within the church and we have sought to provide a range of styles of services. The rubrics have deliberately been kept to a minimum, thus encouraging worship leaders to develop styles appropriate to their situation. There are exceptions, such as Prayers for Healing and Laying-on of Hands, where it was felt greater guidance would be welcomed. The Baptism Service contains wording required by the General Assembly. It is our hope that all the services act as guides to the development of the worship life of the church, and all to the glory of God.

Part one of this publication includes a new element in the form of an order for Daily Worship. The First Order of Holy Communion and the Baptism service had originally been issued in draft form and the comments received from the church have been taken into account in the final texts. The Committee owes a debt of gratitude to all contributors to this publication, which uses the work of many talented liturgists. It was originally conceived in hardback form but a change was made to loose leaf binder form to aid flexibility of use. The format is designed to cope with anticipated additions and revisions as well as giving worship leaders the opportunity to insert other useful materials. The accompanying CD Rom contains both the published services and a wealth of additional material. Part two will contain services for marriages and funerals, for the ordination and induction of Ministers, for the ordination of Elders, orders for the commissioning of Lay Preachers and Church Related Community Workers and a rededication service, as well as other texts.

The Doctrine, Prayer and Worship Committee expresses thanks to all contributors who made this publication possible: in particular its secretary, Kirsty Thorpe, John Reardon who convened the Drafting sub-committee and Susan Durber convener of the Publication sub-committee; also United Reformed Church staff secretaries John Waller and David Cornick; along with Geoffrey Duncan who is responsible for the CD production, and Carol Rogers, Secretary for Communications.

John A Young, *Convener, Doctrine, Prayer and Worship Committee*

# Introduction to Communion Orders

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The four services presented here reflect the belief of the Reformers that the service of Word and Sacrament is the normative service of the church - as we read in Acts 2:42, 'They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers'.

John Calvin, maintained that any time the church came together to meet it should involve the reading of scripture, preaching and the celebration of the Lord's Supper, or at least every Sunday.

For reasons of history the predecessor denominations of the United Reformed Church (except for the Churches of Christ) have never been, or felt, able to do this. However they never lost sight of the centrality of the service of Word and Sacrament, and even when the Lord's Supper has not been celebrated we still look to that service to provide us with an order for our worship of God.

The first two services have been written especially for this book, and both contain a wealth of new material. The First Order of Holy Communion provides a full order of worship for a service of word and Sacrament with the use of many of the liturgical items found in Rejoice and Sing. The language draws on a very rich range of biblical imagery, especially from the Old Testament. Within the service the Narrative of the Institution (1 Corinthians 11:23-26) may be used as a warrant before the Thanksgiving prayer or included within it, while the former position is traditionally Reformed both practices are ecumenically acceptable. A greater degree of participation by the congregation is allowed for, both in the responses and in physical movement. The service may either be used as it stands or it may be shortened by the omission of some of the suggested items.

The Second Order of Holy Communion is one that is especially suitable when there is a broader range of ages present in the congregation and a less formal service is looked for. The language is simpler and more direct, and the congregational responses can be made by the repetition of phrases.

The Third Order of Holy Communion is taken from the 1989 Service Book and continues the liturgical heritage of the Churches of Christ in our midst. The most noticeable variation from the other services is the way in which the Thanksgiving may be divided so that thanks is given over the bread and it is shared and then a thanksgiving over the wine before it is shared. This reflects the early tradition according to which, at the Last Supper, Jesus said separate prayers over the bread and the wine.

The Fourth Order of Holy Communion is perhaps the most historic of the four services for the United Reformed Church. Usually thought of as the order from New Church Praise, it had appeared shortly before that, being produced at the request of the first United Reformed Church General Assembly in 1973. Primarily the work of James Todd, it drew on material from both the Presbyterian and Congregational churches, and ecumenically from the Joint Liturgical Group of Great Britain. Much of the material used in it can be found at the front of Rejoice and Sing, and the first section of Thanksgiving prayer can be varied to reflect the different seasons and festivals of the church year.



# First Order of Holy Communion

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1. Greeting
2. Sentence
3. Hymn or Psalm
4. Prayer of Approach
5. The Great Commandments
6. Prayer of Confession
7. Assurance of Pardon
8. Lord, have mercy (*Kyrie eleison*)
9. Glory to God (*Gloria in excelsis*)
10. Prayer for Grace or Prayer for the Day
11. Old Testament Reading (Hebrew Scriptures)
12. Psalm, Canticle, Hymn or Sung Response
13. New Testament Reading(s)
14. Sermon
15. Affirmation of Faith
16. Prayers of Intercession
17. The Lord's Prayer
18. Invitation
19. Offertory
20. Narrative of the Institution
21. Prayer of Thanksgiving
22. The Peace
23. The Breaking of the Bread and Pouring of the Wine
24. Lamb of God (*Agnus Dei*)
25. The Sharing of the Bread and the Wine
26. Prayer after Communion
27. Hymn or Psalm
28. Dismissal
29. Blessing

# The Preparation

*The congregation stands as the Bible is brought into the church and placed open upon the lectern, pulpit or communion table. The minister follows and greets the people.*

## 1. Greeting

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Grace to you and peace.**

Romans 1:7

*or*

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

2 Corinthians 13:13

*A Scripture sentence, seasonal or general, may replace the greeting or be used in addition.*

## 2. Sentence

This is the day that the LORD has made;

**let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Psalms 118:24

This is none other than the house of God,

**and this is the gate of heaven.**

Genesis 28:17

*or*

Our help is in the name of the LORD,

**who made heaven and earth.**

Psalms 124:8

## 3. Hymn or Psalm

## 4. Prayer of Approach

God our source and guide and goal:  
you have made us in your image  
and set us in a world full of beauty;  
you dwell in light unapproachable,  
yet you have come to be among us, full of grace and truth;  
you are the power from on high,  
coming in wind and flame to work your wonders in our midst.  
Gracious God, awaken us from sleep  
that we may worship you in spirit and in truth:  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## 5. The Great Commandments

*Alternatively 'A New Commandment' (R&S 745)  
or the Ten Commandments may be used.*

Hear, O Israel:

**The Lord our God, the Lord is one.**

Love the Lord your God  
with all your heart,  
with all your soul,  
with all your mind,  
and with all your strength.

**This is the first and great commandment.**

The second is like it:

Love your neighbour as yourself

**There is no commandment greater than these.**

## 6. Prayer of Confession

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Romans 3:23

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves,  
and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just,  
will forgive us our sins.

1 John 1:8-9a

Jesus says:

I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.

Mark 2:17

Let us confess our sins together  
and seek God's forgiveness.

**Almighty God, we confess before you  
our own sin, the sin of the Church  
and the sin of the world, in which we share.  
We have not loved you with our whole being;  
we have not loved our neighbour as ourselves.  
In your mercy,  
forgive us when we turn from you;  
release us from the burden of our past,  
and remake us in your image and likeness  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

*Silence*

## **7. Assurance of Pardon**

The Lord says: See, I am making all things new.

Revelation 21:5

**If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation.**

2 Corinthians 5:17

In Christ God was reconciling the world to himself

2 Corinthians 5:19

Through him your sins are forgiven.

**Amen. Thanks be to God.**

The Lord also says:

If any want to become my followers,  
let them deny themselves  
and take up their cross and follow me.

Mark 8: 34

*or*

May the God of mercy  
who forgives you all your sins through Jesus Christ  
strengthen you in all goodness  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and keep you in eternal life.

**Amen.**

## **8. Lord, have mercy** *(Kyrie eleison)*

*The Kyries (R&S 5) may be said or sung.*

Lord, have mercy upon us.  
**Christ, have mercy upon us.**  
**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

*or*

Holy God, holy and mighty,  
holy and immortal,  
**have mercy upon us.**

## **9. Glory to God** *(Gloria in excelsis)*

*Settings may be found at R&S 6-8.*

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to God's people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.      Amen.**

## **10. Prayer for Grace or Prayer for the Day**

# The Ministry of the Word

*Appropriate Scripture readings may be found in the Revised Common Lectionary. The readings may be interspersed with hymns or sung responses.*

*Before the reading of Scripture, the first reader may say*

Lord, break the bread of your word among us  
and nourish us with your truth.

*At the end of the readings a response may be used:*

Hear the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

## **11. Old Testament Reading** *(Hebrew Scriptures)*

## **12. Psalm, Canticle, Hymn or Sung Response**

*(E.g. R&S canticles 736-758 or sung responses 394, 395, 397, 403)*

## **13. New Testament Reading(s)**

## **14. Sermon**

*A short silence may be kept after the readings and/or the sermon.*

## **15. Affirmation of Faith**

*An Affirmation of faith or Creed may be said or sung (e.g. R&S 759-761; 36-37, 103, 118, 219, 258, 262, 275, 283, 749, 752.)*

## **16. Prayers of Intercession**

*The intercessions may, if preferred, follow Communion.*

## **17. The Lord's Prayer**

# The Lord's Supper

## 18. Invitation

Let us celebrate this joyful feast.  
People will come from east and west and north and south,  
and sit at table in the kingdom of God.

Luke 13:29

Jesus said: I am the bread of life.  
Whoever comes to me will never be hungry,  
and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.  
Anyone who comes to me I will never turn away.

John 6:35,37

*The invitation may be given in other appropriate words.*

## 19. Offertory

*The bread and the wine may be brought to the table, with the gifts of the people.*

*If the bread and wine are already on the table, they should now be uncovered.*

*The following sentence may be used:*

Brothers and sisters,  
by the mercies of God  
present your bodies as a living sacrifice,  
holy and acceptable to God.

Romans 12:1

*If the Peace is used at this point, the following sentence may be used:*

When you are offering your gift at the altar,  
if you remember that your brother or sister has  
something against you,  
leave your gift there before the altar and go:  
first be reconciled to your brother or sister.

Matthew 5:23-24

*The following prayer may be used:*

Almighty and most merciful God,  
out of the fullness of your gifts  
we bring before you this bread and this wine,  
our gifts and our lives.  
Blessed be your holy name forever,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*or*

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.  
Through your goodness we have this bread to offer,  
which earth has given and human hands have made.  
May it become for us the bread of life.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.  
Through your goodness we have this wine to offer,  
fruit of the vine and the work of human hands.  
May it become for us the cup of salvation.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

**Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.  
Through your goodness  
we have ourselves to offer,  
fruit of the womb, and formed by your love.  
May we become your servants in the world.  
Blessed be God for ever.**

## **20. Narrative of the Institution**

*The narrative may be omitted if it is used as part of the Prayer of Thanksgiving.*

Hear the narrative of the Institution of the Lord's Supper as it is recorded by St Paul.

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of 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 the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

I Corinthians 11:23-26

## 21. Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We offer you thanks, Creator, Saviour, Giver of Life.  
From the beginning you have made yourself known:  
the heavens proclaim your glory and the earth sings your praise.  
In wisdom you made all that is  
and you bless us with earth's fruitfulness.  
You are merciful and gracious, and abounding in love.  
Yet from our first days we have disobeyed your will.  
Long ago you called to yourself a people  
to shine as light to guide all nations to your presence.  
You led them to freedom;  
you revealed to them your Law  
and taught them through your prophets.  
Finally you sent your promised Son, Jesus Christ,  
who shared our human nature and understood our weakness.  
Born of Mary, he showed forth your love by word and sign.

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.**

He sought the unloved and the lost  
and welcomed all who came to him;  
he taught us lessons of forgiveness  
he brought us healing for our sickness,  
and showed us how to live according to your will.  
For this he was rejected,  
for this he endured grief and sorrow,  
for this he gave himself up to death upon the Cross.  
But you broke the power of sin and death  
and raised him to the heights,  
that through the blood of his Cross  
and by the gift of the Holy Spirit  
everything in earth and heaven might be reconciled to you.

[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 the 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.**

*or*

**Dying, you destroyed our death.  
Rising, you restored our life.  
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Come, Creator God: renew the face of the earth;  
come, eternal Saviour: remake us in your likeness;  
come, Holy Spirit, transform these gifts:  
that Christ may be known to us in the breaking of the bread  
and that we may be strengthened to serve him in the world.  
May we on earth be one with all Christ's people,  
and, when all things are complete,

be raised up to be with him,  
[with .... *the saints; those who have died*]  
and with all your faithful servants in the heavenly places,  
the homeland which we seek by faith,  
and where he reigns in glory,  
with you, Father, and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever.

**Amen.**

## 22. The Peace

*A sign of peace may be shared, according to local custom.  
The Peace may be shared earlier in the service, e.g. after the  
Assurance of Pardon or at the Offertory or after Communion.*

The peace of the Lord be with you.

**Peace be with you.**

## 23. The Breaking of the Bread and Pouring of the Wine

*The Narrative of the Institution may be used here if not used earlier.*

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us.

Therefore let us keep the feast.

I Corinthians 5:7

The bread which we break is the communion of the  
body of Christ.

The cup of blessing which we bless is the communion  
of the blood of Christ.

I Corinthians 10:16

*or the Easter Anthems may be said or sung (R&S 748)*

## 24. Lamb of God *(Agnus Dei)*

*Musical settings will be found at R&S 14-16*

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world.

**Have mercy upon us.**

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world.

**Have mercy upon us**

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world.

**Grant us peace.**

*or*

Jesus, Lamb of God:  
**have mercy on us.**  
Jesus, bearer of our sins:  
**have mercy on us.**  
Jesus, redeemer of the world:  
**grant us peace.**

## 25. The Sharing of the Bread and the Wine

Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.  
Blessed are those who are called to the wedding feast of the Lamb.  
**Alleluia.**

*or*

Holy things for a holy people.  
**Only one is holy, the Lord Jesus Christ.**  
**We are made holy in him.**

Take, eat; this is the body of Christ, broken for you.  
Do this in remembrance of him.

This cup is the new covenant in the blood of Christ, shed for you and for all, for the forgiveness of sin.  
Drink of it, all of you, in remembrance of him.

*or*

The body of Christ, given for you.  
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*or*

The bread of heaven in Christ Jesus.  
The cup of salvation in Christ Jesus.

## 26. Prayer after Communion

God of a love stronger than death,  
you have given us new birth into a living hope  
through the gift of your Son.

God with us,  
like a mother you have fed us with yourself  
and strengthened us for journeying ahead.

God of truth and power,  
you take our weakness and our sin  
and refashion us by grace.

**Gracious God,  
may the love which bids us welcome at this table  
gather all your children into one,  
in your eternal presence,  
whole and free at last.**

**Amen.**

## 27. Hymn or Psalm

## 28. Dismissal

Go out into the world with the food of your pilgrimage  
in peace and gladness.

**Thanks be to God for his gift beyond words.**

*or*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ.**

**Amen.**

## 29. Blessing

And the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be with you always.

**Amen.**

## **Prayers of Intercession**

*Responses may be used between the sections. Sung responses will be found at R&S 5, 393, 397, 398, 402). Times of silence may also be left. Where possible two or three different voices may be used. In the prayers for peace, justice and the integrity of creation, candles may be lit for human rights, the peace of the earth, and the harmony of creation.*

Jesus taught his disciples always to pray and not lose heart.

God all just, all merciful,  
your compassion is over all that you have made:

### ***Prayer for the Church***

We pray for your Church throughout the world:  
for its faithfulness in proclaiming the good news,  
for its mission to reach out with Christ's love  
to all who are in need,  
for its witness, to shine as light where darkness prevails,  
for its peace and unity,  
to be a sign of reconciliation in a divided world.  
We pray especially for....  
and for all Christ's people in this place,  
that they may be given strength to walk in his way,  
embrace his truth, and show forth his life.

### ***Prayer for justice in the world***

We pray for justice for those who are denied it,  
who suffer for their beliefs,  
or who are persecuted for what they are,  
that their rights and dignity may be upheld;  
we pray for those who are exploited  
or enslaved at work or in the home,  
that their cries may be heard;  
for the many who go poor while the few prosper,  
that the earth's resources may be fairly shared.

***Prayer for the peace of the world***

We pray for the world in all its need:  
for its peace, remembering today...  
for the victims of war, terror, famine and disease,  
that they may be freed from all afflictions;  
for those who are forced to flee their homes,  
that they may find safe lodging;  
for those who misuse power,  
that they may serve others, not themselves;  
for those who nurture hatred in their hearts,  
that they may come to know the meaning of the Cross.

***Prayer for the integrity of creation***

We pray for the earth itself, polluted and despoiled,  
that the fragile balance of the natural order  
may be respected,  
its beauty and variety preserved,  
and greed and selfish gain be put aside,  
that harmony may be restored between ourselves and  
our environment.

***Prayer for human society and those in need***

We pray for nations and societies across the world,  
and for our own,  
for national and local government,  
that those who rule may serve with wisdom and integrity;  
for communities, that they may seek the common good;  
for those who work to support and enhance  
community life,  
that their endeavours may prosper;  
for those whose work influences the lives of many,  
that they may act responsibly and justly.  
We pray for families and children,  
that they may be secure and strong;  
for friends and neighbours, wherever they are;  
for the sick, the lonely, the neglected,  
the dying and the bereaved,  
that they may know the healing touch of Christ;  
for those who have lost hope,  
that light will shine in their darkness;  
for those in any kind of need, especially for...

***Commemoration of those who have died***

We remember with joy those whose journey now is ended and whose lives among us helped us on our way, especially....

We commend to you those who have died unloved, unmourned, and those dear to others.

We pray that we may come with them to where there are no endings or beginnings, but one equal joy in your eternal presence.

These prayers we offer through Jesus Christ, who gave his life that all might be reconciled and your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

**Amen.**



# Second Order of Holy Communion

**Especially when all ages are present**

1. The Call
2. Hymn or Song
3. Prayer of Praise
4. Prayer of Confession and Words of Forgiveness
5. Prayer for Grace
6. Hymn or Song
7. Readings
8. Presentation of the Good News
9. Hymn or Song
10. The Invitation
11. The Story of the Lord's Supper
12. The Prayer of Jesus
13. Hymn or Song
14. The Offering
15. Offering Prayer
16. The Thanksgiving
17. The Breaking of the Bread and the Blessing of the Cup
18. The Sharing of Bread and Wine
19. The Peace
20. Prayers
21. Hymn or Song
22. Sending out and Blessing

*Welcome, greetings and introductions.  
Music may be rehearsed, news shared and any necessary  
explanations or instructions given.*

*The responses in this service are either well known or are based  
on repeating a line. The congregation need to know when a  
line is to be repeated. This can be indicated either by the  
worship leader or by having a designated 'cantor' who speaks  
only the lines to be repeated.*

## **1. The Call**

The time is fulfilled,  
and the kingdom of God has come near;  
repent, and believe in the good news!

Mark 1:15

## **2. Hymn or Song**

## **3. Prayer of Praise**

Let us pray.  
Loving God,  
you create the world  
and all the people.  
You make bread and wine  
and all good things.  
You are holy and we praise you.

Jesus Christ,  
child of God  
and friend of us all,  
you are with us today  
as we break the bread  
and share the wine.  
You are Lord and we love you.

Holy Spirit,  
breath of God,  
moving in all creation,  
you bring us close to God  
and make us holy and strong.  
You are here and we adore you.

*A short Trinitarian verse of praise may be sung, preferably from memory (e.g. R&S 21-25).*

*or*

Loving God,  
in the company of all your people  
we come to you,  
and your presence is joy to us.  
We come here  
on this first day of the week  
to meet with you and with each other  
and to listen for your word for each one.  
We are ready to break bread and to drink wine,  
to remember again the stories of our faith,  
and to be changed by being here with you.  
As we worship  
in the company of angels,  
surrounded by the saints,  
and embraced by your love,  
let us give ourselves openly and freely,  
as you give yourself to us,  
in tenderness and love.  
Loving God, Lord Jesus, Holy Spirit,  
we worship you,  
the one holy and eternal God.

*Silence*

#### **4. Prayer of Confession and Words of Forgiveness**

God of justice and forgiveness,  
we confess that we live in a world  
in which some are hungry even for bread,  
many people are sad or hurt,  
and there is much that is unfair and unjust.  
We confess that in our own lives  
we do not always do what is right  
or turn away from what is wrong.

We ask your forgiveness,  
we claim your love and mercy,  
and we ask for courage to make a new beginning.  
In the name of Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

Jesus said, 'Your sins are forgiven'.

Mark 2:9

He also said, 'Whoever does the will of God  
is my brother and sister and mother'.

Mark 3:35

## 5. Prayer for Grace

Eternal God,  
we believe the good news  
of your mercy and love,  
and rejoice that we are forgiven and free.  
Receive us as your children,  
as brothers and sisters of Jesus,  
part of your new community of love,  
and give us strength to do your will,  
today and always.

**Amen.**

## 6. Hymn or Song

## 7. Readings

A reading from the Old Testament (Hebrew Scriptures)

Psalm

*The psalm is 'lined out', the leader saying one line of text and the people repeating it. Psalm 117 is given as an example.*

Praise the LORD, all you nations!

Psalm 117

**Praise the LORD, all you nations!**

Extol him, all you peoples!

**Extol him, all you peoples!**

For great is his steadfast love toward us,

**For great is his steadfast love toward us,**

and the faithfulness of the LORD endures for ever.  
**and the faithfulness of the LORD endures for ever.**

Praise the LORD!  
**Praise the LORD!**

A reading from a Gospel (and/or other New Testament book)

Let anyone with ears to hear listen! Mark 4:9  
**Let anyone with ears to hear listen!**

## **8. Presentation of the Good News**

*(in ways appropriate for the day)*

## **9. Hymn or Song**

## **10. The Invitation**

Jesus was often a guest.  
He shared many meals with his friends,  
and they long remembered his words at the table.  
Though some disapproved of the company he kept,  
Jesus ate and drank with all kinds of people  
and showed everyone the love of God.  
Wherever people met together  
Jesus was glad to be welcomed and to be fed.  
Today, we are the guests of Jesus.  
He welcomes us,  
whoever we are and whatever we bring,  
and he will feed us at his table.  
Old or young, rich or poor, joyful or in sorrow,  
Jesus invites us  
to share bread and wine with him,  
to remember the story of his life and death,  
and to celebrate his presence with us today.  
On the night before he died,  
Jesus shared a meal with twelve of his disciples  
in an upstairs room in Jerusalem.  
The Gospel writer tells us what happened that night.

## 11. The Story of the Lord's Supper

While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, 'Take; this is my body'. Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. He said to them, 'This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly, I tell you, I will never again drink the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.'

Mark 14: 22-25

We are the friends and disciples of Jesus today.  
He invites us to break bread together,  
to remember him  
and to pray that God's Kingdom will come.

## 12. The Prayer of Jesus

*Said together, each person using the version or language most familiar to them. The prayer may be said after the prayers of intercession instead.*

## 13. Hymn or Song

## 14. Offering

*During or after the hymn or song the bread and wine and the offerings of the people may be brought to the table.*

## 15. Offering Prayer

We bring this bread and this wine  
to the table of Jesus.  
With them we bring ourselves,  
all that we are and all that we own.  
May the ordinary become holy,  
and heaven be opened to the people of earth.

May God be blessed forever!

**May God be blessed forever!**

## 16. The Thanksgiving

God is with us!

**God is with us!**

We give thanks and praise to God!

**We give thanks and praise to God!**

Loving God,  
the world you made is beautiful  
and full of wonder.  
You made us, with all your creatures,  
and you love all that you have made.  
You gave us the words of your prophets,  
the stories of your people through the generations,  
and the gathered wisdom of many years.  
You gave us Jesus, your Son,  
to be born and to grow up  
in difficult times when there was little peace.  
He embraced people with your love  
and told stories to change us all.  
He healed those in pain  
and brought to life those who had lost hope.  
He made friends with anyone who would listen  
and loved even his enemies.  
For these things, he suffered.  
For these things, he died.  
And he was raised from death and lives with you forever.  
You give us your Holy Spirit,  
to teach and to strengthen us,  
to remind us of Jesus Christ,  
and to make us one in him.

For all these gifts we thank you,  
and we join with all your people  
on earth and in heaven,  
in joyful praise:

Hosanna!

**Hosanna!**

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!  
**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!**

Hosanna in the highest heaven!  
**Hosanna in the highest heaven!**

Mark 11:9b, 10b

We praise you that we are here today,  
around the table of Jesus.  
We have heard the good news of your love;  
the cross is the sign of your arms  
stretched out in love for us  
and the empty tomb declares your love  
stronger than death.

Christ has died!  
**Christ has died!**

Christ is risen!  
**Christ is risen!**

Christ will come again!  
**Christ will come again!**

Send your Holy Spirit  
upon this bread and wine,  
and upon your people,  
that Christ may be with us,  
and we may be made ready to live for you  
and to do what you ask of us,  
today, and every day to come.

We make this prayer  
through Jesus Christ,  
in the power of the Holy Spirit,  
in the love of the Creator,  
one God,  
to whom be glory and praise forever,

**Amen.**



## 17. The Breaking of the Bread and the Blessing of the Cup

Eat this bread. It is the bread of life.

Drink this wine. It is the cup of blessing.

## 18. The Sharing

*The elders (or those chosen) may take the bread and wine to the congregation, or the people may pass the bread and cup from hand to hand as they are gathered around the table. There may be singing during the sharing of the bread and wine.*

Thanks be to God for this gift beyond words.

**Thanks be to God for this gift beyond words.**

## 19. The Peace

Jesus said to them, 'Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.' Then he took a little child and he said to them, 'Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.'

Mark 9:35a-37

Let us greet one another with a sign of peace.

## 20. Prayers

Let us pray.

Loving God,  
you have fed us generously at this table,  
as we have remembered Jesus  
and rejoiced that he is with us today.  
We are ready now to follow him,  
and to be your people in the world.  
May your Holy Spirit show us the way,  
make us holy and fill us with love.

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for the Church,  
for the great Church throughout the world,  
and for our own church community  
gathered today for worship and prayer.  
May we remember Jesus every day,  
grow in understanding of him,  
and learn to love you and our neighbours.  
Fill us with your Spirit,  
and make us people of peace,  
of faithful prayer and loving action.

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for the whole world;  
for the people, the animals,  
the earth, the sea and the air.  
May all that you have made  
be sustained in peace and harmony,  
and may all your creatures  
share in the goodness of creation.  
Bring healing to all who are suffering,  
and may all your people share in hope  
especially.....

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for ourselves,  
for our families and our friends,  
for all those we love  
and for those we find it hard to love.  
May young and old respect one another,  
and the generations honour one another.  
May nothing divide us or come between us,  
but let your love bind us in affection.  
Bless us with your peace,  
that together we may praise you forever.

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Glory to God  
**Glory to God**

Glory in the highest  
**Glory in the highest**

Today and always  
**Today and always**

**Amen.**

## **21. Hymn or Song**

## **22. Sending out and Blessing**

Jesus said,  
'Go home to your friends,  
and tell them how much the Lord has done for you,  
and what mercy he has shown you.'

Mark 5:19

The blessing of God be upon you,  
the One who loves you,  
the Christ who calls you,  
the Spirit who makes you holy,  
today and always.

**Amen.**



# Third Order of Holy Communion

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1. Scripture Sentences
2. Prayer, Confession, and Assurance of Pardon
3. Theme Introduction and Scripture Readings
4. Sermon
5. Open or Responsive Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession
6. The Lord's Prayer
7. The Peace
8. Offertory
9. The Approach to Communion
10. Narrative of the Institution
11. Thanksgiving and Sharing
12. Prayer after Communion
13. Blessing

## 1. Scripture Sentences

Give thanks to the God of heaven,  
**for God's steadfast love endures for ever.**

Psalm 136: 26

The stone which the builders rejected  
has become the main corner-stone.

**This is the work of the Lord;  
it is wonderful in our eyes.**

Psalm 118: 22-3

## 2. Prayer, Confession, and Assurance of Pardon

Eternal God, creator of all things, giver of life,  
we praise and worship you.  
We thank you that you have  
always loved the world you have made;  
and that, however far we stray from you,  
your love is always there to welcome us home.

We do not deserve your love,  
but we dare to believe the good news of your mercy  
declared by our Lord Jesus Christ,  
whose offering of his life for us and for all people  
we set forth in this bread and wine.

Be present at this your table  
as with penitent and forgiving hearts  
we break bread and drink wine in your name.  
Fill us with your Holy Spirit,  
that our worship may truly express our love  
for you and for one another.  
Make us glad and give us joy and peace.

Let us confess our sins:

**God our Father,  
we have sinned against you  
and against one another,  
in thought, word and deed;  
we have not loved you with all our heart;  
we have not loved our neighbour as ourselves.  
But you have kept faith with us.  
Have mercy on us,  
forgive us our sins,  
and restore us to newness of life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.                      Amen.**

Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.  
To all who turn to him he says:  
'Your sins are forgiven.' He also says: 'Follow me.'

### **3. Theme Introduction and Scripture Readings**

Old Testament; Epistle; Gospel.

### **4. Sermon**

### **5. Open or Responsive Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession**

### **6. The Lord's Prayer**

### **7. The Peace**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

*The Peace may be shared*

## 8. Offertory

**Lord God, we bring you  
the ordinary things of life -  
food and drink and money -  
and with them we bring ourselves.  
Take us, and our gifts of money,  
to do your work in the world.  
Take this food and drink from our tables  
and feed us from your table with your love.  
Accept the praise we offer;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

*or*

**Eternal God,  
we come with these gifts  
to offer the praise of our lives;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

## 9. The Approach to Communion

As we gather at this table, we remember  
that Jesus was born of Mary;  
he lived our common life on earth;  
he suffered and died for us;  
on the third day God raised him from the dead;  
and he is always present with us through the Holy Spirit.  
In his presence,  
and in the company of all the people of God,  
past, present, and to come,  
we celebrate the Supper of the Lord.

‘Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking;  
if you hear my voice and open the door,  
I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me.’

Revelation 3: 20



*or*

How shall I repay the Lord for all his benefits to me?  
I will take the cup of salvation,  
and call upon the name of the Lord.  
I will offer you a sacrifice of thanksgiving,  
and call upon the name of the Lord.

Psalm 116:11-12; 16

*or*

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst to see  
right prevail  
for they shall be satisfied.

Matthew 5:6

## 10. Narrative of the Institution

Hear again the words of institution of this feast  
as they are given by the Apostle Paul:

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you,  
that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed  
took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks,  
he broke it and said, 'This is my body that is 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 the cup, you proclaim the Lord's  
death until he comes.

1 Corinthians 11:23-6

## II. Thanksgiving and Sharing

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We give thanks to you, O God,  
that from the earth you cause the grain to come  
for the making of bread.

We praise you for Christ, the bread of life,  
whose body was given for us.

By your Holy Spirit sanctify us and this loaf,  
that the bread which we break may be to us  
the communion of the body of Christ,  
and that we may be made one in him.

As of old you fed your people in the wilderness,  
so feed us now that we may live to your praise;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*The minister breaks the bread saying:*

When Jesus had given thanks,  
he broke the bread and said:

‘Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me.’

*The distribution takes place*

We give thanks to you, O God,  
that you cause the vine to yield fruit.

We bless you for Christ, the true vine,  
whose blood was poured out for us.

By your Holy Spirit sanctify us and this wine,  
that the cup which we bless may be to us  
the communion of the blood of Christ,  
and that through abiding in him  
we may bear fruit that shall last.

As we share the sufferings of Christ, so give us grace  
that we may know the power of his resurrection;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*The minister pours the wine and distributes it saying:*

When Jesus had given thanks,  
he gave the cup to his disciples and said:  
'Drink this, all of you;  
for this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many,  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it  
in remembrance of me.'

*or*

Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We give thanks to you, O God,  
that from the earth you cause the grain to come  
for the making of bread  
and that you cause the vine to yield fruit.  
We praise you for Christ,  
the bread of life and true vine,  
whose body was given for us,  
and whose blood was poured out for us.

By your Holy Spirit sanctify us  
and these your gifts of bread and wine,  
that the bread which we break  
may be the communion of the body of Christ,  
and the cup which we bless  
may be the communion of the blood of Christ.  
As we share the sufferings of Christ,  
so give us grace to know the power of his resurrection,  
that we may be made one and evermore abide in him,  
to your praise and glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*The minister breaks the bread saying:*

When Jesus had given thanks he broke the bread and said:  
'Take, eat: this is my body which is for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me.'

*The distribution takes place*

*The minister pours the wine and distributes it saying:*

When Jesus had given thanks,  
he gave the cup to his disciples and said:  
'Drink this, all of you;  
for this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many,  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

## **12. Prayer after Communion**

Strengthen for service, Lord,  
the hands that have taken holy things.  
May the ears that have heard your word  
be deaf to clamour and dispute.  
May the eyes that have seen your great love  
shine with the light of hope.  
May the tongues that have sung your praise  
also speak the truth.  
May the feet that have walked in your house  
ever walk in the light.  
May the bodies that have tasted your living body  
be restored to newness of life.  
Thanks be to God for his gift beyond words.

**Amen.**

*or*

**Now, Lord let your servant go in peace:  
your word has been fulfilled.  
My own eyes have seen the salvation  
which you have prepared  
in the sight of every people:  
a light to reveal you to the nations,  
and the glory of your people Israel.**

Luke 2: 29-32

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and will be for ever.**

**Amen.**

### **13. Blessing**



# Fourth Order of Holy Communion

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1. Scripture Sentences
2. Prayer of Approach
3. Hymn or Psalm
4. Confession of Sin
5. Assurance of Pardon
6. The Kyries
7. Gloria in excelsis
8. Prayer for Grace
9. Old Testament and/or New Testament Reading
10. Psalm, Canticle, Hymn or Anthem
11. New Testament Reading(s)
12. Hymn
13. Sermon
14. Hymn
15. Prayers for the Church and the World
16. The Invitation
17. The Peace
18. Offertory
19. Hymn
20. The Narrative of the Institution
21. The Taking of the Bread and Wine
22. The Thanksgiving
23. The Lord's Prayer
24. The Breaking of the Bread
25. The Sharing of the Bread and Wine
26. The Acclamation
27. Prayer after Communion
28. Hymn or Doxology
29. Dismissal and Blessing

*The Bible may be brought into the church; the minister may call the people to worship.*

Let us worship God.

## **1. Scripture Sentences**

This is the day which the Lord has made;

**let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

It is good to give thanks to the Lord;

**for God's love endures for ever.**

*Other sentences may be used or seasonal sentences added.*

## **2. Prayer of Approach**

Let us pray.

Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy Name;  
through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*or*

Almighty God,  
infinite and eternal  
in wisdom, power and love:  
we praise you for all that you are,  
and for all that you do for the world.  
You have shown us your truth and your love  
in our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
Help us by your Spirit  
to worship you in spirit and in truth;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**



### 3. Hymn or Psalm

### 4. Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins to God and ask for forgiveness.

**Lord God most merciful,  
we confess that we have sinned,  
through our own fault,  
and in common with others,  
in thought, word and deed,  
and through what we have left undone.**

**We ask to be forgiven.**

**By the power of your Spirit  
turn us from evil to good,  
help us to forgive others,  
and keep us in your ways  
of righteousness and love;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

### 5. Assurance of Pardon

In repentance and in faith  
receive the promise of grace  
and the assurance of pardon.  
Here are words you may trust,  
words that merit full acceptance:

‘Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.’ 1 Timothy 1:15  
Your sins are forgiven for his sake.

**Thanks be to God.**

*or*

God so loved the world  
that he gave his only Son,  
so that everyone who believes in him  
may not perish  
but may have eternal life.

John 3:16

To all who repent and believe,  
we declare, in the name of the Father,  
the Son and the Holy Spirit:  
God grants you the forgiveness of your sins.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **6. The Kyries**

Lord, have mercy on us.  
**Christ, have mercy on us.**  
Lord, have mercy on us.

## **7. Gloria in excelsis**

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.**

**Amen.**

## 8. Prayer for Grace

*The collect of the day or prayer for grace may be said here or after the sermon.*

*The theme of the service may be introduced, particularly to any children present, and a hymn sung before they leave; or this may be done following one of the readings.*

## 9. Old Testament Reading

and/or a New Testament Reading

## 10. Psalm, Canticle, Hymn or Anthem

## 11. New Testament Reading

or readings: Epistle and Gospel

## 12. Hymn

## 13. Sermon

*The sermon may be followed by silence and/or prayer.*

## 14. Hymn

## 15. Prayers for the Church and the World

*After each paragraph a response may be said, such as*

Lord, in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

*The subjects after the words 'We pray for' are suggestions. Intervals of silence may be kept. The prayer may be made continuous by omitting the words 'We pray for' and the words in italics.*

Let us pray.

Almighty God,  
whose Spirit helps us in our weakness  
and guides us in our prayers;  
we pray for the Church and for the world  
in the name of Jesus Christ.

We pray for

*the Church throughout the world  
our ministers, elders and members  
local unity and witness*

Renew the faith and life of the Church;  
strengthen its witness;  
and make it one in Christ.  
Grant that we  
and all who confess that he is Lord  
may be faithful in service  
and filled with his spirit,  
and that the world may be turned to Christ.

We pray for

*the nations of the world  
our own country  
all who work for reconciliation*

Guide the nations in the ways  
of justice, liberty and peace;  
and help them to seek the unity  
and welfare of all peoples.  
Give to our Queen and to all in authority  
wisdom to know and strength to do what is right.

We pray for

*all who serve the community*

Grant that men and women  
in their various callings  
may have grace to do their work well;  
and may the resources of the earth be wisely used,  
truth honoured and preserved,  
and the quality of our life enriched.

We pray for

*the sick and the suffering*  
*victims of injustice*  
*the lonely and the bereaved*

Comfort those in sorrow;  
heal the sick in body or in mind;  
and deliver the oppressed.  
Give us active sympathy for all who suffer;  
and help us so to bear the burdens of others  
that we may fulfil the law of Christ.

We pray for

*our families*  
*friends and neighbours*  
*all who need our prayers*

Keep us and the members of our families  
united in loyalty and in love,  
and always in your care;  
and may our friends and neighbours,  
and all for whom we pray,  
receive the help they need, and live in peace.

We remember those who have died

Eternal God, accept our thanks and praise  
for all who have served you faithfully here on earth,  
and especially for those dear to our own hearts ...

May we and all your people,  
past, present and to come,  
share the life and joy of your kingdom,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## 16. The Invitation and the Gracious Words

*All those present may be invited to share in the Lord's Supper.*

Hear the gracious words of  
our Lord Jesus Christ;

Come to me,  
all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens,  
and I will give you rest. Matthew 11:28

I am the bread of life;  
whoever comes to me will never be hungry,  
and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. John 6:35

Anyone who comes to me  
I will never drive away. John 6:37

## 17. The Peace

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ  
be with you all.  
**Peace be with you.**

## 18. Offertory

*The offerings of the people are collected. The bread and wine  
may be brought to the table or if already present are uncovered.*

Let us pray.

**Eternal God,  
we come with these gifts  
to offer our sacrifice of praise  
and the service of our lives;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

## 19. Hymn

*This hymn may be sung while the money, bread and wine are brought to the table, in which case the offertory prayer follows the hymn.*

## 20. The Narrative of the Institution of the Lord's Supper

Hear the narrative of the institution of the Lord's Supper as it was recorded by the apostle Paul.

I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, 'This is my body that is 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 the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

## 21. The Taking of the Bread and Wine

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
and following his example,  
we take this bread and this cup,  
and give thanks to God.

## 22. The Thanksgiving

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

With joy we give you thanks and praise,  
Almighty God, Source of all life and love,  
that we live in your world,  
that you are always creating and  
sustaining it by your power,  
and that you have so made us  
that we can know and love you,  
trust and serve you.

We give you thanks  
that you loved the world so much  
that you gave your only Son,  
so that everyone who has faith in him  
may not die but have eternal life.

*A seasonal or other special thanksgiving may follow here.*

We thank you that Jesus was born among us  
that he lived our common life on earth;  
that he suffered and died for us;  
that he rose again;  
and that he is always present  
through the Holy Spirit.

We thank you that we can live in the faith  
that your kingdom will come,  
and that in life, in death and beyond death  
you are with us.

Therefore with all the company of heaven,  
and with all your people,  
of all places and times,  
we proclaim your greatness and sing your praise.



**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.**

Holy Lord God,  
by what we do here  
in remembrance of Christ  
we celebrate his perfect sacrifice on the Cross  
and his glorious resurrection and ascension;  
we declare that he is Lord of all;  
and we prepare for his coming in his kingdom.  
We pray that through your Holy Spirit  
this bread may be for us the body of Christ  
and this wine the blood of Christ.

Accept our sacrifice of praise;  
and as we eat and drink at his command  
unite us to Christ as one body in him,  
and give us strength to serve you in the world.

And to you, one holy and eternal God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
we give praise and glory, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

## **23. The Lord's Prayer**

## **24. The Breaking of the Bread**

The Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed  
took bread and when he had given thanks,  
he broke it and said,  
'This is my body which is for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me.'

In the same way also the cup saying  
'This cup is the new covenant in my blood.  
Do this, as often as you drink it,  
in remembrance of me.'

*If the narrative of the institution has been used earlier in the service, as the bread is broken the minister may say:*

The bread which we break  
is the communion of the body of Christ.

*And as the cup is raised the minister may say:*

The cup of blessing which we bless  
is the communion of the blood of Christ.

## **25. The Sharing of the Bread and Wine**

*In giving the bread the minister says:*

Take, eat - this is the body of Christ  
which is broken for you;  
do this in remembrance of him.

*or*

The body of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
given for you.

*In giving the cup the minister says:*

This cup is the new covenant in the blood of Christ,  
shed for you and for many  
for the remission of sins: drink of it.

*or*

The blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, shed for you.

## 26. The Acclamation

Let us praise the Lord.

**Christ has died.  
Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.  
Blessing and honour  
and glory and power  
be to our God for ever and ever.      Amen.**

## 27. Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

Most gracious God,  
we praise you for what you have given  
and for what you have promised us here.  
You have made us one  
with all your people in heaven and on earth.  
You have fed us with the bread of life,  
and renewed us for your service.

Now we give ourselves to you;  
and we ask that our daily living  
may be part of the life of your kingdom,  
and that our love may be your love  
reaching out into the life of the world;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## 28. Hymn or Doxology

## 29. Dismissal and Blessing

Go in peace to serve the Lord;  
and the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be with you always.

**Amen.**

## **Seasonal Thanksgivings**

### **Advent**

We praise you  
that through his coming  
your promises given by the prophets were fulfilled,  
and that the day of our deliverance has dawned;  
and, as we look for the triumph of his kingdom,  
we exult with holy joy.

### **Christmas**

We praise you that he took our nature  
and was born as the child of Mary,  
that he might share our life,  
reveal your love and reconcile us to yourself,  
and give us power to become  
your sons and daughters.

### **Epiphany**

We praise you that he is the light of the world  
through whom we are brought  
out of darkness into light,  
and that by him your glory  
has been revealed to the nations.

### **Lent**

We praise you that because of his likeness to us  
he was tested in every way yet without sin,  
and that having endured and overcome temptation  
he is able to help us in our times of trial,  
and to give us strength to take up the cross  
and follow him.

### **Passiontide**

We praise you that for us and for our salvation  
he humbled himself  
and in obedience accepted even death –  
death on a cross;  
and that he bore our sins  
in his body on the tree  
that we being dead to sin  
should live to righteousness.

### **Easter**

We praise you  
that after he had suffered  
and been put to death on the cross  
he was raised from the dead by your power;  
that he is the true Lamb of God  
who takes away the sin of the world;  
and that by his glorious resurrection  
he has restored us to eternal life  
and given us the joy of your kingdom.

### **Ascension**

We praise you  
that having suffered and died for us  
and being raised from the dead  
he lives and reigns for ever in your glory,  
and so fulfils his promise  
to be with us always  
to the end of the age.

### **Pentecost**

We praise you that according to the promise of Christ  
the Holy Spirit came to fill the Church with power;  
and that the Spirit comes to us today  
that we being renewed and strengthened  
may proclaim the Gospel to the world.




# Baptism Service

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*Where possible the sacrament of baptism should follow the reading of Scripture and the sermon or another form of proclamation of the Word.*

*Two forms of affirmation for the baptismal promises are included in number 3, and two others may be found in the Basis of Union, Schedule A. These are the only forms authorised for use by the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church.*

- 
1. Introduction
  2. Proclamation of Faith
  3. The Affirmations
  4. Statement or Testimony
  5. Prayer
  6. The Baptism
  7. Declaration of Baptism
  8. The Promises
  9. The Confirmation or Strengthening in Faith

## 1. Introduction

The Lord is here.

**His Spirit is with us.**

Jesus Christ came that we might have life  
**and have it in all its fullness.**

In John's Gospel we read that Jesus said to Nicodemus:  
'no one can enter the kingdom of God  
without being born of water and Spirit.'

John 3:5

God loves us even before we come to love God ourselves. Though we cannot understand such love, God invites us in baptism to accept it with the openness and trust of a child. In the waters of baptism, God sets us as a seal upon his heart, for his love in Christ is stronger than death. Christ's journey from death to resurrection is the pattern of our lives, in union with him. Jesus himself was baptized by John in the Jordan. His baptism found fulfilment in the cross, where he gave himself for the life of the world.

Paul writes: 'Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with Christ by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.'

Romans 6:3-4

*Other texts may also be used.*

But now thus says the LORD: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you: and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you.

Isaiah 43:1b-2a



But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, 'Know the LORD', for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Jeremiah 31:33-34

I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses. A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes.

Ezekiel 36:25a, 26-27a

Peter said to them, 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.'

Acts 2:38-39

Whether we are children or adults, baptism marks the beginning of our lives as Christians and as members of the Church. In baptism we are called to take up the Cross and follow Christ in the company of all God's people from all times and places. Because we cannot do this without help, we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, to enable us to live as God's people and to serve God's purposes in the world. We acknowledge one baptism, in obedience to Christ. After his rising from the dead, Jesus said to his disciples:

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.

Matthew 28:18-20a

## 2. The Proclamation of Faith

*A large candle such as an Easter (Paschal) candle may be lit.*

Let us proclaim the faith of the Church through the ages:

*The Apostles' or Nicene Creed (R&S 759, 760) or Statement of Faith of the United Reformed Church (Basis of Union, para.17 or para.18) may be used, or a hymn of faith sung (e.g. R&S 36, 37, 73, 272, 283, 755).*

## 3. The Affirmations

The Lord says:  
See, I am making all things new.

Revelation 21:5a

Paul says:  
If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation.

2 Corinthians 5:17

*By the candidate for believer's baptism  
either:*

Do you believe and trust in one God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
giver of life, redeemer of the world?

**I do.**

Do you repent of your sins, turn away from evil,  
and turn to Christ?

**By God's grace, I do.**

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord?

**I do.**

*(The affirmations continue after the baptism at the point of  
reception into the full privileges and responsibilities of  
membership.)*

or

*a form including the following elements:*

- *a Trinitarian confession of faith*
- *repentance of sin*
- *a confession of faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord.*

#### **4. Statement or Testimony**

*A short statement or testimony may be given by the person to be baptized either here or later at confirmation.*

*To the parent(s) or those bringing the child to be baptized*

A and B, you have come for the baptism of N  
in response to the call of Christ  
and the leading of the Holy Spirit.  
Let us hear that you confess your faith in Christ.  
Do you believe and trust in one God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
giver of life, redeemer of the world?  
**I/We do.**

*Where a child is old enough to make a response, a form such as the following may be used in addition:*

N, do you believe that Jesus loves you,  
and calls you to follow him?  
**I do.**

## 5. Prayer

*The minister may pour water into the font or baptistery.*

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation.  
In your goodness you give us water  
to sustain our life and renew the earth.  
May it be for N the water of new birth.

**Blessed be God forever.**

Gracious God, we thank you for your love in all creation,  
especially for the gift of water,  
to sustain, refresh and cleanse all life.  
In the beginning you moved over the waters  
and to a formless void brought light and life.  
You led your people through the waters of the sea  
from slavery to freedom in a land of promise.  
Your Son was baptized by John  
in the waters of the Jordan.  
You sent your Spirit upon him.  
He fulfilled his baptism upon the cross  
and was raised from the dead  
that we might have eternal life.  
Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this water,  
that N, being born anew of water and the Spirit,  
may remain for ever in the number of your faithful children,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to whom with the Father and the Holy Spirit  
be all honour and glory, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## 6. The Baptism

*In the case of believer's baptism an elder and/or sponsors may stand with the candidate: in the case of infant baptism, with the baptismal party.*

*The candidate is immersed in water or has water poured over her/his head.*

N, I baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

*The minister may make the sign of the Cross on the forehead of the newly-baptized person. Others (such as elders, sponsors, family members) may also do so.*

N, I sign you with the Cross, the sign of Christ.

**Amen.**

## 7. Declaration of Baptism

N, child of God, God receives you by baptism into the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

**Amen.**

*The congregation may say or sing the Aaronic blessing:*

**The LORD bless you and keep you;  
the LORD make his face to shine upon you,  
and be gracious to you;  
the LORD lift up his countenance upon you,  
and give you peace.**

Numbers 6:24-26  
(R&S 420)

## 8. The Promises

*When the newly-baptized is able to answer for her/himself, reception into the full privileges and responsibilities of church membership follows, in the form of confirmation.*

We are now to receive N into the full privileges and responsibilities of church membership.

From the beginning,  
believers have continued  
in the worship and fellowship  
of the Church.

N, do you commit yourself to this life?  
**I do, with God's help.**

Do you accept the gift and cost  
of following Christ  
in your daily life and work?  
**I do, with God's help.**

With the whole Church, will you proclaim  
by word and action  
the good news of God in Christ?  
**I will, with God's help**

*or a form may be used including a promise to share in the worship, fellowship and mission of the Church.*

### *Promise by the congregation*

As a community of faith, representing the whole Church,  
do you welcome N and promise to share with *her/him*  
what you yourselves have received,  
the gift of God's love revealed in Christ?

**We do with God's help.**

*When the newly-baptized is an infant, those bringing the child for baptism make these promises.*

From early times  
the Church has received  
the children of believers by baptism  
so that with help and support  
they may grow up in Christ,  
and by the grace of God  
serve Christ all their days.

This child belongs to God in Christ.  
Tell *her/him* of *her/his* baptism  
that *she/he* may know *she/he* is baptized  
and may come to make *her/his* own response  
of faith and love.

Do you promise to teach N  
the love of God  
and bring *her/him* up in the life and worship of the Church?  
**I do with God's help**

*Promises by the sponsor(s) and/or elder(s)*

Do you promise to pray for N,  
and *her/his* home and family,  
and to support them as you are able  
as a minister of Christ's love?  
**I do, with God's help.**

*Promise by the congregation*

As a community of faith, representing the whole Church,  
do you welcome N and promise to share with *her/him*  
what you yourselves have received,  
the gift of God's love revealed in Christ?  
**We do with God's help.**

## 9. The Confirmation or Strengthening in Faith

Come now to receive the laying-on of hands with prayer,  
to strengthen you for the work of God.

*The newly-baptized person kneels. The minister and at least one  
elder place their hands on her/his head, as the minister prays:*

God of all grace, confirm and strengthen N  
in the power of the Holy Spirit,  
that *she/he* may be your servant in the world  
and see your glory in the world to come.

**Amen.**

*(The minister may anoint the newly-confirmed with oil as a  
symbol of the anointing of God's Holy Spirit)*

*The newly-confirmed member stands.*

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only head of the Church,  
and in accordance with the decision  
of this local church meeting,  
we welcome you into membership  
of this congregation of the United Reformed Church.  
May your sharing in our life together  
bring blessing to you and to us all.

*The minister and elder(s) may give the right hand of fellowship  
as a sign of welcome. A Bible or other appropriate book and a  
certificate of Baptism and/or Confirmation may be presented.*

**In the name of Christ we welcome you.  
May we grow together in unity,  
and be built up into the body of Christ in love,  
to the glory of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
Amen.**



*A baptismal candle may be lit from an Easter (Paschal) candle and either placed on the table or given to the new member.*

Shine as a light in the world.

**To the glory of God.**

**Amen.**

*Hymn (e.g. R&S 368, 417-419, 421-426, 428-433)*

## **Prayers of Intercession**

*These should include prayer as appropriate for the newly-baptized (and confirmed), her/his family, and the Church.*

*If the service does not continue with the Lord's Supper the newly-baptized (and confirmed) and those accompanying her/him may lead the congregation out of the church after the final blessing.*




# Confirmation Service

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## Re-affirmation of Baptism & Admission to Church Membership

*For those baptized at some time in the past who come to make their own confession of Christian faith and enter into the full privileges and responsibilities of membership of Christ's Church. The service follows after the reading of Scripture and the sermon or another form of proclamation of the Word.*

*Two forms of re-affirmation for baptismal promises are included in number 3, and two others may be found in the Basis of Union, Schedule A. These are the only forms authorised for use by the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church.*

- 
1. Introduction
  2. Proclamation of Faith
  3. The Affirmations
  4. Statement or Testimony
  5. The Promises
  6. The Confirmation, or Strengthening in Faith
  7. Welcome

## 1. Introduction

By the sacrament of baptism we are all made one in the Body of Christ. We receive the gift of the Holy Spirit to enable us to live as the people of God and to serve God's purpose. In baptism God says "Yes" to us. Today, in response to the call of Christ and the leading of the Holy Spirit, N comes to affirm *her/his* baptism, to say "Yes" to God, to make *her/his* own profession of faith in Jesus Christ, and to be received into the full privileges and responsibilities of membership of Christ's Church. By confirmation *she/he* is promised the strengthening of the Holy Spirit so that *she/he* may be a faithful follower of Christ and member of his Church.

I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name.

John 15: 5, 7-9, 16-17

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling-place for God.

Ephesians 2: 19-22.

## 2. The Proclamation of Faith

*A large candle, such as an Easter (Paschal) candle, may be lit.*

Let us proclaim the faith of the Church through the ages:

*The Apostles' or Nicene Creed (R&S 759, 760) or Statement of Faith of the United Reformed Church (Basis of Union, para.17 or para.18) may be used, or a hymn of faith sung (e.g. R&S 36, 37, 73, 272, 283, 755).*

## 3. The Affirmations

*The elder responsible for her/his pastoral care or another sponsor may present the candidate to the congregation with appropriate introduction.*

*Either:*

N, you have come in response to the call of Christ and the leading of the Holy Spirit to confess your faith in Christ.

Do you believe and trust in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, maker of heaven and earth, giver of life, redeemer of the world?

**I do.**

Do you repent of your sins, turn away from evil, and turn to Christ?

**By God's grace, I do.**

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord?

**I do.**

*or*

*a form including the following elements:*

- *a Trinitarian confession of faith*
- *repentance of sin*
- *confession of faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord.*

## 4. Statement or Testimony

*A short statement or testimony may be given by the person to be confirmed.*

## 5. The Promises

N has made confession of *her/his* faith.  
Now *she/he* is to make *her/his* promises  
as *she/he* is received into the full privileges  
and responsibilities of Church membership.

From the beginning,  
believers have continued  
in the worship and fellowship  
of the Church.

N, do you commit yourself to this life?  
**I do, with God's help.**

Do you accept the gift and cost  
of following Christ  
in your daily life and work?  
**I do, with God's help.**

With the whole Church,  
will you proclaim by word and action  
the good news of God in Christ?  
**I will, with God's help.**

*Or a form may be used including a promise to share in the  
worship, fellowship and mission of the Church.*

### *Promise by the congregation*

As a community of faith, representing the whole Church,  
do you welcome N and promise to share with *her/him*  
what you yourselves have received,  
the gift of God's love revealed in Christ?

**We do, with God's help.**

## 6. The Confirmation, or Strengthening in Faith

*The minister may touch the ears and mouth of the person to be confirmed:*

N, may the Lord open your eyes to see his glory,  
your ears to receive his word  
and your mouth to proclaim his praise.

Come now to receive the laying on of hands with prayer  
to strengthen you for the work of God.

*The candidate may kneel or stand for a moment of silent prayer. The minister and at least one elder place their hands on her/his head as the minister prays:*

God of all grace confirm and strengthen N  
in the power of the Holy Spirit,  
that *she/he* may be your servant in the world  
and see your glory in the world to come.

**Amen.**

*The minister may anoint the newly-confirmed member with oil as a symbol of the anointing of God's Holy Spirit.*

*All sing or say the Aaronic blessing (R&S 420)*

*The newly-confirmed member stands.*

## 7. Welcome

N, by baptism you have been received into membership of the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.  
You have now affirmed your baptism  
and confessed your faith in Jesus Christ  
as your Saviour and Lord.  
You have accepted the privileges  
and responsibilities of membership of the Church.  
In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only head of the Church,  
and in accordance with the decision  
of this local church meeting,

we welcome you into membership  
of this congregation of the United Reformed Church.  
May your sharing in our life together  
bring blessing to you and to us all.

*One of the following texts, or another appropriate to the  
newly-confirmed member, may be used.*

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in  
believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of  
the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13

For once you were darkness, but now in Lord you are light.  
Live as children of light – for everything that becomes visible  
is light. Therefore it says, ‘Sleeper, awake! Rise from the  
dead, and Christ will shine on you.’

Ephesians 5:8, 14

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely;  
and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound  
and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

I Thessalonians 5:23-24

*The minister and elder(s) may give the right hand of fellowship  
as a sign of welcome. A Bible, or other appropriate book, and  
a Confirmation certificate may be presented.*

**In the name of Christ we welcome you.  
May we grow together in unity,  
and be built up into the body of Christ in love,  
to the glory of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

**Amen.**

*The service continues with the Lord’s Supper. The new  
member(s) may bring forward the bread and wine.*

*After the dismissal and blessing the minister (and elders) may  
lead the new member(s) through the church and members of  
the congregation may be encouraged to greet them.*




# Reception of Members

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*For use when members are being received into membership of a local congregation by transfer from another congregation or by re-affirmation of faith.*

*This follows the reading of Scripture and the sermon or another form of proclamation of the Word.*

- 
1. Introduction
  2. The Affirmation
  3. The Welcome

## 1. Introduction

In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only head of the Church,  
and in accordance with the decision  
of this local church meeting,  
we now receive N  
*by transfer from X Church/ by re-affirmation of faith*  
into membership of this congregation  
of the United Reformed Church.

*(Other words, appropriate to the circumstances, may be used)*

## 2. The Affirmation

By baptism N has been received into membership of the one,  
holy, catholic and apostolic Church. *She/he* has affirmed  
*her/his* baptism, confessed *her/his* faith in Jesus Christ as  
*her/his* Saviour and Lord, and has accepted the privileges and  
responsibilities of membership of the Church of Christ.

*If appropriate, reference may be made to previous membership.*

(We rejoice in the pilgrimage that has brought *her/him* to  
this time and place. We give thanks to God for every  
community of faith that has nurtured *her/his* faith along the  
way, and for *her/his* desire to join with us in Christian faith  
and discipleship.)

As *she/he* comes to unite with us in this congregation  
(or to renew *her/his* membership of the church)  
we invite *her/him* to re-affirm *her/his* confession of faith,  
and to promise to live as a faithful member of this fellowship.

N, do you confess anew your faith and trust in one God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
maker of heaven and earth, giver of life,  
redeemer of the world?

**I do.**

Do you promise to continue in the worship and fellowship of the Church in this congregation, accepting the gift and cost of following Christ, and proclaiming by word and action the good news of God in Christ?

**I do, with God's help.**

*or*

N, do you confess anew your faith in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and do you promise to share with us in the life of this church, and to be faithful in the privileges and responsibilities of church membership?

**I do, with God's help.**

*Promise by the congregation:*

In welcoming N as a fellow-member in the life of this church, do you promise your friendship in the Lord, and will you give *her/him your* support in prayer and service, so that *she/he*, with us, may continue to grow in the knowledge and love of God and witness to Jesus Christ our risen Lord?

**We do, and with God's help, we will.**

God of grace,  
you call us to be your servant people,  
and gather us into the body of Christ.  
We thank you for sending us N  
to work with us in serving your kingdom.  
Confirm us all in the power of your covenant  
to live in your Spirit,  
to love each other  
and to share the mind of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

### 3. The Welcome

*The minister and one or more of the elders greet the new member(s) with the right hand of fellowship as a sign of welcome.*

**In the name of Christ we welcome you.  
May we grow together in unity,  
and be built up into the body of Christ in love,  
to the glory of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
now and forever. Amen.**

*The service may continue with the Lord's Supper. The new member(s) may bring forward the bread and wine.*

# Thanksgiving for the Birth of a Child

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## **The Dedication of Parents and the Blessing of Children**

*Where possible the act of thanksgiving should follow the reading of Scripture and the sermon or another form of proclamation of the Word. It is most appropriate when other children in the congregation are present. The act looks forward to baptism at a point in the future and is therefore not a substitute for baptism.*

1. Introduction
2. The Word
3. Thanksgiving, Dedication and Blessing
4. Prayers

## 1. Introduction

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;  
**for his steadfast love endures for ever.**

Psalm 106:1

We come together as part of the family of God.  
We welcome especially A and B,  
who have come to give thanks to God  
for the birth of their *son/daughter* N,  
to seek God's blessing upon *him/her*,  
and to dedicate themselves [*again*]  
to the responsibilities of parenthood.

We share in their thanksgiving.  
We acknowledge the claim of this child  
upon the prayers and support of this church  
both now and in the years ahead.

We welcome *him/her* as Jesus welcomed little children;  
and we affirm that it is the duty of parents  
and the church together  
to show the love of God in their lives,  
so that in due time this child may come to confess  
*his/her* faith in Jesus Christ and be baptized.

## 2. The Word

*One or both of the following readings are read.*

We read in the Old Testament (Hebrew Scriptures):

Hear, O Israel: The LORD is our God, the LORD alone.  
You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart,  
and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep  
these words that I am commanding you today in your  
heart. Recite them to your children and talk about  
them when you are at home and when you are away,  
when you lie down and when you rise.

Deuteronomy 6:4-7

We read in the New Testament:

People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.' And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

Mark 10:13-16

### 3. Thanksgiving, Dedication and Blessing

*All stand. The minister asks the parents:*

Do you thank God for the gift of N?

**We do.**

Do you, as parents, dedicate yourselves to God?

**We do.**

Do you promise so to order your lives that N will be surrounded by love and goodness?

**We do.**

*Where parents are not members the following question may be omitted:*

Do you promise, by God's help, to provide a Christian home for N and to bring *him/her* up in the faith of the Gospel and the fellowship of the Church?

**We do.**

*If there are older children in the family the minister may include a suitable promise for them to make.*

May the Lord bless you and give you grace faithfully to carry out these promises; may God grant you joy and patience, love and peace.

*To the congregation:*

On behalf of the whole Church of Jesus Christ,  
we undertake to provide for the instruction of N  
in the gospel of God's love,  
the example of Christian faith and character,  
and the strong support of the family of God  
in prayer and friendship.

*Then the minister, laying one hand upon the child's head, says:*

N, the blessing of God,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be with you, now and always.

**Amen.**

*or*

N, the LORD bless you and keep you;  
the LORD make his face to shine upon you  
and be gracious to you;  
the LORD lift up his countenance upon you  
and give you peace.

Numbers 6:24-26

**Amen.**

*If the minister does not use the Aaronic blessing  
it may be sung by the congregation (R&S 420).*

*The minister or elder may present a Bible to the parents.*



## 4 Prayers

God our creator, we thank you for the gift of N.  
We thank you for the love that prepared  
for *his/her* coming  
and welcomed *him/her* into the world,  
and we rejoice with A and B in their hopes for the future.  
Be with them in their home;  
guide them in the upbringing of their child  
and deepen their knowledge and love of Christ.

Give us grace so to live that they and their family  
may find in the Christian fellowship  
a source of strength and love.

God of love, we commend N to your care.  
Give *him/her* health of body and mind;  
and in due time draw *him/her* to come to you in baptism,  
to make *his/her* own profession of faith in you,  
and to commit *his/her* life to Christ as Saviour and Lord.  
So may *he/she* serve you  
and, at the last, share the joys of your eternal kingdom;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**



# Service of the Word

*When God's people gather for worship a service of the Word may be used. This outline draws on classic patterns of Reformed worship and is offered as one model. It is simple and adaptable, having a three-fold structure based around the reading and exposition of Scripture:- preparing to hear God's Word; hearing God's Word and responding to God's Word. The resources which follow provide a variety of material for a service of the Word. They are drawn from a wide range of liturgical voices and are indicated by the numbers in brackets.*

## **Preparing to hear God's Word**

Call to Worship (1)  
Hymn / Song  
Prayers of Approach, Adoration and Confession (2)  
Assurance of Pardon (3)

## **Hearing God's Word**

Theme Introduction  
Prayer for Grace or Collect for the Day (4)  
Reading from Scripture  
Psalm or Hymn or Song  
Reading(s) from Scripture  
Hymn or Song  
Sermon or other Exposition of the Word

## **Responding to God's Word**

Hymn or Song  
An Affirmation of Faith may be used  
(optional eg. R&S 759, 749, 752)  
Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession (5)  
The Offering (6)  
Hymn or Song  
The Blessing (7)



## (1) Call to Worship

Let us worship God.

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

O God, your loving kindness is better than life itself;  
**our lips shall give you praise.**

So we will bless you as long as we live  
**and lift up our hands in your name.**

*or*

Jesus invites us to a way of celebration,  
meeting and feasting with the humble and poor.

**Let us walk his way with joy.**

Jesus beckons us to a way of risk,  
letting go of our security.

**Let us walk his way with joy.**

Jesus challenges us to listen  
to the voices of those who have nothing to lose.

**Let us walk his way with joy.**

Jesus calls us to follow the way of the cross,  
where despair is transformed by the promise of new life.

**Let us walk his way with joy.**

*or*

We are God's people.

How good it is that we have all come  
– women and men, young and old –

to worship God who creates us;

how good it is that we are gathered

to meet Jesus Christ – God's living word;

how good it is that we seek together

signs of the Holy Spirit,

whom we cannot catch or subdue.

Come, let us worship God.

## (2) Prayers of Approach, Adoration and Confession

All-holy God,  
you call us together to be your holy people,  
and so we join to give you praise  
    for the joy of our creation;  
    for our redemption in Christ;  
    for the empowerment of your Spirit.

Gracious God,  
fill our hearts with your love  
and our lives with your glory  
as we come before you in worship and prayer  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Intimate God,  
we praise you because you know each one of us;  
the worries that nag us, the achievements we are proud of,  
the hopes and expectations that we hold,  
half-recognised, in our hearts.

We praise you for what we know of you;  
the ways in which you have welcomed and met us,  
your quiet, constant, presence in our lives.

And we praise you for what we do not yet know;  
the mysteries of your creation,  
the questions that baffle us,  
the wonders of discovery awaiting us.

Unknown God,  
may we be open to meet with you in unexpected ways;  
discerning your presence in what is strange to us,  
and seeing the familiar with newly-opened eyes.

**Amen.**

*or*

Wise and Holy One  
you are  
beyond our imagination  
beyond our understanding  
beyond our humanity;  
and because you are beyond us  
we turn to you for sanctuary  
we come to you for protection.

Wise and Holy One  
you are not completely beyond our imagination,  
because Jesus Christ shows us what you are like;  
you are not completely beyond our understanding  
because Jesus Christ teaches us the way;  
you are not completely beyond our humanity  
because Jesus Christ is one of us.  
And because you are beside us  
we can walk alongside you as a companion  
we can speak honestly with you as a friend  
we can keep silence with you as a lover.

Wise and Holy One  
not completely beyond us,  
not only beside us but deep within our being.  
Spirit of God  
when we feel confused,  
help us to make sense of life and offer it to others;  
when we feel abandoned,  
help us to know your love and share it with others;  
when we feel at a loss,  
help us to rediscover hope and offer it to others;  
when we fail to love you,  
help us to know your forgiveness and share it with others;  
encourage us to leave what is past and travel on,  
with you and all your people,  
into your glorious future.

**Amen.**

*and/or*

God of love and mercy,  
we come before you  
knowing that we are in need of forgiveness.

We have sinned against you  
in our speaking and in our silence;  
in our thinking and in our thoughtlessness;  
in our actions and in our inaction.

We have sinned against you,  
in not loving you with our whole heart  
and soul and strength;  
in not loving our sisters and brothers in Christ.  
Grant us, O Lord, your forgiveness,  
restore us in the image of your Son,  
and lead us along the way to your kingdom,  
to the glory of your name.

**Amen.**

*or*

O God,  
we have come together to turn to you  
as your people have gathered before.  
With Christians over the centuries and across the world,  
with all your people of all places and times,  
we have come.

We bring with us everything we are,  
all our gifts and talents,  
all that we do well and for good.  
We bring our weakness  
and our sorrow  
and every way in which we fail.

We come in the hope and expectation  
that we shall find you here in this company of people,  
as the scriptures are read and interpreted  
and as the music and the words touch our spirits.



We pray that as we learn to follow Jesus, your Son,  
we may be saved from all that harms us,  
that we may become the people you made us to be  
and that we may find strength to do good in the world  
so that your will may be done.

God the Creator, we praise you.  
God in Christ, we turn to you.  
God the Comforter, we call upon you.

Blessed be God, forever.

O God of justice,  
we have heard your commandments  
and they are a gift to us.  
Yet we have failed always to live by them.  
For this we are sorry and we turn to you for forgiveness.  
We have not loved you wholeheartedly.  
We have failed in love to our neighbours  
and to our selves.  
We have not loved our enemies  
or blessed those who do us harm.  
We live in an unjust world,  
where many are hungry,  
and there is little peace.

Lord have mercy upon us.

### (3) Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news!  
Who is to condemn?  
It is Christ Jesus,  
who died,  
yes,  
who was raised,  
who is at the right hand of God,  
who indeed intercedes for us.

Romans 8:34

So if anyone is in Christ,  
there is a new creation:  
everything old has passed away;  
see, everything has become new!

2 Corinthians 5:17

**Amen.**

Receive God's gift of forgiveness  
and be at peace.

*or*

O God,  
your heart is full of mercy.  
May we hear and trust your words to each of us:  
'Your sins are forgiven.'  
May we forgive each other  
and forgive ourselves.

Thanks be to God.

**Amen.**

## (4) Prayer for Grace

O Lord, heavenly Father,  
in whom is the fullness of grace and wisdom,  
enlighten our minds by your Holy Spirit,  
and give us grace to receive your Word  
with reverence and humility,  
without which no-one can understand your truth.  
For Christ's sake.

**Amen.**

*or*

Eternal God,  
who longs for us to know all good things  
and to walk along a peaceful path,  
open the eyes of our hearts  
that we may see the way to life,  
open our ears that we may hear the truth,  
and open our lips that we may praise you,  
this day and all our days,  
in Jesus' name.

**Amen.**

## (5) Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Loving God,  
we give you thanks and praise  
for all that you have done for us.

For your whole created universe  
bursting with life and infinite possibilities,  
a universe created and yet still being created.

For the beauty and fragility of our spinning planet,  
the blue oceans, swarming with life,  
and the green and verdant earth.

For our fellow human beings,  
people of many colours, of many languages,  
of many abilities, yet all your children.

We give you thanks  
for the life, death, and resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ.  
For the message which he brings,  
for the life in us which he renews,  
and the example he has given us to follow.

We give you thanks for the Holy Spirit,  
sweeping through all of life with boundless energy,  
at once as gentle as the breath of a child,  
and yet as fierce as a raging storm,  
lifting us up in your grace.

Hear us, Lord,  
as in our own hearts and minds  
we give you thanks for your presence in our lives....

*Silence*

For all these things we give you our joyous praise,  
through your Son, Jesus Christ  
and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

*or*

God, Maker and Lover of all,  
we know that your way is not always easy;  
that peace is not given lightly,  
that sometimes justice comes only through struggle.

We pray for the places in your world  
where we long to see justice  
and dream of peace.

We remember especially the peoples of....  
where conflicts seem so long-standing and complex  
that we cannot imagine resolution;  
and we pray for wisdom and reconciliation....

We remember communities divided by poverty and racism,  
especially....  
where the gaps between privilege and powerlessness  
seem to grow ever wider;  
and we pray for justice and healing.

We remember your church,  
sometimes fragmented and confused,  
where in spite of division,  
your people seek to live out the Gospel;  
and we pray for joy and a new sense of the Spirit's power.

We remember our friends, neighbours and ourselves,  
especially....  
in those areas of our lives where we struggle  
to be true to what we have learned of you;  
and we pray for faithfulness and courage.

God, Maker and Lover of us all  
who summons us in Jesus to the way of the cross,  
and empowers us to live by your Spirit,  
hear our prayer.

**Amen.**

*or*

Liberating God,  
we bring our prayers for those whose lives are limited,  
by their own attitudes or beliefs,  
by the pain of their circumstances,  
by the actions of others,  
seeking for all confidence to journey in freedom.

We pray for those worn down by illness,  
or exhausted by caring for others,  
longing to feel the freshness and energy  
of a bright new day.

We pray for those confined by oppression,  
their opportunities limited by prejudice,  
longing to experience the possibility  
of travelling on an open road.

We pray for those limited by their own lack of self-worth,  
held back by doubts and fears, and repeated rejection,  
longing to walk with the confidence  
of striding out freely along their own path.

We pray for those trapped in poverty,  
their energies sapped by the struggle against greed and injustice,  
longing to know the abundance  
of an earth where resources are freely shared.

**Amen.**

## (6) Offering Prayers

Eternal God  
we come with these gifts  
to offer our sacrifice of praise  
and the service of our lives;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*or*

Loving God, we bring these our gifts,  
in thanksgiving for all that you have given us;  
asking that we may be servants of others  
and witnesses to your love.  
In the name of Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

*or*

Generous God  
we bring our gifts to you  
with cheerfulness and joyful hearts.  
Give us courage that with these gifts  
we may also offer our minds, bodies and spirits,  
ready and willing to show the truth of the Gospel in our lives.

**Amen.**

## (7) Blessings

May the God of hope  
fill you with all joy and peace in believing,  
so that you may abound in hope  
by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13

**Amen.**

*or*

The blessing of God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
be with you, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*or*

May the God whose longing is for justice  
and whose passion is for the freedom of all  
strengthen us to work for all that makes for peace;  
and the blessing of the living God,  
Creator, Redeemer and Spirit  
be with us all, now and always.

**Amen.**

*or*

Let us go out into the world  
as bringers of love  
as makers of peace  
as messengers of hope  
knowing that the blessing of God, the source of life,  
of Jesus Christ, the way to life,  
and of the Holy Spirit, the sustainer of life,  
is with us today, tomorrow and forever.

**Amen.**



# Daily Worship

*This is based around the Lord's Prayer and may be used by individuals or in a group setting. The use of movement and/or symbols may be appropriate.*

## I. Our Father in heaven,

*A candle is lit and the Bible is opened.*

Let us wait upon the Lord, God of heaven and earth.  
Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

*One of these Scripture sentences, or another appropriate to the season, is read.*

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!  
By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living  
hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

1 Peter 1:3

As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you,  
says the LORD.

Isaiah 66:13a

'Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the  
nations, I am exalted in the earth.'

Psalms 46:10

What does the LORD require of you but to do justice,  
and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Micah 6:8b

Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage;  
wait for the LORD!

Psalms 27:14

As a father has compassion for his children,  
so the LORD has compassion for those who fear him.

Psalms 103:13

Jesus said 'Remember, I am with you always,  
to the end of the age.'

Matthew 28:20b

*Silence*

## 2. Hallowed be your Name,

O Lord open our lips:  
**and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**  
Give thanks to the Lord of lords:  
**for his steadfast love endures for ever.**

*A Psalm is read or sung.*

**Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

## 3. your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

*The following prayer, or another for God's kingdom, is used:*

God of all,  
your kingdom is the coming of peace and justice,  
the dawn of your tender mercy and compassion.  
Your kingdom is seen in Jesus Christ,  
your will for all is lived out in his teaching and healing,  
his dying and rising to new life, for the world.  
Your kingdom is in our midst,  
your Spirit is at work, here and now,  
so we pray:

Among all who suffer ....  
Your kingdom come:  
**Your will be done.**

Among our families and friends ....  
Your kingdom come:  
**Your will be done.**

In our community ....  
Your kingdom come:  
**Your will be done.**

In our nation ....  
Your kingdom come:

**Your will be done.**

Among the nations of this world ....  
Your kingdom come:

**Your will be done.**

In the life of your Church, across the world and in this place ....  
Your kingdom come:

**Your will be done.**

And in our living this day ....  
Your kingdom come:

**Your will be done.**

**In Jesus' name.**

**Amen.**

#### **4. Give us today our daily bread.**

Listen for the word God speaks today:  
**feed us, Lord, with your Word.**

*or*

God of life, make us hungry for your justice:  
**challenge us with your Word of Life.**

*or*

Open your word to us, Lord:  
**give us ears to hear and minds to receive.**

*or*

Lord, break the bread of your word among us:  
**and nourish us with your truth.**

Readings from Scripture.

Hear the word of the Lord:  
**Thanks be to God.**

*Silence*

## **5. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

Let us confess our sins to God and resolve to accept and share his forgiveness.

*Silence*

Lord God most merciful,  
**we confess that we have sinned,  
through our own fault,  
and in common with others,  
in thought, word and deed,  
and through what we have left undone.**

**We ask to be forgiven.**

**By the power of your Spirit  
turn us from evil to good,  
help us to forgive others,  
and keep us in your ways  
of righteousness and love;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

*In words of Scripture such as these.*

The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance,  
that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners –  
of whom I am the foremost.

I Timothy 1:15

Our sins are forgiven for his sake.  
**Thanks be to God.**



**God of grace, clothe us with the armour of Christ,  
and defend us from all evil.  
Empower us by your Spirit,  
that we may wear truth and integrity,  
walk the way of peace,  
hold fast to faith and salvation  
and carry your word of life within us.  
For we pray in the name of Christ,  
who for the sake of us all,  
hung naked on a cross. Amen.**

*or*

**God of grace,  
pour your love into our hearts;  
pour your Spirit into our being;  
create within us new hearts and minds  
and lead us in the way of Christ. Amen.**

*or*

**Strengthen us for your service, Lord.  
Lead us in your way of peace. Amen.**

**7. For the kingdom,  
the power and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen.**

*A New Testament Canticle or Hymn is read or sung.*

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever.

Ephesians 3:20-21

**Amen.**

The Grace

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
be with us all evermore. Amen.**

# Evening Worship

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1. The Gathering of the People
2. Psalm verses and the Lighting of Candles
3. Hymn or Song
4. Prayer for Christ's Presence
5. The Lord's Prayer
6. A Night Psalm
7. Meeting with Christ at Evening time
8. Gospel Reading
9. Reflection on the Gospel
10. Hymn or Song
11. Prayers of Intercession
12. Hymn or Song
13. The Song of Simeon
14. Blessing

## 1. The gathering of the people

*The people gather and wait in silence.  
The lights are dimmed.*

## 2. Psalm verses and the lighting of candles

*Where appropriate the words may be shared by a number of voices.*

O LORD, God of my salvation,  
when, at night, I cry out in your presence,  
let my prayer come before you;  
incline your ear to my cry.

Psalm 88:1-2

*(after silence, a candle is lit)*

It is good to give thanks to the LORD,  
to sing praises to your name, O Most High;  
to declare your steadfast love in the morning,  
and your faithfulness by night.

Psalm 92:1-2

*(after silence, a second candle is lit)*

Blessed be the name of the LORD  
from this time on and for evermore.  
From the rising of the sun to its setting  
the name of the LORD is to be praised.

Psalm 113:2-3

*(after silence, a third candle is lit)*

Blessed be the name of the LORD.

**Come bless the LORD, all you servants of the LORD,  
who stand by night in the house of the LORD!**

**Lift up your hands to the holy place,  
and bless the LORD.**

May the LORD, maker of heaven and earth,  
bless you from Zion.

Psalm 134



### 3. Hymn or song

### 4. Prayer for Christ's presence

As the darkness falls and the shadows grow....

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

When we are tired and weary and longing for rest....

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

While the business of the world goes on  
and when there is no silence....

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Whenever we meet together to curse the darkness  
and to light a flame for justice....

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

While we cannot find your peace in the world  
and long for your blessing....

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

As we join in the great circle of prayer with all your saints....

**Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.**

### 5. The Lord's Prayer

### 6. A night psalm

*Psalm 139 or one of the other night psalms (4,33, 34, 91, 134, 136) may be sung or said.*

### 7. Meeting with Christ at evening time

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God'

John 3:1-2a

*Silence*

Let us, in the quietness of evening,  
open our minds and hearts to receive the teaching of Christ,  
so that we may learn to follow him  
and find courage to go with him,  
even on the way of the cross.

That evening, at sundown, they brought to him  
all who were sick or possessed with demons.  
And the whole city was gathered around the door.

Mark 1:32-33

### *Silence*

May we, who have gathered here at sundown,  
bring our pain and suffering to Christ,  
and bring our prayers for others,  
that all may find healing and freedom  
in the presence of God.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week,  
and the doors of the house where the disciples had met  
were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood  
among them and said, 'Peace be with you'.

John 20:19

### *Silence*

Let us, who come bearing many fears,  
and marked by disappointment and failure,  
find here the reconciling peace which Christ gives,  
the hope of new beginnings,  
and the promise of the coming dawn.

They urged him strongly, saying, 'Stay with us, because it is  
almost evening and the day is now nearly over'. So he went  
in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them,  
he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them.  
Then their eyes were opened, and they recognised him;  
and he vanished from their sight.

Luke 24:29-31

### *Silence*

**Lord Jesus Christ,  
we have gathered for prayer as the day is nearly over.  
Though we cannot see you before us,  
enlighten the eyes of our hearts,  
that we may recognise your presence  
and know that you are with us,  
and will stay beside us,  
this night and for evermore. Amen.**

## **8. Gospel reading**

## **9. Reflection on the Gospel**

*A short spoken reflection may follow or a guided meditation.  
A picture, icon or painting may illuminate the text. Someone  
may lead a discussion. A poem may be read or a piece of  
music played. Or silence may be kept.*

## **10. Hymn or song**

## **11. Prayers of intercession**

*either*

Let us pray for the Church, for the world  
and for all who are suffering.

We pray for peace among the nations,  
for the unity of the Church,  
and for the healing of our hearts.

**I call upon you, O LORD, come quickly to me;  
give ear to my voice when I call to you.**

Psalm 141:1

We pray for justice in business and in government,  
for true community in the Church,  
and for goodness in all our deeds and words.

**Let my prayer be counted as incense before you,  
and the lifting up of my hands  
as an evening sacrifice.**

Psalm 141:2

We pray for food and drink for the hungry,  
for rescue for those in peril and danger,  
for comfort for those sorrowing or deeply troubled.

**I call upon you O LORD, come quickly to me;  
give ear to my voice when I call to you.**

We pray for those who find the night long and bleak,  
for those who cry out for the morning,  
that they may know the presence of God in the dark hours.

**Let my prayer be counted as incense before you,  
and the lifting up of my hands  
as an evening sacrifice.**

We pray for those new born this day,  
for those celebrating or remembering a significant time,  
and for those newly baptized and received into the Church.

**I call upon you O LORD, come quickly to me;  
give ear to my voice when I call to you.**

We pray for those who are close to death,  
that they may find peace and rest,  
and be received into God's eternal presence with all the saints.

**Let my prayer be counted as incense before you,  
and the lifting up of my hands  
as an evening sacrifice.**

*Silence*

We pray these and all our prayers  
in the name of Christ.

**I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,  
and in his word I hope;  
my soul waits for the Lord.**

Psalm 130:5-6a

**Amen.**

or

*The people may be invited to light a candle as a symbol of prayer and to say*

'I light this candle for...'

## **12. Hymn or song**

## **13. The song of Simeon**

**Now, Lord, let your servant go in peace:  
your word has been fulfilled.  
My own eyes have seen the salvation  
which you have prepared in the sight of every people:  
a light to reveal you to the nations,  
and the glory of your people Israel.**

## **14. Blessing**

The blessing of God be yours:  
the God who makes the darkness light,  
the Saviour who is light to the world,  
the Spirit who brings us peace,  
this night and always.

**Amen.**



# Prayers for Healing and Laying-on of Hands

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1. Call to Worship
2. Opening Responses
3. Hymn
4. Prayer of Confession
5. Affirmation and Assurance of Pardon
6. The Lord's Prayer
7. Offering
8. Hymn or Chant
9. Reading(s)
10. Sermon or Reflection
11. Hymn or Chant
12. Prayers of Intercession
13. Invitation
14. Hymn
15. The Laying-on of Hands
16. Anointing with Oil
17. Closing Prayer and Blessing

*Before the service the leader explains that it will include prayer for the healing of people and situations as well as the laying-on of hands for any who wish it.*

*The laying-on of hands may be done in different ways. It is always helpful when two or more people, who may have helped to lead other parts of the service, share in this. Some congregations have teams of people who administer the laying-on of hands. Other churches invite people to participate in giving as well as receiving the laying-on of hands. People need to feel valued and at ease whether or not they are actively involved at this point. It is best if those who share the leadership of the laying-on of hands begin or finish by ministering to one another. Where anointing takes place, a little olive oil is normally placed on the forehead in the form of a cross, after the laying-on of hands.*

*Prayers of intercession can be a time of silence during which people may call out names. Alternatively, names may be collected first and grouped into different concerns, or gathered from pieces of paper on a board or prayer tree. Using only first names helps to show that God knows us all. Not specifying the illness or distress may help the prayer to focus on health. Prayers could be for healing in body, mind and spirit, for relationships and situations, for the bereaved and dying, and for the healing of the nations. It is good to include those in the medical services and all aspects of healing and reconciliation, as well as giving thanks for those who are recovering. It is helpful to involve more than one voice in leading these prayers.*

*Any sermon or reflection should be brief and lead on to the intercessions and laying-on of hands. This may offer the chance to clarify an aspect of the service that relates to the Bible passage, or a short piece of prose or poetry may be used to shed light on the reading. The address could even come before the reading on occasions.*

*At the end of the service people may wish to stay in quietness for a while.*



## 1. Call to Worship

Jesus said:

Come to me, all you that are weary  
and are carrying heavy burdens,  
and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me;  
for I am gentle and humble in heart,  
and you will find rest for your souls. Matthew 11: 28-29

*or*

Jesus said:

Ask, and it will be given to you;  
search, and you will find;  
knock, and the door will be opened for you.

For everyone who asks receives,  
and everyone who searches finds,  
and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

Luke 11: 9-10

## 2. Opening Responses

God beyond us,  
forming us in your own likeness,  
delighting in all that you create:  
**we turn to you,  
we are made by you,  
our hearts are restless  
till they find their rest in you.**

God beside us,  
companion on the road,  
who has come to give us life in all its fulness:  
**we listen for you,  
we yearn for you,  
we seek your healing touch.**

God within us,  
closer than our breathing,  
present at the heart of all that is:  
**we are waiting for you,  
we are open to you,  
as you waken us with promise of new life.**

*Silence*

### 3. Hymn

### 4. Prayer of Confession

Living God,  
always near to those who call on you:  
make us confident in prayer, joyful in praise,  
and responsive to your word,  
that we may know your peace in our hearts  
and your healing in our lives.

Loving God,  
in silence we ask you to lift from us  
all that weighs us down  
or spoils our relationship with others  
or separates us from you.

*Silent confession*

### 5. Affirmation and Assurance of Pardon

You are merciful to me, O God,  
in your faithful love.

**You cleanse me of my sin  
and remove the guilt that clings.**

You desire deep and inner truth:  
you accept me as I am.

**You create in me a pure heart  
and renew me from within.**

You restore to me the joy of your salvation;  
you support and strengthen me.

**You open my lips  
that my mouth may proclaim your praise.**

You accept the offering  
of a broken spirit.

**A broken and a contrite heart  
you do not despise.**

Jesus says: Your sins are forgiven.

Christ has set us free.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## 6. The Lord's Prayer

## 7. Offering

*An offering may be taken here or after the intercessions.*

Generous God, we bring to you  
our gifts, our prayers, ourselves.  
Let our gifts be used well,  
our prayers be sincere  
and our lives reflect your generosity and love.  
So may our offering be acceptable to you;  
and may we be ready to receive  
your healing and your grace.

**Amen.**

## 8. Hymn or Chant

## 9. Reading(s)

## 10. Sermon or Reflection

## 11. Hymn or Chant

## 12. Prayers of Intercession

Let us bring before God  
those who are on our hearts and minds,  
all for whom prayer has been requested  
and any who have asked us to remember them.  
Let us pray:

Loving God,  
long ago people brought their friends to Jesus,  
or approached him on behalf of others.  
So now we bring to you  
those who need your help.

*Prayers for healing, caring, reconciliation and thanksgiving,  
which may conclude:*

God of compassion and love,  
we offer you all our suffering and pain.  
Give us strength to bear our weakness,  
healing even when there is no cure,  
peace in the midst of turmoil  
and love to fill the spaces in our lives.

Glory to God, from whom all love flows,  
glory to Jesus, who showed his love through suffering,  
and glory to the Holy Spirit,  
who brings light to the darkest places.

**Amen.**

## 13. Invitation

*People who are able to come forward are invited to do so,  
during or after the next hymn, for the laying-on of hands.  
If anointing with oil is offered this may also be mentioned.  
Any who remain in their seats are invited to hold in prayer  
those receiving and administering the laying-on of hands.  
It is made clear that those ministering will come to any who  
are unable to move forward. The invitation ends with these  
or similar words:*

This is God's word, the word of your creator:  
'Do not be afraid – I will save you.  
I have called you by name – you are mine.  
When you pass through deep waters, I will be with you;  
your troubles will not overwhelm you.'

So come with your fears and your hopes,  
come with your sadness and your regrets,  
come with your pain and your doubt,  
come with whatever faith you have.  
Whether the storm is around you or within,  
the Saviour holds you;  
you are not alone.

## 14. Hymn

## 15. The Laying-on of Hands

*In preparation for the laying-on of hands, the following prayer may be said:*

Compassionate God, encircle us as we reach out in love.  
Wounded Christ, touch us in our weakness and our strength.  
Life-giving Spirit, breathe through us, channels of your peace.

*As hands are laid on each person in turn, the following prayer may be said:*

Healing Spirit of God,  
at work in Jesus,  
present here and now,  
fill your whole being,  
free you of all harm,  
and give you peace.

**Amen.**

## 16. Anointing with Oil

*When some present request anointing each is told:*

I anoint you with oil of gladness  
in the name of Jesus Christ.

*after anointing:*

Rise up and take courage:  
God is all around you,  
banishing the darkness  
and bathing you in light.

*or*

Turn your face to Christ:  
his mark is upon you  
as, through all your days,  
he gently leads you home.

*or*

Lift up your head:  
the Spirit is within you,  
cleansing and renewing you,  
bringing you new life.

*When some present request anointing each is told:*

I anoint you with oil of gladness  
in the name of Jesus Christ.

*and when this has been completed all are addressed together:*

Lift up your head  
and seek the face of Christ.  
His spirit is within you,  
cleansing and renewing;  
his presence is around you,  
bathing you in light;  
his mark is upon you,  
as, through all your days,  
he gently leads you home.

## 17. Closing Prayer and Blessing

*When all have returned to their places:*

**May the Christ of all that has been  
and all that is to come  
stay by our side through daylight and darkness,  
heal us of the wounds of the past,  
and welcome us into the future.**

Go in peace,  
protected by God,  
befriended by Christ,  
empowered by the Holy Spirit,  
and held by the prayers of the people.  
And the blessing of the sacred Trinity of love  
go with you now and always.

**Amen.**





# The Lord's Prayer

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## *First Form*

**Our Father in heaven  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.**

**Amen.**

## *Second Form*

**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.**

*or*

**And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,  
and the glory, for ever.**

**Amen.**



# Lectionary

## YEAR A

Beginning on the First Sunday of Advent in  
2004, 2007, 2010, 2013, 2016

### SEASON OF ADVENT

#### First Sunday of Advent

between November 27  
and December 3

Isaiah 2 : 1 - 5  
Psalm 122  
Romans 13 : 11 - 14  
St Matthew 24 : 36 - 44

#### Second Sunday of Advent

between December 4  
and December 10

Isaiah 11 : 1 - 10  
Psalm 72 : 1 - 7, 18 - 9  
Romans 15 : 4 - 13  
St Matthew 3 : 1 - 12

#### Third Sunday of Advent

between December 11  
and December 17

Isaiah 35 : 1 - 10  
Psalm 146 : 5 - 10  
*or* St Luke 1 : 47 - 55  
James 5 : 7 - 10  
St Matthew 11 : 2 - 11

#### Fourth Sunday of Advent

between December 18  
and December 24

Isaiah 7 : 10 - 16  
Psalm 80 : 1 - 7, 17 - 19  
Romans 1 : 1 - 7  
St Matthew 1 : 18 - 25

### SEASON OF

### CHRISTMAS

#### Nativity of the Lord (Christmas Day)

Any of the three sets of  
readings may be used on  
Christmas Eve/Day.

/  
Isaiah 9 : 2 - 7  
Psalm 96  
Titus 2 : 11 - 14  
St Luke 2 : 1 - 14, (15 - 20)

The readings from // and ///  
for Christmas may be used  
as alternatives for  
Christmas Day.

//  
Isaiah 62 : 6 - 12  
Psalm 97  
Titus 3 : 4 - 7  
St Luke 2 : (1 - 7), 8 - 20

If /// is not used on Christmas Day, it should be used at some service during the Christmas cycle because of the significance of St John's prologue.

///  
 Isaiah 52 : 7 - 10  
 Psalm 98  
 Hebrews 1 : 1 - 4, (5 - 12)  
 St John 1 : 1 - 14

**First Sunday after Christmas Day**

These readings are used on the First Sunday after Christmas unless the readings for the Epiphany of the Lord are preferred.

Isaiah 63 : 7 - 9  
 Psalm 148  
 Hebrews 2 : 10 - 18  
 St Matthew 2 : 13 - 23

**January 1 - The Naming of Jesus**

Numbers 6 : 22 - 27  
 Psalm 8  
 Galatians 4 : 4 - 7  
*or* Philippians 2 : 5 - 11  
 St Luke 2 : 15 - 21

**January 1 - when observed as New Year's Day**

Ecclesiastes 3 : 1 - 13  
 Psalm 8  
 Revelation 21 : 1 - 6a  
 St Matthew 25 : 31 - 46

**Second Sunday after Christmas Day**

These readings are provided for use when Epiphany (January 6) is celebrated on a weekday following the Second Sunday after Christmas Day.

Jeremiah 31 : 7 - 14  
 Psalm 147 : 12 - 20  
 Ephesians 1 : 3 - 14  
 St John 1 : (1 - 9), 10 - 18

**SEASON OF EPIPHANY Epiphany of the Lord**

Isaiah 60 : 1 - 6  
 Psalm 72 : 1 - 7, 10 - 14  
 Ephesians 3 : 1 - 12  
 St Matthew 2 : 1 - 12

**First Sunday after the Epiphany (Baptism of the Lord) between January 7 and January 13**

Isaiah 42 : 1 - 9  
 Psalm 29  
 Acts 10 : 34 - 43  
 St Matthew 3 : 13 - 17

**Second Sunday after the Epiphany**

*between January 14 and January 20*

Isaiah 49 : 1 - 7  
Psalm 40 : 1 - 11  
1 Corinthians 1 : 1 - 9  
St John 1 : 29 - 42

**Third Sunday after the Epiphany** *between January 21 and January 27*

Isaiah 9 : 1 - 4  
Psalm 27 : 1, 4 - 9  
1 Corinthians 1 : 10 - 18  
St Matthew 4 : 12 - 23

**Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany** *between January 28 and February 3*

\*If this is the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, it is therefore The Last Sunday after the Epiphany. In this event, do not use the readings given here, but instead use those for the **Last Sunday after the Epiphany**.

Micah 6 : 1 - 8  
Psalm 15  
1 Corinthians 1 : 18 - 31  
St Matthew 5 : 1 - 12

**Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany**

*between February 4 and February 10*

\*If this is the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, it is therefore the Last Sunday after the Epiphany. In this event, do not use the readings given here, but instead use those for the **Last Sunday after the Epiphany**.

Isaiah 58 : 1 - 9a (9b - 12)  
Psalm 112 : 1 - 9, (10)  
1 Corinthians 2 : 1 - 12, (13 - 16)  
St Matthew 5 : 13 - 20

**Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany**

*between February 11 and February 17*

\*If this is the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, it is therefore the Last Sunday after the Epiphany. In this event, do not use the readings given here, but instead use those for the **Last Sunday after the Epiphany**.

Deuteronomy 30 : 15 - 20  
Psalm 119 : 1 - 8  
1 Corinthians 3 : 1 - 9  
St Matthew 5 : 21 - 37

**Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany**

*between February 18 and February 24*

\*If this is the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, it is therefore the Last Sunday after the Epiphany. In this event, do not use the readings given here, but instead use those for the **Last Sunday after the Epiphany**.

Leviticus	19 : 1 - 2, 9 - 18
Psalm	119 : 33 - 40
1 Corinthians	3 : 10 - 11, 16 - 23
St Matthew	5 : 38 - 48

**Eighth Sunday after the Epiphany.**

*between February 25 and February 29*

\*(See above)

Isaiah	49 : 8 - 16a
Psalm	131
1 Corinthians	4 : 1 - 5
St Matthew	6 : 24 - 34

**Ninth Sunday after the Epiphany**

*between March 1 and March 9*

Whenever this Sunday occurs, it is also the Last Sunday after the Epiphany; the readings for both Sundays are the same.

Exodus	24 : 12 - 18
Psalm	2 or 99
2 Peter	1 : 16 - 21
St Matthew	17 : 1 - 9

**Last Sunday after the Epiphany (Transfiguration of the Lord)**

Exodus	24 : 12 - 18
Psalm	2
2 Peter	1 : 16 - 21
St Matthew	17 : 1 - 9

**SEASON OF LENT**

**Ash Wednesday**

Joel	2 : 1 - 2, 12 - 17
or Isaiah	58 : 1 - 12
Psalm	51 : 1 - 17
2 Corinthians	5 : 20b - 6 : 10
St Matthew	6 : 1 - 6, 16 - 21

**First Sunday in Lent**

Genesis	2 : 15 - 17; 3 : 1 - 7
Psalm	32
Romans	5 : 12 - 19
St Matthew	4 : 1 - 11

<b>Second Sunday in Lent</b>	Genesis	12 : 1 - 4a
	Psalm	121 :
	Romans	4 : 1 - 5, 13 - 17
	St John	3 : 1 - 17

<b>Third Sunday in Lent</b>	Exodus	17 : 1 - 7
	Psalm	95
	Romans	5 : 1 - 11
	St John	4 : 5 - 42

<b>Fourth Sunday in Lent</b>	1 Samuel	16 : 1 - 13
	Psalm	23
	Ephesians	5 : 8 - 14
	St John	9 : 1 - 41

<b>Fifth Sunday in Lent</b>	Ezekiel	37 : 1 - 14
	Psalm	130
	Romas	8 : 6 - 11
	St John	11 : 1 - 45

## HOLY WEEK

### *Entry into Jerusalem*

<b>Sixth Sunday in Lent (Palm/Passion)</b>	St Matthew	21 : 1 - 11
	Psalm	118 : 1 - 2, 19 - 29

Whenever possible, even if readings for the Entry into Jerusalem are used, it is desirable that the complete Passion narrative should be read, as part of the preparation for Easter.

### *Passion*

Isaiah	50 : 4 - 9a
Psalm	31 : 9 - 16
Philippians	2 : 5 - 11
St Matthew	26 : 14 - 27 : 66
or St Matthew	27 : 11 - 54

<b>Monday in Holy Week</b>	Isaiah	42 : 1 - 9
	Psalm	36 : 5 - 11
	Hebrews	9 : 11 - 15
	St John	12 : 1 - 11

<b>Tuesday in Holy Week</b>	Isaiah	49 : 1 - 7
	Psalm	71 : 1 - 14
	1 Corinthians	1 : 18 - 31
	St John	12 : 20 - 36

<b>Wednesday in Holy Week</b>	Isaiah	50 : 4 - 9a
	Psalm	70
	Hebrews	12 : 1 - 3
	St John	13 : 21 - 32
<b>Thursday in Holy Week</b>	Exodus	12 : 1 - 14
	Psalm	116 : 1 - 2, 12 - 19
	1 Corinthians	11 : 23 - 26
	St John	13 : 1 - 17, 31b - 35
<b>Good Friday</b>	Isaiah	52 : 13 - 53 : 12
	Psalm	22
	Hebrews	10 : 16 - 25
	<i>or</i> Hebrews	4 : 14 - 16; 5 : 7 - 9
	St John	18 : 1 - 19 : 42
<b>Saturday</b>	Job	14 : 1 - 14
These readings are for use	<i>or</i> Lamentations	3 : 1 - 9, 19 - 24
at services other than an	Psalm	31 : 1 - 4, 15 - 16
Easter Vigil.	1 Peter	4 : 1 - 8
	St Matthew	27 : 57 - 66
	<i>or</i> St John	19 : 38 - 42

**SEASON OF EASTER**  
**Resurrection of the Lord**

**Easter Vigil**

A minimum of three pairs of Old Testament readings, together with an Epistle and a Gospel, should be chosen. The pair including Exodus 14 should always be used.

Genesis	1 : 1 - 2 : 4a
Psalm	136 : 1 - 9, 23 - 26
Genesis	7 : 1 - 5, 11 - 18; 8 : 6 - 18; 9 : 8 - 13
Psalm	46
Genesis	22 : 1 - 18
Psalm	16
Exodus	14 : 10 - 31; 15 : 20 - 21
Exodus	15 : 1b - 13, 17 - 18
Isaiah	55 : 1 - 11
Isaiah	12 : 2 - 6
Proverbs	8 : 1 - 8, 19 - 21; 9 : 4b - 6
Psalm	19
Ezekiel	36 : 24 - 28
Psalm	42 <i>and</i> 43
Ezekiel	37 : 1 - 14



	Psalm	143
	Zephaniah	3 : 14 - 20
	Psalm	98
	Romans	6 : 3 - 11
	Psalm	114
	St Matthew	28 : 1 - 10
<b>Easter Day</b>	Acts	10 : 34 - 43
	<i>or</i> Jeremiah	31 : 1 - 6
	Psalm	118 : 1 - 2, 14 - 24
	Colossians	3 : 1 - 4
	<i>or</i> Acts	10 : 34 - 43
	St John	20 : 1 - 18
	<i>or</i> St Matthew	28 : 1 - 10
<b>Easter Evening</b>	Isaiah	25 : 6 - 9
	Psalm	114
	1 Corinthians	5 : 6b - 8
	St Luke	24 : 13 - 49
<b>Second Sunday of Easter</b>	Acts	2 : 14a, 22 - 32
	Psalm	16
	<i>or</i> Exodus	15 : 1 - 11
	Psalm	111
	1 Peter	1 : 3 - 9
	St John	20 : 19 - 31
<b>Third Sunday of Easter</b>	Acts	2 : 14a, 36 - 41
	Psalm	116 : 1 - 4, 12 - 19
	<i>or</i> Isaiah	51 : 1 - 6
	Psalm	34 : 1 - 10
	1 Peter	1 : 17 - 23
	St Luke	24 : 13 - 35
<b>Fourth Sunday of Easter</b>	Acts	2 : 42 - 47
	Psalm	23
	<i>or</i> Ezekiel	34 : 7 - 15
	Psalm	100
	1 Peter	2 : 19 - 25
	St John	10 : 1 - 10
<b>Fifth Sunday of Easter</b>	Acts	7 : 55 - 60
	Psalm	31 : 1 - 5, 15 - 16
	<i>or</i> Proverbs	4 : 10 - 18
	Psalm	119 : 9 - 32
	1 Peter	2 : 2 - 10
	St John	14 : 1 - 14

**Sixth Sunday of Easter**

Acts	17 : 22 - 31
Psalm	66 : 8 - 20
<i>or</i> Ezekiel	43 : 1 - 7a
Psalm	115
1 Peter	3 : 13 - 22
St John	14 : 15 - 21

**Ascension of the Lord**

These readings may also be used on the Seventh Sunday of Easter.

Acts	1 : 1 - 11
Psalm	47 <i>or</i> 93
<i>or</i> Daniel	7 : 9 - 14
Psalm	24 : 7 - 10
Ephesians	1 : 15 - 23
St Luke	24 : 44 - 53

**Seventh Sunday of Easter**

Acts	1 : 6 - 14
Psalm	68 : 1 - 10, 32 - 35
<i>or</i> Isaiah	45 : 1 - 7
Psalm	21 : 1 - 7
1 Peter	4 : 12 - 14: 5 : 6 - 11
St John	17 : 1 - 11

**DAY OF PENTECOST**

The passage from Acts must be used, either as the first or second reading

Acts	2 : 1 - 21
<i>or</i> Numbers	11 : 24 - 30
Psalm	104 : 24 - 34, 35b
1 Corinthians	12 : 3b - 13
<i>or</i> Acts	2 : 1 - 21
St John	20 : 19 - 23
<i>or</i> St John	7 : 37 - 39

**SEASON AFTER PENTECOST****Trinity Sunday  
(First Sunday after  
Pentecost)**

*If the Sunday between May 24 and 28 inclusive follows Trinity Sunday, the readings for the Eighth Sunday After the Epiphany are used.*

Genesis	1 : 1 - 2 : 4a
Psalm	8
2 Corinthians	13 : 11 - 13
St Matthew	28 : 16 - 20

***Sunday between May 29  
and June 4  
(if after Trinity Sunday)***

Genesis	6 : 9 - 22; 7 : 24; 8 : 14 - 19
Psalm	46
<i>or</i> Deuteronomy	11 : 18 - 21, 26 - 28
Psalm	31 : 1 - 5, 19 - 24
Romans	1 : 16 - 17; 3 : 22b - 28, (29 - 31)
St Matthew	7 : 21 - 29

<i>Sunday between June 5 and June 11</i> <b>(if after Trinity Sunday)</b>	Genesis 12 : 1 - 9 Psalm 33 : 1 - 12 <i>or</i> Hosea 5 : 15 - 6 : 6 Psalm 50 : 7 - 15 Romans 4 : 13 - 25 St Matthew 9 : 9 - 13, 18 - 26
<i>Sunday between June 12 and June 18</i> <b>(if after Trinity Sunday)</b>	Genesis 18 : 1 - 15, (21 : 1 - 7) Psalm 116 : 1 - 2, 12 - 19 <i>or</i> Exodus 19 : 2 - 8a Psalm 100 Romans 5 : 1 - 8 St Matthew 9 : 35 - 10 : 8, (9 - 23)
<i>Sunday between June 19 and June 25</i> <b>(if after Trinity Sunday)</b>	Genesis 21 : 8 - 21 Psalm 86 : 1 - 10, 16 - 17 <i>or</i> Jeremiah 20 : 7 - 13; Psalm 69 : 7 - 10 (11 - 15), 16 - 18 Romans 6 : 1b - 11 St Matthew 10 : 24 - 39
<i>Sunday between June 26 and July 2</i>	Genesis 22 : 1 - 14 Psalm 13 <i>or</i> Jeremiah 28 : 5 - 9 Psalm 89 : 1 - 4, 15 - 18 Romans 6 : 12 - 23 St Matthew 10 : 40 - 42
<i>Sunday between July 3 and July 9</i>	Genesis 24 : 34 - 38, 42 - 49, 58 - 67 Psalm 45 : 10 - 17 <i>or</i> Song of Songs 2 : 8 - 13 <i>or</i> Zechariah 9 : 9 - 12) Psalm 145 : 8 - 14 Romans 6 : 12 - 23 St Matthew 11 : 16 - 19, 25 - 30
<i>Sunday between July 10 and July 16</i>	Genesis 25 : 19 - 34 Psalm 119 : 105 - 112 <i>or</i> Isaiah 55 : 10 - 13 Psalm 65 : (1 - 8), 9 - 13 Romans 8 : 1 - 11 St Matthew 13 : 1 - 9, 18 - 23
<i>Sunday between July 17 and July 23</i>	Genesis 28 : 10 - 19a Psalm 139 : 1 - 12, 23 - 24 <i>or</i> Isaiah 44 : 6 - 8 Psalm 86 : 11 - 17 Romans 8 : 12 - 25 St Matthew 13 : 24 - 30, 36 - 43

<i>Sunday between July 24 and July 30</i>	Genesis Psalm (or Psalm or 1 Kings Psalm Romans St Matthew	29 : 15 - 28 105 : 1 - 11,45b; 128) 3 : 5 - 12 119 : 129 - 136 8 : 26 - 39 13 : 31 - 33, 44 - 52
<i>Sunday between July 31 and August 6</i>	Genesis Psalm (or Isaiah Psalm Romans St Matthew	32 : 22 - 31 17 : 1 - 7, 15 55 : 1 - 5 145 : 8 - 9, 14 - 21 9 : 1 - 5 14 : 13 - 21
<i>Sunday between August 7 and August 13</i>	Genesis Psalm (or 1 Kings Psalm Romans St Matthew	37 : 1 - 4, 12 - 28 105 : 1 - 6, 16 - 22, 45b 19 : 9 - 18 85 : 8 - 13 10 : 5 - 15 14 : 22 - 33
<i>Sunday between August 14 And August 20</i>	Genesis Psalm (or Isaiah Psalm Romans St Matthew	45 : 1 - 15 133 56 : 1, 6 - 8 67 11 : 1 - 2a 29 - 32 15 : (10 - 20), 21 - 28
<i>Sunday between August 21 and August 27</i>	Exodus Psalm (or Isaiah Psalm Romans St Matthew	1 : 8 - 2: 10 124 51 : 1 - 6 138 12 : 1 - 8 16 : 13 - 20
<i>Sunday between August 28 and September 3</i>	Exodus Psalm (or Jeremiah Psalm Romans St Matthew	3 : 1 - 15 105 : 1 - 6, 23 - 26, 45c 15 : 15 - 21 26 : 1 - 8 12 : 9 - 21 16 : 21 - 28
<i>Sunday between September 4 and September 10</i>	Exodus Psalm (or Ezekiel Psalm Romans St Matthew	12 : 1 - 14 149 33 : 7 - 11 119 : 33 - 40 13 : 8 - 14 18 : 15 - 20

<i>Sunday between September 11 and September 17</i>	Exodus	14 : 19 - 31
	Psalm	114
	<i>or</i> Exodus	15 : 1b - 11, 20 - 21
	<i>or</i> Genesis	50 : 15 - 21
	Psalm	103 : (1 - 7), 8 - 13
	Romans	14 : 1 - 12
	St Matthew	18 : 21 - 35
<i>Sunday between September 18 and September 24</i>	Exodus	16 : 2 - 15
	Psalm	105 : 1 - 6, 37 - 45
	<i>or</i> Jonah	3 : 10 - 4 : 11
	Psalm	145 : 1 - 8
	Philippians	1 : 21 - 30
	St Matthew	20 : 1 - 16
<i>Sunday between September 25 and October 1</i>	Exodus	17 : 1 - 7
	Psalm	78 : 1 - 4, 12 - 16
	<i>or</i> Ezekiel	18 : 1 - 4, 25 - 32
	Psalm	25 : 1 - 9
	Philippians	2 : 1 - 13
	St Matthew	21 : 23 - 32
<i>Sunday between October 2 and October 8</i>	Exodus	20 : 1 - 4, 7 - 9, 12 - 20
	Psalm	19
	<i>or</i> Isaiah	5 : 1 - 7
	Psalm	80 : 7 - 15
	Philippians	3 : 4b - 14
	St Matthew	21 : 33 - 46
<i>Sunday between October 9 and October 15</i>	Exodus	32 : 1 - 14
	Psalm	106 : 1 - 6, 19 - 23
	<i>or</i> Isaiah	25 : 1 - 9
	Psalm	23
	Philippians	4 : 1 - 9
	St Matthew	22 : 1 - 4
<i>Sunday between October 16 and October 22</i>	Exodus	33 : 12 - 23
	Psalm	99
	<i>or</i> Isaiah	45 : 1 - 7
	Psalm	96 : 1 - 9, (10 - 13)
	1 Thessalonians	1 : 1 - 10
	St Matthew	22 : 15 - 22
<i>Sunday between October 23 and October 29</i>	Deuteronomy	34 : 1 - 12
	Psalm	90 : 1 - 6, 13 - 17
	<i>or</i> Leviticus	19 : 1 - 2, 15 - 18
	Psalm	1
	1 Thessalonians	2 : 1 - 8
	St Matthew	22 : 34 - 46

<i>Sunday between October 30 and November 5</i>	Joshua	3 : 7 - 17
On Sunday November 1, or on the Sunday after November 1, the readings for All Saints may be used.	Psalm	107 : 1 - 7 , 33 - 37
	or Micah	3 : 5 - 12
	Psalm	43
	1 Thessalonians	2 : 9 - 13
	St Matthew	23 : 1 - 12
<i>Sunday between November 6 and November 12</i>	Joshua	24 : 1 - 3a, 14 - 25
On Sunday November 1, or on the Sunday after November 1, the readings for All Saints may be used.	Psalm	78 : 1 - 7
	or Amos	5 : 18 - 24
	Psalm	70
	1 Thessalonians	4 : 13 - 18
	St Matthew	25 : 1 - 13
<i>Sunday between November 13 and November 19</i>	Judges	4 : 1 - 7
	Psalm	123
	or Zephaniah	1 : 7, 12 - 18
	Psalm	90 : 1 - 8, (9 - 11), 12
	1 Thessalonians	5 : 1 - 11
	St Matthew	25 : 14 - 30
<i>Sunday between November 20 and November 26</i> <b>(Reign of Christ the King)</b>	Ezekiel	34 : 11 - 16, 20 - 24
	Psalm	100
	or Ezekiel	34 : 11 - 16,
	Psalm	95 : 1 - 7a
	Ephesians	1 : 15 - 23
	St Matthew	25 : 31 - 46

## **SPECIAL DAYS**

<b>Harvest Festival</b>	Genesis	8 : 15 - 22
	Psalm	65
	Revelation	14 : 14 - 18
	St Matthew	13 : 24 - 33
<b>Reformation Sunday</b>	Jeremiah	31 : 13 - 34
	Psalm	46
	Romans	3 : 19 - 28
	St John	8 : 31 - 36
<b>All Saints</b> <i>(November 1)</i>	Isaiah	51 : 1 - 6
	Psalm	131
	Hebrews	11 : 32 - 12 : 2
	St Matthew	5 : 1 - 12
<b>Remembrance Day</b>	Isaiah	25 : 4 - 9
	Psalm	46
	1 Timothy	2 : 1 - 5
	St Luke	1 : 68 - 79

## YEAR B

Beginning on the First Sunday of Advent in  
2005, 2008, 2011, 2014, 2017

### SEASON OF ADVENT

<b>First Sunday of Advent</b> between November 27 and December 3	Isaiah Psalm 1 Corinthians St Mark	64 : 1 - 9 80 : 1 - 7, 17 - 19 1 : 3 - 9 13 : 24 - 37
<b>Second Sunday of Advent</b> between December 4 and December 10	Isaiah Psalm 2 Peter St Mark	40 : 1 - 11 85 : 1 - 2, 8 - 13 3 : 8 - 15a 1 : 1 - 8
<b>Third Sunday of Advent</b> between December 11 and December 17	Isaiah Psalm <i>or</i> St Luke 1 Thessalonians St John	61 : 1 - 4, 8 - 11 126 1 : 47 - 55 5 : 16 - 24 1 : 6 - 8, 19 - 28
<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b> between December 18 and December 24	2 Samuel Psalm <i>or</i> St Luke Romans St Luke	7 : 1 - 11, 16 89 : 1 - 4, 19 - 26 1 : 47 - 55 16 : 25 - 27 1 : 26 - 38

### SEASON OF

### CHRISTMAS

#### Nativity of the Lord (Christmas Day)

Any of the three sets of  
readings may be used on  
Christmas Eve/Day.

	/	
	Isaiah Psalm Titus St Luke	9 : 2 - 7 96 : 2 : 11 - 14 2 : 1 - 14, (15 - 20)
The readings from // and /// for Christmas may be used as alternatives for Christmas Day.	// Isaiah Psalm Titus St Luke	62 : 6 - 12 97 3 : 4 - 7 2 : (1 - 7), 8 - 20
If /// is not used on Christmas Day, it should be used at some service during the Christmas cycle because of the significance of St John's prologue	/// Isaiah Psalm Hebrews St John	52 : 7 - 10 98 1 : 1 - 4, (5 - 12) 1 : 1 - 14

**First Sunday after  
Christmas Day**

These readings are used on  
the First Sunday after  
Christmas unless the readings  
for the Epiphany of the  
Lord are preferred.

Isaiah	61 : 10 - 62 : 3
Psalm	148
Galatians	4 : 4 - 7
St Luke	2 : 22 - 40

**January 1 -  
The Naming of Jesus**

Numbers	6 : 22 - 27
Psalm	8
Galatians or Philippians	4 : 4 - 7 2 : 5 - 11
St Luke	2 : 15 - 21

**January 1 -  
when observed as  
New Year's Day**

Ecclesiastes	3 : 1 - 13
Psalm	8
Revelation	21 : 1 - 6a
St Matthew	25 : 31 - 46

**Second Sunday after  
Christmas Day**

These readings are provided  
for use when Epiphany  
(January 6) is celebrated on  
a weekday following the  
Second Sunday after  
Christmas Day.

Jeremiah	31 : 7 - 14
Psalm	147 : 12 - 20
Ephesians	1 : 3 - 14
St John	1 : (1 - 9), 10 - 18

**SEASON OF EPIPHANY  
Epiphany of the Lord**

Isaiah	60 : 1 - 6
Psalm	72 : 1 - 7, 10 - 14
Ephesians	3 : 1 - 12
St Matthew	2 : 1 - 12

**First Sunday after the  
Epiphany  
(Baptism of the Lord)  
*between January 7  
and January 13***

Genesis	1 : 1 - 5
Psalm	29
Acts	19 : 1 - 7
St Mark	1 : 4 - 11

**Second Sunday after the  
Epiphany  
*between January 14  
and January 20***

1 Samuel	3 : 1 - 10, (11 - 20)
Psalm	139 : 1 - 6, 13 - 18
1 Corinthians	6 : 12 - 20
St John	1 : 43 - 51

**Third Sunday after the  
Epiphany *between January  
21 and January 27***

Jonah	3 : 1 - 5, 10
Psalm	62 : 5 - 12
1 Corinthians	7 : 29 - 31
St Mark	1 : 14 - 20



**Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany** *between January 28 and February 3*

\*If this is the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, it is therefore the Last Sunday after the Epiphany. In this event, do not use the readings given here, but instead use those for the **Last Sunday after the Epiphany**.

Deuteronomy	18 : 15 - 20
Psalm	111
1 Corinthians	8 : 1 - 13
St Mark	1 : 21 - 28

**Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany** *between February 4 and February 10*

\*If this is the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, it is therefore the Last Sunday after the Epiphany. In this event, do not use the readings given here, but instead use those for the **Last Sunday after the Epiphany**.

Isaiah	40 : 21 - 31
Psalm	147 : 1 - 11, 20c
1 Corinthians	9 : 16 - 23
St Mark	1 : 29 - 39

**Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany** *between February 11 and February 17*

\*If this is the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, it is therefore the Last Sunday after the Epiphany. In this event, do not use the readings given here, but instead use those for the **Last Sunday after the Epiphany**.

2 Kings	5 : 1 - 14
Psalm	30
1 Corinthians	9 : 24 - 27
St Mark	1 : 40 - 45

**Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany** *between February 18 and February 24*

\*If this is the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, it is therefore the Last Sunday after the Epiphany. In this event, do not use the readings given here, but instead use those for the **Last Sunday after the Epiphany**.

Isaiah	43 : 18 - 25
Psalm	41
2 Corinthians	1 : 18 - 22
St Mark	2 : 1 - 12

**Eighth Sunday after the Epiphany.**

*between February 25  
and February 29*

\*(See above)

Hosea	2 : 14 - 20
Psalm	103 : 1 - 13, 22
2 Corinthians	3 : 1 - 6
St Mark	2 : 13 - 22

**Ninth Sunday after the Epiphany**

*between March 1  
and March 9*

Whenever this Sunday occurs, it is also the Last Sunday after the Epiphany; the readings for both Sundays are the same.

2 Kings	2 : 1 - 12
Psalm	50 : 1 - 6
2 Corinthians	4 : 3 - 6
St Mark	9 : 2 - 9

**Last Sunday after the Epiphany  
(Transfiguration  
of the Lord)**

2 Kings	2 : 1 - 12
Psalm	50 : 1 - 6
2 Corinthians	4 : 3 - 6
St Mark	9 : 2 - 9

**SEASON OF LENT****Ash Wednesday**

Joel	2 : 1 - 2, 12 - 17
<i>or</i> Isaiah	58 : 1 - 12
Psalm	51 : 1 - 17
2 Corinthians	5 : 20b - 6 : 10
St Matthew	6 : 1 - 6, 16 - 21

**First Sunday in Lent**

Genesis	9 : 8 - 17
Psalm	25 : 1 - 10
1 Peter	3 : 18 - 22
St Mark	1 : 9 - 15

**Second Sunday in Lent**

Genesis	17 : 1 - 7, 15 - 16
Psalm	22 : 23 - 31
Romans	4 : 13 - 25
St Mark	8 : 31 - 38

**Third Sunday in Lent**

Exodus	20 : 1 - 17
Psalm	19
1 Corinthians	1 : 18 - 25
St John	2 : 13 - 22

**Fourth Sunday in Lent**

Numbers	21 : 4 - 9
Psalm	107 : 1 - 3, 17 - 22
Ephesians	2 : 1 - 10
St John	3 : 14 - 21

**Fifth Sunday in Lent**

Jeremiah 31 : 31 - 34  
Psalm 51 : 1 - 12  
    *or* Psalm 119 : 9 - 16  
Hebrews 5 : 5 - 10  
St John 12 : 20 - 33

**HOLY WEEK***Entry into Jerusalem***Sixth Sunday in Lent  
(Palm/Passion)**

Whenever possible, even if readings for the Entry into Jerusalem are used, it is desirable that the complete Passion narrative should be read, as part of the preparation for Easter.

St Mark 11 : 1 - 11  
    *or* St John 12 : 12 - 16  
Psalm 118 : 1 - 2, 19 - 29

*Passion*

Isaiah 50 : 4 - 9a  
Psalm 31 : 9 - 16  
Philippians 2 : 5 - 11  
St Mark 14 : 1 - 15 : 47  
    *or* St Mark 15 : 1 - 39 (40 - 47)

**Monday in Holy Week**

Isaiah 42 : 1 - 9  
Psalm 36 : 5 - 11  
Hebrews 9 : 11 - 15  
St John 12 : 1 - 11

**Tuesday in Holy Week**

Isaiah 49 : 1 - 7  
Psalm 71 : 1 - 14  
1 Corinthians 1 : 18 - 31  
St John 12 : 20 - 36

**Wednesday in Holy Week**

Isaiah 50 : 4 - 9a  
Psalm 70  
Hebrews 12 : 1 - 3  
St John 13 : 21 - 32

**Thursday in Holy Week**

Exodus 12 : 1 - 14  
Psalm 116 : 1 - 2, 12 - 19  
1 Corinthians 11 : 23 - 26  
St John 13 : 1 - 17, 31b - 35

**Good Friday**

Isaiah 52 : 13 - 53 : 12  
Psalm 22  
Hebrews 10 : 16 - 25  
    *or* Hebrews 4 : 14 - 16;  
    5 : 7 - 9  
St John 18 : 1 - 19 : 42

**Saturday**

These readings are for use at services other than an Easter Vigil.

Job	14 : 1 - 14
<i>or</i> Lamentations	3 : 1 - 9, 19 - 24
Psalm	31 : 1 - 4, 15 - 16
1 Peter	4 : 1 - 8
St Matthew	27 : 57 - 66
<i>or</i> St John	19 : 38 - 42

**SEASON OF EASTER  
Resurrection of the Lord**
**Easter Vigil**

A minimum of three pairs of Old Testament readings, together with an Epistle and a Gospel, should be chosen. The pair including Exodus 14 should always be used.

Genesis	1 : 1 - 2 : 4a
Psalm	136 : 1 - 9, 23 - 26
Genesis	7 : 1 - 5, 11 - 18
	8 : 6 - 18;
	9 : 8 - 13
Psalm	46

Genesis	22 : 1 - 18
Psalm	16
Exodus	14 : 10 - 31;
	15 : 20 - 21
Exodus	15 : 1b - 13, 17 - 18
Isaiah	55 : 1 - 11
Isaiah	12 : 2 - 6
Proverbs	8 : 1 - 8, 19 - 21;
	9 : 4b - 6
Psalm	19
Ezekiel	36 : 24 - 28
Psalm	42 <i>and</i> 43
Ezekiel	37 : 1 - 14
Psalm	143
Zephaniah	3 : 14 - 20
Psalm	98
Romans	6 : 3 - 11
Psalm	114
St Mark	16 : 1 - 8

**Easter Day**

Acts	10 : 34 - 43
<i>or</i> Isaiah	25 : 6 - 9
Psalm	118 : 1 - 2, 14 - 24
1 Corinthians	15 : 1 - 11
<i>or</i> Acts	10 : 34 - 43
St John	20 : 1 - 18
<i>or</i> St Mark	16 : 1 - 8

**Easter Evening**

Isaiah	25 : 6 - 9
Psalm	114
1 Corinthians	5 : 6b - 8
St Luke	24 : 13 - 49

<b>Second Sunday of Easter</b>	Acts	4 : 32 - 35
	Psalm	133
	<i>or</i> Isaiah	65 : 17 - 25
	Psalm	3
	1 John	1 : 1 - 2 : 2
	St John	20 : 19 - 31
<b>Third Sunday of Easter</b>	Acts	3 : 12 - 19
	Psalm	4
	<i>or</i> Isaiah	6 : 1 - 9a
	Psalm	40 : 1 - 5
	1 John	3 : 1 - 7
	St Luke	24 : 36b - 48
<b>Fourth Sunday of Easter</b>	Acts	4 : 5 - 12
	Psalm	23
	<i>or</i> Zechariah	10
	Psalm	80 : 1 - 7
	1 John	3 : 16 - 24
	St John	10 : 11 - 18
<b>Fifth Sunday of Easter</b>	Acts	8 : 26 - 40
	Psalm	22 : 25 - 31
	<i>or</i> Exodus	19 : 1 - 6
	Psalm	118 : 19 - 25
	1 John	4 : 7 - 21
	St John	15 : 1 - 8
<b>Sixth Sunday of Easter</b>	Acts	10 : 44 - 48
	Psalm	98
	<i>or</i> Genesis	35 : 9 - 15
	Psalm	101
	1 John	1 : 1 - 6
	St John	15 : 9 - 17
<b>Ascension of the Lord</b> These readings may also be used on the Seventh Sunday of Easter.	Acts	1 : 1 - 11
	Psalm	47 <i>or</i> 93
	<i>or</i> Daniel	7 : 9 - 14
	Psalm	68 : 15 - 20, 32 - 35
	Ephesians	1 : 15 - 23
	St Luke	24 : 44 - 53
<b>Seventh Sunday of Easter</b>	Acts	1 : 15 - 17, 21 - 26
	Psalm	1
	<i>or</i> Jeremiah	10 : 1 - 10a
	Psalm	108
	1 John	5 : 9 - 13
	St John	17 : 6 - 19

## DAY OF PENTECOST

The passage from Acts must be used, either as the first or second reading

Acts	2 : 1 - 21
<i>or</i> Ezekiel	37 : 1 - 14
Psalm	104 : 24 - 34, 35b
Romans	8 : 22 - 27
<i>or</i> Acts	2 : 1 - 21
St John	15 : 26 - 27; 16 : 4b - 15

## SEASON AFTER PENTECOST

**Trinity Sunday  
(First Sunday after  
Pentecost)**  
*If the Sunday between May  
24 and 28 inclusive follows  
Trinity Sunday, the readings  
For the Eighth Sunday  
After the Epiphany are used.*

Isaiah	6 : 1 - 8
Psalm	29
Romans	8 : 12 - 17
St John	3 : 1 - 17

*Sunday between May 29  
and June 4  
(if after Trinity Sunday)*

1 Samuel	3 : 1 - 10 (11 - 20)
Psalm	139 : 1 - 6, 13 - 18
<i>or</i> Deuteronomy	5 : 12 - 15
Psalm	81 : 1 - 10
2 Corinthians	4 : 5 - 12
St Mark	2 : 23 - 3 : 6

*Sunday between June 5  
and June 11  
(if after Trinity Sunday)*

1 Samuel	8 : 4 - 11, (12 - 15) 16 - 20, (11 : 14 - 15)
Psalm	138
<i>or</i> Genesis	3 : 8 - 15
Psalm	130
2 Corinthians	4 : 13 - 5 : 1
St Mark	3 : 20 - 35

*Sunday between June 12  
and June 18  
(if after Trinity Sunday)*

1 Samuel	15 : 34 - 16 : 13
Psalm	20
<i>or</i> Ezekiel	17 : 22 - 24
Psalm	92 : 1 - 4, 12 - 15
2 Corinthians	5 : 6 - 10, (11 - 13), 14 - 17
St Mark	4 : 26 - 34

*Sunday between June 19  
and June 25  
(if after Trinity Sunday)*

1 Samuel	17 : (1a, 4 - 11, 19 - 23), 32 - 49
Psalm	9 : 9 - 20
<i>or</i> 1 Samuel	17 : 57 - 18 : 5, 10 - 116
Psalm	133

	<i>or</i> Job	38 : 1 - 11
	Psalm	107 : 1 - 3, 23 - 32
	2 Corinthians	6 : 1 - 13
	St Mark	4 : 35 - 41
<i>Sunday between June 26 and July 2</i>	2 Samuel	1 : 1, 17 - 27
	Psalm	130
	<i>or</i> Lamentations	3 : 23 - 33
	Psalm	30
	2 Corinthians	8 : 7 - 15
	St Mark	5 : 21 - 43
<i>Sunday between July 3 and July 9</i>	2 Samuel	5 : 1 - 5, 9 - 10
	Psalm	48
	<i>or</i> Ezekiel	2 : 1 - 5
	Psalm	123
	2 Corinthians	12 : 2 - 10
	St Mark	6 : 1 - 13
<i>Sunday between July 10 and July 16</i>	2 Samuel	6 : 1 - 5, 12b - 19
	Psalm	24
	<i>or</i> Amos	7 : 7 - 15
	Psalm	85 : 8 - 13
	Ephesians	1 : 3 - 14
	St Mark	6 : 14 - 29
<i>Sunday between July 17 and July 23</i>	2 Samuel	7 : 1 - 14a
	Psalm	89 : 20 - 37
	<i>or</i> Jeremiah	23 : 1 - 6
	Psalm	23
	Ephesians	2 : 11 - 22
	St Mark	6 : 30 - 34, 53 - 56
<i>Sunday between July 24 and July 30</i>	2 Samuel	11 : 1 - 15
	Psalm	14
	<i>or</i> 2 Kings	4 : 42 - 44
	Psalm	145 : 10 - 18
	Ephesians	3 : 14 - 21
	St John	6 : 1 - 21
<i>Sunday between July 31 and August 6</i>	2 Samuel	11 : 26 - 12 : 13a
	Psalm	51 : 1 - 12
	<i>or</i> Exodus	16 : 2 - 4, 9 - 15
	Psalm	78 : 23 - 29
	Ephesians	4 : 1 - 16
	St John	6 : 24 - 35

<i>Sunday between August 7 and August 13</i>	2 Samuel Psalm <i>or</i> 1 Kings Psalm Ephesians St John	18 : 5 - 9, 15, 31 - 33 130 19 : 4 - 8 34 : 1 - 8 4 : 25 - 5 : 2 6 : 35, 41 - 51
<i>Sunday between August 14 And August 20</i>	1 Kings Psalm <i>or</i> Proverbs Psalm Ephesians St John	2 : 10 - 12; 3 : 3 - 14 111 9 : 1 - 6 34 : 9 - 14 5 : 15 - 20 6 : 51 - 58
<i>Sunday between August 21 and August 27</i>	1 Kings Psalm <i>or</i> Joshua Psalm Ephesians St John	8 : (1, 6, 10 - 11), 22 - 30, 41 - 43 84 24 : 1 - 2a, 14 - 18 34 : 15 - 22 6 : 10 - 20 6 : 56 - 69
<i>Sunday between August 28 and September 3</i>	Songs of Songs Psalm <i>or</i> Deuteronomy Psalm James St Mark	2 : 8 - 13 45 : 1 - 2, 6 - 9 4 : 1 - 2, 6 - 9 15 1 : 17 - 27 7 : 1 - 8, 14 - 15, 21 - 23
<i>Sunday between September 4 and September 10</i>	Proverbs Psalm <i>or</i> Isaiah Psalm James St Mark	22 : 1 - 2, 8 - 9, 22 - 23 125 35 : 4 - 7a 146 2 : 1 - 10, (11 - 13), 14 - 17 7 : 24 - 37
<i>Sunday between September 11 and September 17</i>	Proverbs Psalm <i>or</i> Isaiah Psalm James St Mark	1 : 20 - 33 19 50 : 4 - 9a 116 : 1 - 9 3 : 1 - 12 8 : 27 - 38



<i>Sunday between September 18 and September 24</i>	Proverbs	31 : 10 - 31
	Psalm	1
	<i>or</i> Jeremiah	11 : 18 - 20
	Psalm	54
	James	3 : 13 - 4 : 3, 7 - 8a
	St Mark	9 : 30 - 37
<i>Sunday between September 25 and October 1</i>	Esther	7 : 1 - 6, 9 - 10 9 : 20 - 22
	Psalm	124
	<i>or</i> Numbers	11 : 4 - 6, 10 - 16, 24 - 29
	Psalm	19 : 7 - 14
	James	5 : 13 - 20
	St Mark	9: 38 - 50
<i>Sunday between October 2 and October 8</i>	Job	1 : 1; 2 : 1 - 10
	Psalm	26
	<i>or</i> Genesis	2 : 18 - 24
	Psalm	8
	Hebrews	1 : 1 - 4; 2 : 5 - 12
	St Mark	10 : 2 - 16
<i>Sunday between October 9 and October 15</i>	Job	23 : 1 - 9, 16 - 17
	Psalm	22 : 1 - 15
	<i>or</i> Amos	5 : 6 - 7, 10 - 15
	Psalm	90 : 12 - 17
	Hebrews	4 : 12 - 16
	St Mark	10 : 17 - 31
<i>Sunday between October 16 and October 22</i>	Job	38 : 1 - 7, (34 - 41)
	Psalm	104 : 1 - 9, 24, 35c
	<i>or</i> Isaiah	53: 4 - 12
	Psalm	91 : 9 - 16
	Hebrews	5 : 1 - 10
	St Mark	10 : 35 - 45
<i>Sunday between October 23 and October 29</i>	Job	42 : 1 - 6, 10 - 17
	Psalm	34 : 1 - 8, (19 - 22)
	<i>or</i> Jeremiah	31 : 7 - 9
	Psalm	126
	Hebrews	7 : 23 - 28
	St Mark	10 : 46 - 52
<i>Sunday between October 30 and November 5</i> On Sunday November 1, or on the Sunday after	Ruth	1 : 1 - 18
	Psalm	146
	<i>or</i> Deuteronomy	6 : 1 - 9
	Psalm	119 : 1 - 8

November 1, the readings for All Saints may be used.	Hebrews St Mark	9 : 11 - 14 12 : 28 - 34
<i>Sunday between November 6 and November 12</i> On Sunday November 1, or on the Sunday after November 1, the readings for All Saints may be used.	Ruth  Psalm <i>or</i> 1 Kings Psalm Hebrews St Mark	3 : 1 - 5 4 : 13 - 17 127 17 : 8 - 16 146 9 : 24 - 28 12 : 38 - 44
<i>Sunday between November 13 and November 19</i>  19 - 25	1 Samuel 1 Samuel <i>or</i> Daniel Psalm Hebrews  St Mark	1 : 4 - 20 2 : 1 - 10 12 : 1 - 3 16 10 : 11 - 14, (15 - 18),  13 : 1 - 8
<i>Sunday between November 20 and November 26</i> <b>(Reign of Christ the King)</b>	2 Samuel Psalm <i>or</i> Daniel Psalm Revelation St John	23 : 1 - 7 132 : 1 - 12, (13 - 18) 7 : 9 - 10, 13 - 14 93 1 : 4b - 8 18 : 33 - 37
<b>SPECIAL DAYS</b>		
<b>Harvest Festival</b>	Deuteronomy Psalm Galatians St Luke	26: 1 - 11 67 6 : 6 - 10 12 : 16 - 21
<b>Reformation Sunday</b> <i>(Sunday before 31 October)</i>	Jeremiah Psalm Romans St John	31 : 31 - 34 46 3 : 19 - 28 8 : 31 - 36
<b>All Saints</b> <i>(November 1)</i>	Isaiah Psalm Revelation St John	25 : 6 - 9 24 7 : 9 - 17 11 : 32 - 44
<b>Remembrance Day</b>	Isaiah Psalm Romans St Matthew	52 : 7 - 12 72 : 1 - 19 8 : 31 - 39 5 : 38 - 48

## YEAR C

Beginning on the First Sunday of  
Advent in 2003, 2006, 2009, 2012, 2015, 2018

### SEASON OF ADVENT

**First Sunday of Advent**  
between November 27  
and December 3

Jeremiah 33 : 14 - 16  
Psalm 25 : 1 - 10  
1 Thessalonians 3 : 9 - 13  
St Luke 21 : 25 - 36

**Second Sunday of Advent**  
between December 4  
and December 10

Malachi 3 : 1 - 4  
Psalm 27  
*or* St Luke 1 : 68 - 79  
Philippians 1 : 3 - 11  
St Luke 3 : 1 - 6

**Third Sunday of Advent**  
between December 11  
and December 17

Zephaniah 3 : 14 - 20  
Psalm 45  
*or* Isaiah 12 : 2 - 6  
Philippians 4 : 4 - 7  
St Luke 3 : 7 - 18

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
between December 18  
and December 24

Micah 5 : 2 - 5a  
Psalm 80 : 1 - 7  
*or* St Luke 1 : 47 - 55  
Hebrews 10 : 5 - 10  
St Luke 1 : 39 - 45, (46 - 55)

### SEASON OF CHRISTMAS

**Nativity of the Lord  
(Christmas Day)**

Any of the three sets of  
readings may be used on  
Christmas Eve/Day.

/  
Isaiah 9 : 2 - 7  
Psalm 96  
Titus 2 : 11 - 14  
St Luke 2 : 1 - 14, (15 - 20)

The readings from // and ///  
for Christmas may be used  
as alternatives for  
Christmas Day.

//  
Isaiah 62 : 6 - 12  
Psalm 97  
Titus 3 : 4 - 7  
St Luke 2 : (1 - 7), 8 - 20

If /// is not used on  
Christmas Day, it should be  
used at some service during  
the Christmas cycle because  
of the significance of  
St John's prologue.

///  
Isaiah 52 : 7 - 10  
Psalm 98  
Hebrews 1 : 1 - 4, (5 - 12)  
St John 1 : 1 - 14

**First Sunday after  
Christmas Day**

These readings are used on the First Sunday after Christmas unless the readings for the Epiphany of the Lord are preferred.

I Samuel	2 : 18 - 20, 26
Psalm	148
Colossians	3 : 12 - 17
St Luke	2 : 41 - 52

**January 1 -  
The Naming of Jesus**

Numbers	6 : 22 - 27
Psalm	8
Galatians	4 : 4 - 7
<i>or</i> Philippians	2 : 5 - 11
St Luke	2 : 15 - 21

**January 1 -  
when observed as  
New Year's Day**

Ecclesiastes	3 : 1 - 13
Psalm	8
Revelation	21 : 1 - 6a
St Matthew	25 : 31 - 46

**Second Sunday after  
Christmas Day**

These readings are provided for use when Epiphany (January 6) is celebrated on a weekday following the Second Sunday after Christmas Day.

Jeremiah	31 : 7 - 14
Psalm	147 : 12 - 20
Ephesians	1 : 3 - 14
St John	1 : (1 - 9), 10 - 18

**SEASON OF EPIPHANY  
Epiphany of the Lord**

Isaiah	60 : 1 - 6
Psalm	72 : 1 - 7, 10 - 14
Ephesians	3 : 1 - 12
St Matthew	2 : 1 - 12

**First Sunday after the  
Epiphany  
(Baptism of the Lord)  
*between January 7  
and January 13***

Isaiah	43 : 1 - 7
Psalm	29
Acts	8 : 14 - 17
St Luke	3 : 15 - 17, 21 - 22

**Second Sunday after the  
Epiphany  
*between January 14  
and January 20***

Isaiah	62 : 1 - 5
Psalm	36 : 5 - 10
1 Corinthians	12 : 1 - 11
St John	2 : 1 - 11

**Third Sunday after the  
Epiphany *between January  
21 and January 27***

Nehemiah	8 : 1 - 3, 5 - 6, 8 - 10
Psalm	19
1 Corinthians	12 : 12 - 31a
St Luke	4 : 14 - 21

**Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany** *between January 28 and February 3*

\*If this is the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, it is therefore the Last Sunday after the Epiphany. In this event, do not use the readings given here, but instead use those for the **Last Sunday after the Epiphany**.

Jeremiah	1 : 4 - 10
Psalms	71 : 1 - 6
1 Corinthians	13 : 1 - 13
St Luke	4 : 21 - 30

**Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany** *between February 4 and February 10*

\*If this is the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, it is therefore the Last Sunday after the Epiphany. In this event, do not use the readings given here, but instead use those for the **Last Sunday after the Epiphany**.

Isaiah	6 : 1 - 8, (9 - 13)
Psalms	138
1 Corinthians	15 : 1 - 11
St Luke	5 : 1 - 11

**Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany** *between February 11 and February 17*

\*If this is the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, it is therefore the Last Sunday after the Epiphany. In this event, do not use the readings given here, but instead use those for the **Last Sunday after the Epiphany**.

Jeremiah	17 : 5 - 10
Psalms	1
1 Corinthians	15 : 12 - 20
St Luke	6 : 17 - 26

**Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany** *between February 18 and February 24*

\*If this is the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, it is therefore the Last Sunday after the Epiphany. In this event, do not use the readings given here, but instead use those for the **Last Sunday after the Epiphany**.

Genesis	45 : 3 - 11, 15
Psalms	37 : 1 - 11, 39 - 40
1 Corinthians	15 : 35 - 38, 42 - 50
St Luke	6 : 27 - 38

**Eighth Sunday after the Epiphany.**

*between February 25  
and February 29*

Isaiah	55 : 10 - 13
Psalm	92 : 1 - 4, 12 - 15
1 Corinthians	15 : 51 - 58
St Luke	6 : 39 - 49

**Ninth Sunday after the Epiphany**

*between March 1  
and March 9*

Whenever this Sunday occurs, it is also the Last Sunday after the Epiphany; the readings for both Sundays are the same.

Exodus	34 : 29 - 35
Psalm	99
2 Corinthians	3 : 12 - 4 : 2
St Luke	9 : 28 - 36, (37 - 43)

**Last Sunday after the Epiphany**

**(Transfiguration of the Lord)**

Exodus	34 : 29 - 35
Psalm	99
2 Corinthians	3 : 12 - 4 : 2
St Luke	9 : 28 - 36, (37 - 43)

**SEASON OF LENT****Ash Wednesday**

Joel	2 : 1 - 2, 12 - 17
<i>or</i> Isaiah	58 : 1 - 12
Psalm	51 : 1 - 17
2 Corinthians	5 : 20b - 6 : 10
St Matthew	6 : 1 - 6, 16 - 21

**First Sunday in Lent**

Deuteronomy	26 : 1 - 11
Psalm	91 : 1 - 2, 9 - 16
Romans	10 : 8b - 13
St Luke	4 : 1 - 13

**Second Sunday in Lent**

Genesis	15 : 1 - 12, 17 - 18
Psalm	27
Philippians	3 : 17 - 4 : 1
St Luke	13 : 31 - 35

**Third Sunday in Lent**

Isaiah	55 : 1 - 9
Psalm	63 : 1 - 8
1 Corinthians	10 : 1 - 13
St Luke	13 : 1 - 9

**Fourth Sunday in Lent**

Joshua	5 : 9 - 12
Psalm	32
2 Corinthians	5 : 16 - 21
St Luke	15 : 1 - 3, 11b - 32

<b>Fifth Sunday in Lent</b>	Isaiah	43 : 16 - 21
	Psalm	126
	Philippians	3 : 4b - 14
	St John	12 : 1 - 8
<b>HOLY WEEK</b>	<i>Entry into Jerusalem</i>	
<b>Sixth Sunday in Lent (Palm/Passion)</b>	St Luke	19 : 28 - 40
Whenever possible, even if readings for the Entry into Jerusalem are used, it is desirable that the complete Passion narrative should be read, as part of the preparation for Easter.	Psalm	118 : 1 - 2, 19 - 29
	<i>Passion</i>	
	Isaiah	50 : 4 - 9a
	Psalm	31 : 9 - 16
	Philippians	2 : 5 - 11
	St Luke	22 : 14 - 23 : 56
	or St Luke	23 : 1 - 49
<b>Monday in Holy Week</b>	Isaiah	42 : 1 - 9
	Psalm	36 : 5 - 11
	Hebrews	9 : 11 - 15
	St John	12 : 1 - 11
<b>Tuesday in Holy Week</b>	Isaiah	49 : 1 - 7
	Psalm	71 : 1 - 14
	1 Corinthians	1 : 18 - 31
	St John	12 : 20 - 36
<b>Wednesday in Holy Week</b>	Isaiah	50 : 4 - 9a
	Psalm	70
	Hebrews	12 : 1 - 3
	St John	13 : 21 - 32
<b>Thursday in Holy Week</b>	Exodus	12 : 1 - 14
	Psalm	116 : 1 - 2, 12 - 19
	1 Corinthians	11 : 23 - 26
	St John	13 : 1 - 17, 31b - 35
<b>Good Friday</b>	Isaiah	52 : 13 - 53 : 12
	Psalm	22
	Hebrews	10 : 16 - 25
	or Hebrews	4 : 14 - 16; 5 : 7 - 9
	St John	18 : 1 - 19 : 42

**Saturday**

These readings are for use at services other than an Easter Vigil.

Job	14 : 1 - 14
<i>or</i> Lamentations	3 : 1 - 9, 19 - 24
Psalm	31 : 1 - 4, 15 - 16
1 Peter	4 : 1 - 8
St Matthew	27 : 57 - 66
<i>or</i> St John	19 : 38 - 42

**SEASON OF EASTER  
Resurrection of the Lord**
**Easter Vigil**

A minimum of three pairs of Old Testament readings, together with an Epistle and a Gospel, should be chosen. The pair including Exodus 14 should always be used.

Genesis	1 : 1 - 2 : 4a
Psalm	136 : 1 - 9, 23 - 26
Genesis	7 : 1 - 5, 11 - 18; 8 : 6 - 18; 9 : 8 - 13
Psalm	46
Genesis	22 : 1 - 18
Psalm	16
Exodus	14 : 10 - 31; 15 : 20 - 21
Exodus	15 : 1b - 13, 17 - 18
Isaiah	55 : 1 - 11
Isaiah	12 : 2 - 6
Proverbs	8 : 1 - 8, 19 - 21; 9 : 4b - 6
Psalm	19
Ezekiel	36 : 24 - 28
Psalm	42 <i>and</i> 43
Ezekiel	37 : 1 - 14
Psalm	143
Zephaniah	3 : 14 - 20
Psalm	98
Romans	6 : 3 - 11
Psalm	114
St Luke	24 : 1 - 12

**Easter Day**

Acts	10 : 34 - 43
<i>or</i> Isaiah	65 : 17 - 25
Psalm	118 : 1 - 2, 14 - 24
1 Corinthians	15 : 19 - 26
<i>or</i> Acts	10 : 34 - 43
St John	20 : 1 - 18
<i>or</i> St Luke	24 : 1 - 12

**Easter Evening**

Isaiah	25 : 6 - 9
Psalm	114
1 Corinthians	5 : 6b - 8
St Luke	24 : 13 - 49



<b>Second Sunday of Easter</b>	Acts	5 : 27 - 32
	Psalm	118 : 14 - 29
	<i>or</i> Psalm	150
	<i>or</i> 2 Kings	7 : 1 - 16
	Psalm	2
	Revelation	1 : 4 - 8
	St John	20 : 19 - 31
<b>Third Sunday of Easter</b>	Acts	9 : 1 - 6 (7 - 20)
	Psalm	30
	<i>or</i> Isaiah	61 : 1 - 3
	Psalm	90 : 13 - 17
	Revelation	5 : 11 - 14
	St John	21 : 1 - 19
<b>Fourth Sunday of Easter</b>	Acts	9 : 36 - 43
	Psalm	23
	<i>or</i> Isaiah	53 : 1 - 6
	Psalm	114
	Revelation	7 : 9 - 17
	St John	10 : 22 - 30
<b>Fifth Sunday of Easter</b>	Acts	11 : 1 - 18
	Psalm	148
	<i>or</i> Leviticus	19 : 9 - 18
	Psalm	24 : 1 - 6
	Revelation	21 : 1 - 6
	St John	13 : 31 - 35
<b>Sixth Sunday of Easter</b>	Acts	16 : 9 - 15
	Psalm	67
	<i>or</i> Deuteronomy	34 : 1 - 12
	Psalm	109 : 21 - 31
	Revelation	21 : 10, 22 - 22 : 5
	St John	14 : 23 - 29
	<i>or</i> St John	5 : 1 - 9
<b>Ascension of the Lord</b> These readings may also be used on the Seventh Sunday of Easter.	Acts	1 : 1 - 11
	Psalm	47 <i>or</i> 93
	<i>or</i> Daniel	7 : 9 - 14
	Psalm	113
	Ephesians	1 : 15 - 23
	St Luke	24 : 44 - 53
<b>Seventh Sunday of Easter</b>	Acts	16 : 16 - 34
	Psalm	97
	<i>or</i> 2 Kings	2 : 1 - 15
	Psalm	2
	Revelation	22 : 12 - 14, 16 - 17, 20 - 21
	St John	17 : 20 - 26

## DAY OF PENTECOST

The passage from Acts must be used, either as the first or second reading

Acts	2 : 1 - 21
<i>or</i> Genesis	11 : 1 - 9
Psalm	104 : 24 - 34, 35b
Romans	8 : 14 - 17
<i>or</i> Acts	2 : 1 - 21
St John	14 : 8 - 17, (25 - 27)

## SEASON AFTER PENTECOST

### Trinity Sunday (First Sunday after Pentecost)

*If the Sunday between May 24 and 28 inclusive follows Trinity Sunday, the readings for the Eighth Sunday After the Epiphany are used.*

Proverbs	8 : 1 - 4, 22 - 31
Psalm	8
Romans	5 : 1 - 5
St John	16 : 12 - 15

### *Sunday between May 29 and June 4* (if after Trinity Sunday)

1 Kings	18 : 20 - 21, (22 - 29), 30 - 39
Psalm	96
<i>or</i> 1 Kings	8 : 22 - 23, 41 - 43
Psalm	96 : 1 - 9
Galatians	1 : 1 - 12
St Luke	7 : 1 - 10

### *Sunday between June 5 and June 11* (if after Trinity Sunday)

1 Kings	17 : 8 - 16, (17 - 24)
Psalm	146
<i>or</i> 1 Kings	17 : 17 - 24
Psalm	30
Galatians	1 : 11 - 24
St Luke	7 : 11 - 17

### *Sunday between June 12 and June 18* (if after Trinity Sunday)

1 Kings	21 : 1 - 10, (11 - 14) 15 - 21a
Psalm	5 : 1 - 8
<i>or</i> 2 Samuel	11 : 26 - 12 : 10, 13 - 15
Psalm	32
Galatians	2 : 15 - 21
St Luke	7 : 36 - 8 : 3

### *Sunday between June 19 and June 25* (if after Trinity Sunday)

1 Kings	19 : 1 - 4, (5 - 7), 8 - 15a
Psalm	42 <i>and</i> 43
<i>or</i> Isaiah	65 : 1 - 9
Psalm	22 : 19 - 28
Galatians	3 : 23 - 29
St Luke	8 : 26 - 39

<i>Sunday between June 26 and July 2</i>	2 Kings	2 : 1 - 2, (6 - 14)
	Psalm	77 : 1 - 2, 11 - 20
	<i>or</i> 1 Kings	19 : 15 - 16, 19 - 21
	Psalm	16
	Galatians	5 : 1, 13 - 25
	St Luke	9 : 51 - 62
<i>Sunday between July 3 and July 9</i>	2 Kings	5 : 1 - 14
	Psalm	30
	<i>or</i> Isaiah	66 : 10 - 14
	Psalm	66 : 1 - 9
	Galatians	6 : (1 - 6), 7 - 16
	St Luke	10 : 1 - 11, 16 - 20
<i>Sunday between July 10 and July 16</i>	Amos	7 : 7 - 17
	Psalm	82
	<i>or</i> Deuteronomy	30 : 9 - 14
	Psalm	25 : 1 - 10
	Colossians	1 : 1 - 14
	St Luke	10 : 25 - 37
<i>Sunday between July 17 and July 23</i>	Amos	8 : 1 - 12
	Psalm	52
	<i>or</i> Genesis	18 : 1 - 10a
	Psalm	15
	Colossians	1 : 15 - 28
	St Luke	10 : 38 - 42
<i>Sunday between July 24 and July 30</i>	Hosea	1 : 2 - 10
	Psalm	85
	<i>or</i> Genesis	18 : 20 - 32
	Psalm	138
	Colossians	2 : 6 - 15, (16 - 19)
	St Luke	11 : 1 - 13
<i>Sunday between July 31 and August 6</i>	Hosea	11 : 1 - 11
	Psalm	107 : 1 - 9, 43
	<i>or</i> Ecclesiastes	1 : 2, 12 - 14; 2 : 18 - 23
	Psalm	49 : 1 - 12
	Colossians	3 : 1 - 11
	St Luke	12 : 13 - 21
<i>Sunday between August 7 and August 13</i>	Isaiah	1 : 1, 10 - 20
	Psalm	50 : 1 - 8, 22 - 23
	<i>or</i> Genesis	15 : 1 - 6
	Psalm	33 : 12 - 22
	Hebrews	11 : 1 - 3, 8 - 16
	St Luke	12 : 32 - 40

<i>Sunday between August 14 And August 20</i>	Isaiah	5 : 1 - 7
	Psalm	80 : 1 - 2, 8 - 19
	<i>or</i> Jeremiah	23 : 23 - 29
	Psalm	82
	Hebrews	11 : 29 - 12 : 2
	St Luke	12 : 49 - 56
<i>Sunday between August 21 and August 27</i>	Jeremiah	1 : 4 - 10
	Psalm	71 : 1 - 6
	<i>or</i> Isaiah	58 : 9b - 14
	Psalm	103 : 1 - 8
	Hebrews	12 : 18 - 29
	St Luke	13 : 10 - 17
<i>Sunday between August 28 and September 3</i>	Jeremiah	2 : 4 - 13
	Psalm	81 : 1, 10 - 16
	<i>or</i> Proverbs	25 : 6 - 7
	Psalm	112
	Hebrews	13 : 1 - 8, 15 - 16
	St Luke	14 : 1, 7 - 14
<i>Sunday between September 4 and September 10</i>	Jeremiah	18 : 1 - 11
	Psalm	139 : 1 - 6, 13 - 18
	<i>or</i> Deuteronomy	30 : 15 - 20
	Psalm	1
	Philemon	1 - 21
	St Luke	14 : 25 - 33
<i>Sunday between September 11 and September 17</i>	Jeremiah	4 : 11 - 12, 22 - 28
	Psalm	14
	<i>or</i> Exodus	32 : 7 - 14
	Psalm	51 : 1 - 10
	1 Timothy	1 : 12 - 17
	St Luke	15 : 1 - 10
<i>Sunday between September 18 and September 24</i>	Jeremiah	8 : 18 - 9 : 1
	Psalm	79 : 1 - 9
	<i>or</i> Amos	8 : 4 - 7
	Psalm	113
	1 Timothy	2 : 1 - 7
	St Luke	16 : 1 - 13
<i>Sunday between September 25 and October 1</i>	Jeremiah	32 : 1 - 3a, 6 - 15
	Psalm	91 : 1 - 6, 14 - 16
	<i>or</i> Amos	6 : 1a, 4 - 7
	Psalm	146
	1 Timothy	6 : 6 - 19
	St Luke	16 : 19 - 31

<i>Sunday between October 2 and October 8</i>	Lamentations	1 : 1 - 6
	Lamentations	3 : 19 - 26
	(or Psalm	137)
	or Habakkuk	1 : 1 - 4; 2 : 1 - 4
	Psalm	37 : 1 - 9
	2 Timothy	1 : 1 - 14
	St Luke	17 : 5 - 10
<i>Sunday between October 9 and October 15</i>	Jeremiah	29 : 1, 4 - 7
	Psalm	66 : 1 - 12
	or 2 Kings	5 : 1 - 3, 7 - 15c
	Psalm	111
	2 Timothy	2 : 8 - 15
	St Luke	17 : 11 - 19
<i>Sunday between October 16 and October 22</i>	Jeremiah	31 : 27 - 34
	Psalm	119 : 97 - 104
	or Genesis	32 : 22 - 31
	Psalm	121
	2 Timothy	3 : 14 - 4 : 5
	St Luke	18 : 1 - 8
<i>Sunday between October 23 and October 29</i>	Joel	2 : 23 - 32
	Psalm	65
	or Jeremiah	14 : 7 - 10, 19 - 22
	Psalm	84 : 1 - 7
	2 Timothy	4 : 6 - 8, 16 - 18
	St Luke	18 : 9 - 14
<i>Sunday between October 30 and November 5</i> or on the Sunday after November 1, the readings for All Saints may be used.	Habakkuk	1 : 1 - 4; 2 : 1 - 4
	Psalm	119 : 137 - 144
	or Isaiah	1 : 10 - 18
	Psalm	32 : 1 - 7
	2 Thessalonians	1 : 1 - 4, 11 - 12
	St Luke	19 : 1 - 10
<i>Sunday between November 6 and November 12</i>	Haggai	1 : 15b - 2 : 9
	Psalm	145 : 1 - 5, 17 - 21;
	or Psalm	98
	or Job	19 : 23 - 27a
	Psalm	17 : 1 - 9
	2 Thessalonians	2 : 1 - 5, 13 - 17
	St Luke	20 : 27 - 38

*Sunday between November 13 and November 19*

Isaiah 65 : 17 - 25  
Isaiah 12  
    *or* Malachi 4 : 1 - 2a  
Psalm 98  
2 Thessalonians 3 : 6 - 13  
St Luke 21 : 5 - 19

*Sunday between November 20 and November 26*  
**(Reign of Christ the King)**

Jeremiah 23 : 1 - 6  
Luke 1 : 68 - 79  
    *or* Jeremiah 23 : 1 - 6  
Psalm 46  
Colossians 1 : 11 - 20  
St Luke 23 : 33 - 43

### **SPECIAL DAYS**

#### **Harvest Festival**

Deuteronomy 8 : 1 - 10  
Psalm 145  
Acts 14 : 13 - 17  
St Mark 4 : 1 - 9

**Reformation Sunday**  
*(Sunday before October 31<sup>st</sup>)*

Jeremiah 31 : 31 - 34  
Psalm 46  
Romans 3 : 19 - 28  
St John 8 : 31 - 36

**All Saints**  
*(November 1)*

Daniel 7 : 1 - 3, 15 -18  
Psalm 149  
Ephesians 1 : 11 - 23  
St Luke 6 : 20 - 31

#### **Remembrance Day**

Micah 4 : 3 - 5  
Psalm 76 : 1 - 9  
Romans 10 : 8 - 15  
St John 15 : 1 -17

# Acknowledgments

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pg 36 Prayer after Communion, *Strengthen for service, Lord*, Liturgy of Malabar.

pg 91 Prayer for Grace, *Oh Lord heavenly Father...* is attributed to John Calvin

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The United Reformed Church would be pleased to be notified about material which is used here but not acknowledged, and will rectify such omissions in future printings.





# Introduction to Additional Material

*A rich and varied selection of material has been contributed by various writers and we are delighted that their work is in this new collection.*

The supplementary material is set out in three sections;

**Advent to Pentecost** with the sub-sections,  
Advent to Epiphany and  
Lent to Pentecost;

**Exploring the Year;**

**Encircled by Prayer** with the sub-sections:

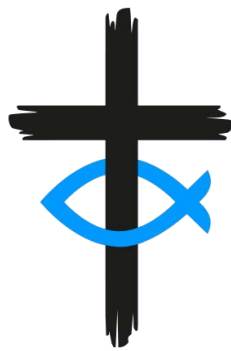
Calls to Worship  
Offertory Prayers  
Prayers of Approach and Thanksgiving  
Prayers of Confession  
Prayers of Assurance  
Prayers of Commitment  
Global Voices (for Intercessions)  
Celebrating the Lord's Supper  
Blessings

Whilst Celebrating the Lord's Supper is a sub-section within Encircled by Prayer there is also material for this sacrament within the individual sub-sections where this is relevant. For example, in the Advent sub-section there is a Eucharist Prayer for Advent.

There are poems relevant to the time of year and these will provide a rich input for some situations. These can be a part of worship and in many instances a poem will enhance our understanding of a theme. After using a prayer or a creative item people may feel encouraged to write a prayer/poem/litany which will be used in worship. This is to be encouraged and welcomed. Listen for opportunities whereby creativity may flow. Let worship in our own local situation develop from where we are and send out people into the world.

*Geoffrey Duncan*

**Worship:** *from*



*The*  
**United  
Reformed  
Church**

**Advent to Pentecost**

ISBN 0 85346 219 4  
© The United Reformed Church, 2003

Published by The United Reformed Church  
86 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9RT  
First published July 2003  
Second printing, October 2003

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Produced and designed by  
Communications and Editorial, Graphics Office

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# Advent to Epiphany

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## 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

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## 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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**Worship:** *from*



*The*  
**United  
Reformed  
Church**

**Exploring the Year**

ISBN 0 85346 219 4  
© The United Reformed Church, 2003

Published by The United Reformed Church  
86 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9RT  
First published July 2003  
Second printing, October 2003

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Produced and designed by  
Communications and Editorial, Graphics Office

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## First Sunday in the New Year

Matthew 28:20

Lord Jesus as we come to worship you on the first Sunday in this new year we remember your promise that you will be with us where ever we go. Help us really to believe that promise deep down in our hearts so that our daily lives may be a confident outworking of your abiding presence with us. Bless us now as we worship and may that worship be sweet and your presence here a precious reality to each soul.

Thank you Lord

Amen

Jennifer Martin

## For Beginning a New Year

Come now to our God,  
the living one,  
the Alpha and Omega.  
Come to the God of all beginnings  
and endings.  
At this new year,  
come to the God of January  
and December.  
Come and follow,  
that we may walk in God's footsteps  
through every month  
and every season.  
Come and give our love  
afresh.

Duncan Tuck

## Holocaust Memorial Day

Lord God, in a world of shallow pleasures,  
you are the one true joy.  
In a world of darkness, you are the one true light.  
In a world of pain, you are the one true healer.

And so we come to you now,  
with our prayers for your world,  
for this place and for our friends  
and place into your hands  
both our joys and our laughter  
and our concerns and our tears.

Lord, we stand baffled as we see those parts of the world  
where hatred builds on hatred  
and there is little sign of reconciliation.

We remember those situations  
where children are again in the frontline of historic  
prejudices and injustices.

We remember enmity between particular nations  
where the continuing tit for tat retaliations  
seem to spiral increasingly out of control.

On this Holocaust Memorial Day, these issues seem more  
poignant,  
and we are aware of just how little progress we have  
really made  
since those dark days of the last world war.

We pray for all victims, and the perpetrators, of genocide  
and other forms of institutional hatred,  
killing and discrimination.

Lord, we pray for peace in those and all places –  
but for the true peace that comes only when our  
relationships are right with you.

But in asking for peace, we recognise our own stubbornness  
at times,  
and must confess that we are not always ready to forgive  
and to build anew,  
to turn the other cheek and seek a new way.

In the dark areas of the world, may you shining light bring new hope and new love.

We pray for our country,  
recognising that it is not always a just society in which we live –  
that we can so easily find arguments for doing things  
in ways that are convenient to us as individuals or as groups,  
rather than doing those things which are right.

When we jump in to put our point of view,  
help us to pause, and to search and to listen for the words that you would say.

We pray for this church, and those churches in this area.  
We ask for vision to help us determine what you want us to be doing,  
and for enthusiasm in carrying out that work.

*[At this point, it may be appropriate to pray for specific local needs and for the local congregation.]*

Lord, we have brought you these prayers  
for those dark places of the world  
and for the dark times in our lives.

Remind us, Lord, that you are with us in the darkness.  
When the shades of night seem long, and we cannot clearly see the way ahead,  
then we feel your hand in our hand, taking us forward one step at a time.  
When there are tears in our eyes, and we cannot form the words in our hearts  
then we hear your voice saying: Don't be afraid. I am here.

Allelulia. Praise be to You, Living and eternal Lord.

Amen.

Brian Hudson

## Eucharistic Prayer for Mothering Sunday

Fourth Sunday in Lent

*based on Julian of Norwich and Hosea 11*

We praise you, blessed Trinity:  
your great power, our Father;  
your deep wisdom, our Mother;  
your great love, our Lord.

In the beginning your Spirit brooded over the waters  
and brought forth all created things.

As a mother you loved your people Israel  
and called your children out of Egypt.

You taught them to walk in your way,  
you took them in your arms,  
bent down to them and fed them.

When they went astray you did not let loose your anger:  
compassion grew warm within you,  
for you are God and not a mortal,  
the Holy One in our midst.

Through Sarah, Rebekah and Rachel,  
through Ruth and Hannah,  
you brought to birth children of promise,  
to be patriarchs, priests and prophets.

To accomplish your loving purpose,  
Elisabeth bore John the Baptist, last of the prophets,  
and Mary bore Jesus, our Brother in being,  
our Mother in mercy, our Saviour from evil.

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.**

As a hen gathers her chicks,  
so he longed to gather his children to himself,  
and wept over Jerusalem, because our hearts were hard.  
We praise you that through his sacrificial death  
and by his rising from the grave  
we are reborn to grow  
into the liberty and splendour of the children of God.  
In his mercy he restores us;  
in this bread and wine  
he joins us to his Passion, death and resurrection.  
[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.**

Remembering the work and passion of our Saviour Christ  
and pleading his sacrifice made once for all,  
we set forth this bread and cup  
that by the coming of the Holy Spirit  
our beloved Mother Jesus may feed us with himself,  
granting us by faith to glimpse the Godhead  
and to taste of heavenly joy.  
May he who like a mother brought us into being  
and from whom flows the motherhood of grace  
bring to birth in us new works of love,  
to the glory of the blessed Trinity,  
whose love is over all that has been made,  
world without end.  
**Amen.**

Colin Thompson

## Mothering Sunday - Eucharist Prayer 1

And here we come, this Mothering Sunday,  
to celebrate the one  
who gives flesh to what love  
is really all about.

We invite you to lay down your worries,  
your pre-occupations, and your fears,  
and to come to share at this table –  
where God lays out his love for us all.

Here, in bread and wine are the elements of passion,  
the signs of love that knows no end.

Here is the invitation to come to God  
And to speak your own 'Yes' in response.

Duncan Tuck

## Mothering Sunday – Eucharist Prayer 2

God whose love is greater than a mother's for her children,  
we thank you for this gift of bread – feed us.

God whose care is greater than a father's for his family,  
we praise you for this wine – quench our thirst.

God who, in Jesus, reveals love walking with us through the  
darkest valleys,

we give our money in thanks – sustain us.

God whose strength upholds us when we are down,  
we give our lives into your own strong hands – protect us.

Bless this moment of sharing together,  
that our eating and our drinking may be more than bodily food,  
but may refresh our hearts and minds  
and bind us together as one body, caring and sharing.

Send your spirit down upon what we do here,  
and enter our hearts,

so that this bread and wine may truly become for us  
the body and blood of Jesus Christ.

Then we may feast in joy for all you have done,  
and work to be one body in anticipation  
of what you will do with us, together.

Amen

Duncan Tuck

## Eucharistic Prayer for May Day/Work

All our work and joy, Creator God, is to sing your praise  
for the six days on which you laboured  
and for this, the sabbath day of rest and resurrection.  
Your glory speaks to us in all creation:  
the sun and rain calling life from bare earth  
the greening of the hedgerows in the spring  
the coming of swallows, the blossom on the apple-tree.  
Yet the world you made is spoiled by sin and suffering:  
we make war against each other  
and in greed for selfish gain  
plunder and pollute the gifts with which you bless us.  
Through long years you toiled to call your people  
to a way of righteousness and peace.  
You led us to freedom when we were burdened in Egypt  
you gave us the Law and prophets  
when we could not find the way.  
But your greatest work was yet to come.  
You took upon yourself the glory and the shame of our  
humanity  
when Jesus your Son was born of Mary.  
All his work to him was joy  
though he knew our weariness and sorrow.  
He left the workshop of the carpenter  
and, as teacher, healer, friend of sinners,  
called those who heard him to share in his labours.  
In his last and greatest work  
through wood and nails he wrought us our salvation,  
enduring the Cross for the joy that was set before him.  
Risen from the dead, he fills all creation with hope  
ascended in glory, he raises all things to the Father;  
through him the life-giving Spirit  
makes marvellous the common, and drudgery divine.  
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.**

So, remembering the work and passion of our Saviour Christ  
we celebrate him crucified and risen  
in bread and wine which earth has given  
and human hands have made.

[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.**

Send down the Holy Spirit upon us and upon creation’s fruit  
that we may find healing in the broken bread  
and peace through the shedding of his blood.

May we, his fellow-workers here,

be refashioned by his grace

that all his work may be fulfilled

and all things sing your praise,

one God, Trinity of love.

**Amen.**



## God of All Creation

for Environmental Issues or One World Week

God of all creation,  
in your teeming and orderly world,  
we have disturbed the balance –  
the rich forcing the poor to wreck environments;  
the ripping and spoiling of your creation  
in order that we may have convenience,  
comfort and abundance.

Help us to care –

to share in the renewing of hearts, of lives, of landscape.

As we come to worship a God who gives everything for us,  
help us to leave behind our own selfishness.

Help us to restore and see restored what has been destroyed,  
even if it means inconvenience for us.

Help us to work and pray and live  
for the life you wish to give all this earth.

In Jesus' name.

Duncan Tuck

## Racial Justice

within the context of Communion

Dear God,  
we confess that sometimes  
we give in to what are often irrational fears.  
Strange people and places  
can make us feel anxious and edgy.  
We are hesitant to welcome others  
into what we regard as our own space.  
Almost without knowing it,  
we establish safe and familiar territories  
and hedge them round with self-justification.

We know it will not do.  
We know it goes against your nature.  
Your love crosses all boundaries to gather all peoples  
and makes no distinctions –  
and neither should ours.  
We seek your help.

We hear you invite us to your table  
and to share your broken bread  
and we find that everyone is given a place  
and none are turned away.  
Your love is not choosy, nor hesitant, nor forced.  
Your love is open, gracious, accepting.  
Sometimes ours is not.  
And therefore, in our world,  
classes and clubs divide  
and what you made to be one human family  
is torn by fear and greed.

As we come to your table, therefore,  
help us reclaim those yearnings  
for a kingdom where all are welcome and wanted,  
affirmed and embraced,  
even as Jesus stretched out his arms for us. Amen

Duncan Wilson

## Praise the Lord for Harvest

based on Psalm 65:5b-11a

Praise the Lord!  
People on land and sea, trust in the Lord.  
Our God calms the roar of the seas,  
and softens the turmoil of the peoples.  
So shout of the things he has done!  
Stand in awe of his deeds.  
Echo his name in every corner of this world.

Behold his gentle care for this land –  
the richness and fertility;  
the streams filling with life-giving water;  
the abundance of swelling crops.  
This is God's doing.  
Without the blessing of rain our fields would be iron.  
We would have nothing but the dust of bitter drought,  
and the taste of tears too dry to shed.  
What a rich harvest is the goodness of God.

Duncan Tuck

## Based on Psalm 106:1–6, 19–23

We will praise the Lord, because of his goodness  
We will praise the Lord, because of his love,  
We will tell of all he has done here among us,  
We will tell of his grace in the heavens above.  
Yet we will not forget what the Lord is desiring,  
For he loves us no matter how badly we live,  
And he calls us to leave behind all of our idols,  
To strive to be those that he loves to be with.

Duncan Tuck

## The Earth Moves Through the Seasons

The earth moves through the seasons to fruitful maturity.  
The lambs fatten the wheat swells and the fruit ripens.  
We too grow and learn and find joy as we mature.  
Creating God, you too enjoy the fulfilment of your purpose.

But, there are floods and droughts, disease and decay.  
There are painful and hurtful experiences,  
so we look forward with both trembling expectation  
and a terrifying fear to the unknown future.

We are glad that there is growth and joy and satisfaction.  
We pray for help and courage to face the disappointments.  
We trust that you will be there sharing our sadnesses  
and that all in the end will be well.

Your kindness and forgiveness go with us  
through the valleys and the mountain tops.  
For you are the faithful God, the one who is with us  
we know you through Jesus Christ our friend and guide.  
We praise you in the name and spirit of Jesus.  
Amen.

Terry Oakley

## Harvest Thanksgiving

### Praise from Scripture: Psalm 104 paraphrase

Lord you are great!  
You make springs flow down the valleys,  
streams between the hills,  
giving drink to the wild animals  
and river banks for birds to nest,  
singing in the trees.

From your storehouse in the sky  
you water the mountains  
and saturate the earth,  
greening the grass for the cattle,  
swelling the grain,  
bringing bread to sustain our strength,  
wine to gladden our hearts  
and oil to make our faces shine.

All your creatures look to you in hope –

you open your hand  
and we are filled with good things.

### Prayer

How good and right it is,  
to give you thanks, our God.

**The sights and scents of harvest  
remind us of the wonder of growth.**

Rain and sunshine combine  
to bring the best from your creation.

**Here, in blossom and fruitfulness,  
shine all the colours of the rainbow.**

Your promise never fails.

**Creation tells the everlasting story  
of your goodness towards us.**

It is written in your handiwork  
and whispered on the breeze.

**And we are part of it,  
called to shape the future,  
to care for the earth,  
and to share with one another.**

Therefore,  
give us grace to do all that is Christlike  
so that we may bear fruit in daily acts of goodness  
and reap the harvest of our souls.

Amen.

Duncan Wilson

## Communion for Harvest

### Praise from Scripture: Psalm 19

The heavens proclaim God's glory,  
their dome his handicraft:  
day to the following day,  
night to night  
tell his story.

No speech, no word,  
no voice is heard.  
Yet their music sounds across the world,  
announcing themselves to remotest peoples!

The sun pitches his tent in the sea,  
happy as a bridegroom,  
exulting like a runner,  
eager to win the race!

Rising from one end of the heavens  
he travels to the other,  
his circuit is complete  
and all are blessed by his rays. Amen

## Prayer of Approach

God of earth and heaven,  
warmth of heart  
and fire of love,  
bring us into the shining sun of your presence  
and banish all coldness from our thoughts.

As autumn steals the last of summer's lingering glory  
and our eyes adjust to the fading of this day  
we rejoice to see the table set with bread and wine  
and to hear again your generous words of welcome.

But our broken world contends with  
the harsh realities of war and deprivation  
and millions of people, young and old,  
are left out in the cold, unblessed, unwanted.

Therefore, we would have you  
fling open the doors of your kingdom  
and lay such a table upon this earth,  
from which none shall be turned away.

May hands that hold your bread and take your cup  
find how to hold you also in friend or stranger.  
May voices that hymn your praise and stammer in prayer  
find courage to press home your truth and justice.

Let some glimmer, some early promise  
of the 'sun of righteousness', of Christ our Lord,  
be evident, even in the conduct of our daily lives,  
and in our modest acts of faithfulness.

Then may your rising  
be seen and understood in this and every generation.

Amen



## Prayer after Communion

Dear Lord Jesus,  
ever constant and generous  
in all your dealings with us,  
you have fed and filled us,  
we who came empty to your table,  
with much more than bread and wine.

May we who have seen again  
your grace at work,  
and who know how grandly your love intends  
to hold and heal all things,  
give ourselves joyfully to all that declares  
your saving purpose for our world.

Amen.

Duncan Wilson

## A Sunday in the Early Autumn

Lord God, we thank you for the fruitfulness of early Autumn.  
We praise you for all the food our fertile fields and gardens  
produce. This morning Lord, we come to worship you, so  
that our souls too may be fruitful and the glorious Christian  
virtues of love, joy, peace, kindness, patience, goodness and  
self-control might begin to grow and bear fruit in our lives.  
Here in the garden of your church may your children feel  
your loving touch upon them.  
For your Son's sake  
Amen

Jennifer Martin

## Breads of the World

*(suitable for One World Week and other occasions celebrating our shared humanity)*

Note: a representative sample may be chosen from the various breads; others may be added, with appropriate words. The sharing of the bread may take place in a service of Holy Communion, or at the end of the service (following Orthodox custom).

Jesus said: 'I am the bread of life.' The breads which we offer are symbols of our shared human community and of our diversity within the family of God.

We offer this UNLEAVENED BREAD, which calls to mind exiles and refugees, who, like the Jewish people, have had to leave their homes and flee their homelands. Let this bread represent all women, children and men who have had to flee their homelands and seek a new life elsewhere. Let it represent, as the unleavened bread of Passover does, the journey from slavery to freedom.

We offer this RYE BREAD, staple food of those who labour in much of Eastern Europe. Let it represent all those who struggle to feed themselves and their families, the poor, the unemployed, the over-worked, as a sign of hope.

We offer this CORN TORTILLA in remembrance of all those in Latin America who have struggled for human justice and dignity. Let it represent their coming liberation.

We offer this IRISH SODA BREAD in remembrance of all who have been divided by ancient loyalties and who have suffered in civil strife. Let it represent the hope of peace which still shines in Northern Ireland, and wherever communities are in conflict.

We offer these RICE CAKES, made from the staple food of people in Asian countries. Let them represent the rich and varied cultures of those lands, and be a joyful sign that the peoples of the east and the west have so much to give one another.

We offer these OATCAKES, the food of northern lands. Let them represent all those for whom harshness of climate and terrain make life a constant struggle, and be a sign of work justly rewarded.

We offer this SHORTBREAD, which brings to mind children. Let it represent young lives and all those who care for them into the next generation, and let its richness and sweetness be a sign of Sabbath rest.

We offer this ORGANIC WHOLEMEAL BREAD. Let it represent the bounty of the earth and our responsibility towards the natural world, and let it be a sign of wholeness for one world.

We offer breads from many lands as we pray for all the world's people and places, in the name of the One who took bread, broke it and said: 'Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you.'

**Amen.**

From Claremont United Church of Christ (Congregational),  
Claremont, California  
adapted by Colin Thompson

## Eucharistic Prayer for One World Week

We praise you, God of many names:  
one God in Trinity,  
community of power, wisdom, love.  
In the beginning you created all worlds  
and gave us this one world to be our home.  
You blessed us with dreams of paradise  
when nature and humanity lived in perfect harmony;  
you inspired us with visions of unity,  
when all the world spoke with one voice.  
Yet in our foolishness we preferred our own ways:  
we forfeited your paradise and spoiled the earth,  
filling it with violence and corruption.  
We were scattered and became many nations  
speaking different tongues, cherishing different goals.  
So you called one people, to be a light to all the nations,  
revealed to them the Law  
and spoke to them through the prophets;  
but the burden was too great.  
To turn us from our hardness of heart  
you sent your only Son, born of Mary,  
who heard your call and humbly did your will.  
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 his living witness to your truth,  
his unjust death on our behalf  
his rising from the dead to break the power of evil  
you gave the human race a new beginning,  
entered through the waters of baptism by the Holy Spirit.  
Through this same Spirit you called into one Church  
peoples and nations of many tongues  
to be a sign of unity and hope for a divided world.

To your Church you gave this thanksgiving meal  
in which your people share one bread, one cup,  
following the example of the Lord Jesus Christ  
[who, 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.**

Lord, we bring before you this sacrifice of love  
made to reconcile all things in heaven and on earth  
through Christ your Son, our Saviour.

Send down your Spirit on this bread and wine  
that we may receive them for our healing  
and for the healing of the nations.

So unite us in the Spirit

that our life together may build one Church

to be a living sign of justice and peace

until all things in heaven and on earth

are reconciled to you,

through Jesus Christ, in whom all are at one

in the fellowship of the Father and the Spirit.

**Amen**

Colin Thompson

## Eucharistic Prayer for All Saints

Lord, we praise you that the story of your grace is full of names, women and men with many failings, surprised by your call, transformed by your love.

Today we remember them with thanks:

Abraham our father, who was your friend,  
the laughter of Sarah, the faithfulness of Ruth,  
Moses the liberator and law-giver,  
David the king, the poet and musician,  
who saw from afar the One who was to come.

So when the time was ripe,  
you sent Jesus your Son, our great High Priest,  
who in the days of his flesh  
learned obedience in the school of suffering  
and who, sharing our weakness,  
sympathizes with us in our struggles.

He befriended sinners and ate with outcasts;  
people came to him burdened and sick  
and he made them free and whole.

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.**

In this his supper of love  
he befriends us time and time again  
and takes us with him on his memorable journey  
from Cross to Resurrection, from loss to gain.

[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.**

Lord, we offer you these gifts:  
Send your Spirit down upon them  
that they may be the food and drink of our salvation.  
Let your Spirit touch our lives  
that we may be conformed to Christ  
and follow in the steps of all his faithful friends  
of many times and places.  
Sanctify your Church, that it may live  
as the company of the redeemed,  
and bring us at the last to where the saints in light  
are one in your eternal presence  
lost in wonder, love and praise.

Colin Thompson

## A Litany for All Saints Day

With an endless procession of God's people, surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, we worship God:

**With martyr saints whom the flame did not deter,  
with scholar saints whose legacy is lasting insight,  
with servant saints who lived for others:**

With militant saints whose spirits won on the field of battle,  
with eccentric saints who danced before God,  
with slow-witted saints who showed the wisdom of God:

**With artist saints who painted and sculpted and  
sang the colours and contours and melodies of the  
Kingdom, with royal saints whose rule reflected the  
rule of God, with weeping saints whose holy  
sorrow comforts us:**

With blithe saints whose laughter lifts us, with irascible  
saints who drive us to distraction - and to God - with  
humble, anonymous saints, who have no memorial but  
whose name lives for ever:

**With holy women and holy men whose lives show  
forth the wholeness of God, with holy children  
who teach us the wonder and joy of life:**

With this unlikely fellowship, who make human the depth  
and riches and power and grace of life before God, we  
celebrate the gift of life and the call to faith:

**Bring us with your saints to glory everlasting.**

From Claremont United Church of Christ (Congregational),  
Claremont, California  
adapted by Colin Thompson



## True Saints

As many as the leaves  
golden in autumn  
blowing along the streets  
are your saints.

As precious as bales  
gathered in the barns  
or stored at the field side  
are your saints.

As strong as the rocks  
graining the hillsides  
or forming the river bed  
are your saints.

As widespread as frost  
glazing the meadows  
and coating the branches  
are your saints.

As strange as it seems  
grace makes possible  
that me and my neighbour  
are your saints.

Terry Oakley

## God of All Saints and Martyrs

God of all the saints and martyrs  
who called your people  
to walk together the path of freedom,  
gathering as a community of believers,  
surrounded by the great cloud of witnesses,  
the communion of loved ones,  
friends,  
leaders,  
teachers,  
our forebears in faith;  
we approach you  
Great Ancestor of our ancestors  
in worship and in love,  
praying that we might once more  
draw from the well of your inspiration  
and be renewed in your presence.

Amen

Vaughan Jones

## Autumn

As the nights draw in, and we pull the curtains a little earlier each evening, we pray that, as we get older, we do not draw the curtains of our mind as well. Lord, open our eyes to new experiences and new examples of your love and presence in the world. And may we ever continue to praise you for these new insights. Amen.

Brian Hudson

## Remembrance Sunday I

Opening: Psalm 33 paraphrase

**Let the whole world acknowledge its God.  
For he spoke and everything came into being,  
he commanded, and there it stood.**

The Lord frustrates the purposes of the nations  
**but the Lord's own purpose stands for ever.**  
Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord,  
**the people he chooses to serve him.**

No sovereign is saved by a great army,  
**no warrior is delivered by great strength.**  
The Lord's eyes are turned to those who fear him,  
**to those who set their hope on his unfailing love.**

We wait eagerly for the Lord  
**He alone is our help and our shield. Amen**

## Prayer

Around and within us, dear God,  
stir the tender emotions  
of people who regret the past  
with all its pain and loss  
whilst looking to the future  
with yearning for peace  
and the healing of the nations.

Our greatest fear  
is that we learn too little of the past,  
and fail to deal with  
those tendencies in our human nature  
which lead us, either by folly or fear,  
towards inevitable conflict  
and mutual destruction.

‘The good that we will,  
we do not do.  
The evil we would not do,  
that we do.’

Open our hearts, we pray  
in a true spirit of confession and self examination  
lest we exalt the courage and sacrifice of others  
without measuring the expense of our own commitment  
to justice, freedom, and peace.  
Set before us the example of One  
who came and gave everything  
that we might have life in all its fullness.

‘He was despised and held of no account,  
an object from which people avert their eyes,  
yet he bore our afflictions  
and by his wounds we are healed’  
Therefore, save, forgive and heal us dear Christ. Amen

## Prayer for Peace

God of justice, encircle our earth  
with your demand for integrity and openness,  
for fairness and sharing  
**and call the nations to live in harmony.**

Prince of Peace, heal your divided world  
of its warring madness.  
Still our fears and calm our stormy confrontations.  
**and call the nations to live in harmony.**

Spirit of reconciliation, breathe your fertile influence  
on all creation and help us find the common ground  
where forgiveness may flourish and flower in new  
friendship  
**and call the nations to live in harmony.**

Holy Trinity of Hope and Love and Joy,  
let your desire for justice, peace and reconciliation  
mark every encounter with you and with our neighbour  
**that in your presence and to your glory,  
the nations may learn to live in harmony.  
Amen.**

Duncan Wilson

## Remembrance Sunday 2

### Opening Scripture: Psalm 46

God is our refuge and strength,  
a timely help in trouble;  
so we are not afraid though the earth shakes  
and the mountains move in the depths of the sea.

Nations are in tumult, kingdoms are overturned;  
when God thunders, the earth melts.  
The Lord of Hosts is with us,  
the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Come, see what the Lord has done,  
the astounding deeds wrought on the earth;  
The Lord breaks the bow, snaps the spear.  
The Lord of Hosts is with us,  
the God of Jacob is our fortress. Amen

### Reading: Isaiah 25:1-9

## Prayer

Generation after generation,  
dear God,  
has lifted its hands and voice to you  
in search of peace -  
for a world in chaos,  
afame with anger,  
and torn by hatred.

And thus we come on behalf of our generation.

The horrors of war  
are no longer distant or hidden.  
We watch the terror unfolding, the smoke rising,  
the stricken bodies falling, the earth exploding.  
Fear and sorrow well up within us  
in equal measure.

With deep sighs approaching despair,  
we watch the march of death  
across the fields where people laboured in hope of harvest,  
and through their towns now turned to rubble.  
We sense the breaking of your heart,  
the unfinished grieving of Gethsemane.

### *Brief silence*

And we recognise that war is no accident.  
We have allowed evil the upper hand.  
Just grievances go unheeded,  
resentments fester  
and indifference clouds  
the wisdom and love that would save us.  
Forgive us for wanting peace without working for it,  
for mistaking talk of sacrifice for the real thing.  
Come, Lord, mend and remake us  
and show us the way that leads to true peace. Amen

Duncan Wilson

## Remembrance Sunday 3

*Sing*

**Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.  
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.**

It is God who forgives all your guilt,  
Who heals every one of your ills,  
Who redeems your life from the grave,  
Who crowns you with love and compassion.

The Lord is compassion and love,  
The Lord is patient and rich in mercy.  
God does not treat us according to our sins,  
Nor repay us according to our faults.

As a Father has compassion on his children,  
The Lord has mercy on those who revere him;  
For God knows of what we are made,  
And remembers that we are dust.

*(Taizé)*

So we remember

All those who died in and from this country and those who died from the countries of the Commonwealth, allies and former enemies, the people of Nagasaki and Hiroshima during the two World Wars;

Those who died in the wars that followed – Korea, Vietnam and too many others;

Those who died in the Genocides of African Slavery in the Caribbean and the Americas, the Holocaust, the Congo, Cambodia, East Timor, Rwanda, and too many others;

Those who died in the fight to end apartheid in Namibia, South Africa and too many others;

Those who died in the “Dirty Wars” of repression – in Chile, in Colombia, Peru, Brazil, the Philippines and too many other countries;

Those who died in countries close to the heart of people in this community – Ireland, Chile, Rwanda, Colombia, and in Bethnal Green itself.



We remember

Those we knew  
Those who were brave  
Those who were afraid  
Those who mourn and grieve  
Those who carry the memory of war in their souls  
Those whose scars refuse to heal.

### *Silence*

Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord.  
**Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

May they rest in peace.  
**And rise in glory.**

### *Sing*

God gives peace like a river,  
Peace like a river,  
God gives peace like a river  
In my soul.

God gives hope, hope forever,  
Hope, hope forever,  
God gives hope, hope forever  
For my soul.

God gives life, life forever,  
Life, life forever,  
God gives life, life forever  
To us all.

Let's bring peace like a river,  
Peace like a river,  
Let's bring peace like a river  
To the world.

God of the heavens,  
creator of sun and stars  
nothing is beyond your power.

Saviour of the downtrodden,  
crucified by principalities and power,  
nothing can separate us from your love.

Spirit of reconciliation and truth,  
awakening the conscience of the just,  
nothing is outside your redemptive love.

Embrace the people of this earth with the refreshment  
of forgiveness  
and the wholeness of your new life. **Amen**

Vaughan Jones

## Prayers of Intercession for Remembrance Sunday

The guns bang; the shells explode; the air is thick with dust and debris.

The terrorist, or is it freedom fighter, decides that this is the day they will die and pauses to say goodbye to their home and walks out to trigger oblivion.

The leaders of governments worry and plan, power as a tool, power as a burden. People wanting to do what is right. Lazy people wanting to be lead by the crowd. Ignorant people following those who forcefully lead.

The soldier prepares.  
The politician plans.

Give them all the desire to do what is right. Not what is quick, nor what is easy, nor what the loudest and most powerful voices shout for but for what is right in your sight.

We wait.

We shout for blood, we do not give them time to debate and explore the issue from the other point of view. We shout that they should be left to it and nothing should rock our boat. We have a narrow circle of interest and assume that our concerns are yours, O God.

We allow our government to bully and insist on valuing life in this country above that in other places.

## All are your children

Really, do you really mean that, do you?  
The bomber, the corrupt politician they are yours?

We pray for peace.

We pray for justice.

We pray for peace in homes and hearts not based on complacency but on love and respectful relationships.

We pray for the peace of knowing and doing your will.

In the name of Jesus the Prince of Peace.

Lesley Charlton

## Colours for Remembering

*Following each stanza, a large red petal is attached to a display board to form, firstly, a red poppy.*

Red is for Anger- anger in the face of injustice, anger that will not stand by and let another person suffer, anger that says that something is wrong and must be stopped, anger that goes beyond our own selfish concerns to care for others. Red is for anger.

Red is for Love – love which is strong and passionate, not sickly and sentimental, love which knows no limits and encompasses family, friend, neighbour and stranger, love which doesn't count the cost of loving, love which God has for each one of us. Red is for love.

Red is for sacrifice – sacrifice by the few for the sake of the many, sacrifice for us living today and children yet to be born, sacrifice born not just from duty but from love, sacrifice seen in Jesus for the sake of the world. Red is for sacrifice.

Red is for War – war which cuts short life, war which devastates families and communities, war which destroys the earth God gave us to care for, war which continues in the world today. Red is for war.

Red is for anger, love, sacrifice and war. Red is the colour of remembering the past, lest we forget the true horror of war. On this day we remember and we commit ourselves to ensuring war does not happen again. Other colours help us to look to the future and a vision of a more caring and just world.

*After each stanza a slightly smaller petal of the appropriate colour is added to make a second smaller and multi-coloured flower. The colours used are those found on the Olympic flag and are associated with goodwill across the human family.*

Blue is for Life – life giving water, sweet and refreshing, without which nothing can survive for more than a few days. Life is God’s most precious gift to us, life is full of relationships and promise, opportunities and experience. In our living we share in the lives of others and in the very life of God. Blue is for life.

Green is for Hope – new shoots, pushing through the earth, buds blossoming into flowers, fruit forming, growing and swelling, ready for harvesting. Hope encourages us to dream dreams and make the impossible a reality, hope breeds excitement and energy, new ideas and enthusiasm. In our hoping we share a vision for a better world where God is central to all we do. Green is for hope.

Black is for silence – in the depths of the earth, where no light can penetrate rocks and earth, and no sound travels from the surface above, the silence crashes in on our ears. In silence we are still and allow ourselves space to think and reflect, in the silence we can be ourselves and not what others expect us to be. In the silence we discover ourselves, made in God’s image, made to live in God’s image. Black is for silence.

Gold is for warmth – warm rays of sunshine on your back, relaxing tired muscles, easing away aches and pains. Warmth floods our bodies making us feel safe and secure, warmth reassures us that we are loved, valued and cherished. As we feel the warmth shared between family and friends, we experience the warmth of God enfolding us each day of our lives. Gold is for warmth.

*After this stanza a white circle is added to the centre of the flower, binding all the petals together.*

White is for peace – the quiet fall of a snowflake, each individual flake seemingly insignificant, yet before long a blanket of perfection covers the ground, so thick that unless you look closely you can't see the tiny flakes which make it up. Peace begins with the tiny acts of individuals but can become an avalanche for change in our world, peace is not the absence of anything but demands action and commitment. Living in peace with ourselves, our neighbours, and our world, we live in peace with God, whose peace is greater than our understanding. White is for peace.

Red, Blue, Green, Black, Gold and White – colours which unite the people of the world, colours which help us to remember and look to the future, colours which remind us that we are people of faith who travel with God.

Lindsey Sanderson

## World AIDS Day

### The Lighting of the First Candle

*For all those people and countries affected by AIDS*

#### Welcome

#### Invocation

Anxious, passionate, overwhelmed, determined;

**We come seeking hope and wholeness.**

Angry, diligent, confused, enmeshed;

**We come seeking hope and wholeness.**

Joyful, cynical, practical, faithful;

**We come seeking hope and wholeness.**

### The Lighting of the Second candle

*For all people caring for people affected by HIV/AIDS*

#### A Reflection

### The Lighting of the Third Candle

*For all people who have died of HIV related causes*

#### A Reflection

### The Lighting of the Fourth Candle

*For Justice*

#### A Reflection

### The Lighting of the Fifth Candle

*To shine into the darkness of stigma*

## **A Reflection**

### **The Eucharist**

*Everyone is very welcome to receive the Eucharist. If you would rather receive a blessing remain standing holding the order of service. If you do not wish to receive the Eucharist please sit.*

*We hope you will feel free to do what you wish.*

The enormity of the realities and complexity of the issues related to the suffering people with HIV and AIDS confronts us with the realities and complexities of our human community. God is speaking to us in this moment, inviting us to open our eyes and to turn with hope to the promise of new life.

We confess our complacency in the face of this global pandemic;  
Our ignorance and fear that breed discrimination and stigma;  
Our part in the blame and hatred that isolate people and destroy life;  
Our inaction and avoidance that contribute to life-threatening silences.

Let us live out God's light in our struggles, hopes and dreams for justice.

### **The Peace**

Peace and new life be always with you.

**And also with you**

(we greet each other with peace)



## **The Eucharistic Prayer**

Christ is the bread of Life.  
When we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
We proclaim your death Lord Jesus,  
Until you come in glory.

We break this bread,  
To share in the body of Christ,  
Though we are many  
We are one body, because we all share in one bread.

## **The Invitation**

### **Post Eucharistic Prayer**

Thank you life-giving God,  
For feeding us and so clothing us in your grace.  
Send us out as people of Christ,  
Seeking justice, restoration and freedom.  
Amen.

## **Silence and Stillness**

### **The Lighting of the Sixth Candle**

*For Hope and Restoration*

### **A Reflection**

### **The Blessing**

Charity Hamilton

## Winter

Lord God, in these cold days,  
when the frosty air freezes our breath  
and chills our bones,  
may we know ever more deeply the warmth of your love.

May we recognise it in the welcome of this fellowship,  
the kindness of friends or neighbours  
the excited laughter of young children  
and the beauty of nature, stark and shorn against a  
winter sky.

Let it unfreeze our hearts,  
invigorate our worship,  
and direct our daily living.

In Christ's name.

Brian Hudson

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**Worship:** *from*



*The*  
**United  
Reformed  
Church**

**Encircled by Prayer**

ISBN 0 85346 219 4  
© The United Reformed Church, 2003

Published by The United Reformed Church  
86 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9RT  
First published July 2003  
Second printing, October 2003

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Produced and designed by  
Communications and Editorial, Graphics Office

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# Calls to Worship

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## Every Family

Come, let's worship God.  
God who is mystery,  
God who is not contained by any one religious system  
God who is certainly not contained by our minds and hearts.

Come, let's worship God  
God who wills dignity for every family, every person.  
God who lies at the heart of each life and speaks to the  
depth of each heart.  
God who is constant adventure,  
Constant movement  
Constant presence!

Come let's worship God  
Let's be filled with awe, wonder and that profound grace  
Seen in Jesus, the carpenter.  
The Holy Child.

John LI Humphreys

## Christ is Our Lord

Christ is our Lord  
Christ is our King  
alive, though crucified,  
seated, on the throne of grace,  
present with us now.  
Christ is our servant,  
Christ is our beloved.

Vaughan Jones

## Lord, Our Loving God

Lord, our loving God,  
whose ways are mysterious  
and yet whose love is deep and tender;  
you provide for all our needs.  
Make yourself known to us as we worship you now:  
give us words to praise you,  
hearts to love you and minds to know you.  
Help us to offer all to you,  
and to know your mysterious presence with us  
as we gather in your name.

Duncan Tuck

## Coming Near to God

Come near to God and he will come near to you (James 4:8)

Lord God, we come to worship you (this morning/evening)  
with your command to draw near to you ringing in our ears.  
It sounds so obvious Lord, so simple, but we find it so  
difficult. A thousand trivial things get in the way such as our  
appetites, the television, our hobbies, or even the tickle we  
have in the small of our back. Help us this morning Lord to  
forget all these and to bring you our whole attention so that  
we can hear you speaking to us. And when we have heard,  
help us to obey.  
Amen

Jennifer Martin

## Seeking the Lost Sheep

Then the good shepherd calls his friends and neighbours together and says to them 'I am so happy I have found my sheep. Let us celebrate.' (Luke 15:6)

We are so grateful Lord God this (morning/evening) that you never abandon us to our wilfulness and our stupidity. Many times Lord we deserve to be left in the messes we have created for ourselves. But you gently come to seek us and like the good shepherd, disentangle us from the bramble patches into which we have fallen and set us on our feet again. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts that you never give up on us.

Amen

Jennifer Martin

## A Deep Awareness of Each Other

Lord Jesus we come to you this morning not as individuals but as your whole people to worship you. Help us to be aware of each other as an unbroken circle stretching right round this church. May we in spirit, hands joined, look to you the centre of our circle and feel your love pulsing through us to reach out to our neighbours about us. Help us to worship you today not selfishly and individually, but with a deep awareness of each other.

Amen

Jennifer Martin

## Gathered on This Holy Ground

We are gathered on this holy ground –  
to drink from the Wellspring of eternal life  
to be inspired by the Spirit's passion  
to be shaped into a new community in Christ.

We are here, because God is here –  
to listen, to speak,  
to challenge, to guide,  
to comfort, to surprise;  
to take us by the hand and tell us 'I love you'

Let us sing to God!

Carolyn Smyth

## Come From Many Places

We are God's people  
come from many places  
to this dear place.

We come as we are  
bringing with us memories and longings  
disappointments and achievements  
doubt and faith.

Let us offer all these to God  
through Christ Jesus  
who is our peace and strength and hope.  
Let us worship God.

Carolyn Smyth

## Open Our Hearts

We open our hearts to receive God's welcome  
**We open our hands to greet one another.**  
We open our lives to God's invitation  
**To live in love and freedom.**

Jan Berry

## Come to Celebrate God's World-wide People

Come from your homes,  
places of tension and relaxation,  
of squabbles and arguments, of games and laughter.  
Come to celebrate God's world-wide family.

Come from your places of work,  
leaving behind deadlines and pressures  
the tedium of creativity of daily tasks.  
Come to celebrate God's world-wide work.

Come to join this community of faith,  
In this place of prayer and praise,  
struggling to witness and serve,  
Come to celebrate God's world-wide people.

*Note: this could be interspersed with the singing of the Wild Goose song 'Come all you people'.*

Jan Berry

## Spirit

The spirit of each person is mysterious.  
The spirit of every child, woman and man is precious.  
Each spirit, each soul-life offers a glimpse beyond the surface  
towards the depths of the Divine.

And now before God, as in music, art, dance and  
architecture, in dawn, sunset and star-lit night,  
we wonder at all that is holy, special and deep mystery.

We come to worship God, to be raised by the risen Christ  
towards a fullness of life that celebrates the spirit of the people.

We are here, God is here. Let's journey in worship towards  
what God calls us to be drawing all spirits together towards  
his oneness.

John LI Humphreys

## For Resting in God

Let us worship God:  
God who comes with us as we walk the streets to this place;  
God who is already here, because of those we meet  
and because of the years of faithful worship;  
God who is in love with each and every one of us  
and who continually calls us to share in the life of Jesus;  
God who says, 'Come to me all who are heavy laden and  
I will give you rest.'

Worship God.

So I call you to rest, relax,  
kick off your shoes, find your comfort,  
And we will seek God together.

Duncan Tuck

## For Healing and Rest

Come now, to this quiet place,  
to this centre of calm in a busy world.  
Come now, to your God.  
Come now, to the God  
who knows your every thought,  
and yet cares.  
Come now, to the God  
who has heard your every cry,  
and has suffered your hard hearts,  
and yet cares.  
Come now, to the God  
of energy and calm;  
now, to the God  
who walks with you  
and bids you rest.  
Come now,  
and find the healing you need.  
Come and find God;  
for God calls you.

Duncan Tuck



# Offertory Prayers

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## Abundant Gifts

Dear God

You are not just generous but extravagant and we cannot put a price on the abundant gifts we receive from you like love, faith, truth and hope. Their value cannot be measured in money – they are what makes life worth living and we thank you for them. And whilst these gifts are not for sale, nor for trading – they are for sharing; so with the inspiration and courage of the Holy Spirit, help us to share them with others.

Amen

Carolyn Smyth

## Loving God

Loving God

You are more generous to us than we can grasp because you breathe new life into us.  
You sent Jesus to show us how to live it to the full.  
This offering is one way we can thank you;  
help us to find others ways,  
this coming week,  
as we go about our daily lives.

Amen

Carolyn Smyth



# Prayers of Approach and Thanksgiving

---





## We're A Mixed Bag!

We're a mixed bag of people!

From different places, with myriad concerns and preoccupations.

Some of us have worked all night; some of us are just waking!

There's happiness here, and there are all sorts of painful experiences here, too.

There's one thing we have in common

Somehow we're drawn, yes there's habit and routine and discipline

But more there's the sense we must look beyond

Beyond ourselves, beyond our business, beyond our tight-knit community.

There's all the depth of human love, of human grief, of human hope, here.

This binds us together, because it points us beyond ourselves.

We come because in our smallness, we glimpse a world which is magnificent

We glimpse into the breadth, and length, height and depth

into the Divine bursting into and out of human life.

John LI Humphreys

## An Invocation

Glorious and gracious God,  
you are with us,  
and call us into your presence.  
We lift our hearts in response to your love;  
we raise our songs in praise of your goodness;  
we offer our adoration in response to your holiness.

Summon us, voice of God  
with words of challenge and power  
calling us to courageous discipleship  
and urgent witness.

**Speak, Lord your servant is listening.**

Speak to us, breath of God,  
with forgiveness for the many occasions  
we have hidden behind weakness  
belittling your power  
and denying your presence.

**Speak, Lord your servant is listening.**

Amen

Terry Oakley



## Presence

We come into your presence,  
to be aware of you with us.  
You are always aware of us,  
always sensitive to our needs and joys.  
You invite us to be with you,  
to have a place near you.  
Your presence is joy, light, comfort,  
your nearness is holy, awesome, wonder.

In the play of sunlight through rainbows,  
in the sounds of music and laughter,  
in the touch of friends and loved ones,  
in the sweet perfume of blossom,  
in the taste of bread and wine,  
your presence is known.

But also in the warm dark,  
in the silence,  
in the solitude,  
in the scent of fear,  
in the sourness of tears,  
you are with us,  
your presence surrounds us.

As we come before you,  
we realise our faults,  
we remember our sins,  
we feel remorse for our selfishness,  
we repent and feel ashamed.

You welcome us,  
you greet us with a smile,  
you forgive and renew,  
you give us new hope, new life.  
You love us into your presence.  
We bless and thank you.  
We praise and adore you.  
We enjoy being with you,  
and with each other, in the name, the spirit and the  
presence of Jesus.  
Amen

Terry Oakley

## Be Present

We call on the purpose of God to enfold us now.  
God, be present in our activity and our stillness.  
We call on the presence of God to be with us now.  
God, be present in our gathering and in our parting.  
We call on the power of God to meet us now.  
God, be present in our thinking and our speaking.

Faithful God, you are loyal to your people always,  
forgive our betrayals of you and of each other.  
Covenant God, you remember your people always,  
forgive our forgetfulness of you and of the poor and the broken.  
Active God, you love your people always,  
forgive our failure to do your will and to cherish creation.

Living God, be present in power to fulfil your purpose  
In the name and Spirit of Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

Amen

Terry Oakley

## God is God

We receive God's love, God's grace, and God's mercy;  
but that is not why we worship.  
We come to see friends, those known and yet met;  
but that is not why we worship.  
We come to sing songs and hear music together;  
but still, that is not why we worship.  
Nor do we worship to earn forgiveness and love;  
these are free to all who ask.  
We worship because God is God,  
no other reason is needed.  
Hear our worship, loving Lord,  
and accept our gifts however we offer them,

Amen

Nigel Warner

## In God is Life

In God is life,  
Created life, Moulded life, Real life.  
In Christ is life,  
Abundant life, Forgiven life, Real life.  
In the Spirit is life,  
Vibrant life, New life, Real life.  
Come, open yourself to receive life.  
Life in all its fullness.  
The gift of God to all who accept.  
Receive the Real life of God,  
through Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen

Nigel Warner

## God of New Beginnings

God of new beginnings,  
we give thanks for a new start for us with you today  
we give thanks for a new start for relationships at home,  
we give thanks for a new start for the poor of the world.

God of forgiveness  
we give thanks for the Good News we hear in Jesus Christ  
the Gospel of mercy for all who have done wrong;  
we give thanks for the hope of a new millennium,  
a time to create peace and justice for all,  
we give thanks for the joy we find in the Church  
a community of love and support for all.

God of missions  
we give thanks for your promise of new life  
we give thanks for your purpose of justice  
we give thanks for the power to make all things new.  
in the name and the spirit of Jesus we pray.

Amen

Terry Oakley

## God of Time

God of time,  
We thank you for the moments of sunrise and sunset,  
with their brilliant colours of promise.  
We thank you for moments of stillness  
when we know peace and tranquillity  
We thank you for moments of joy and laughter  
with their sense of shared hope.  
We thank you for moments of truth  
when we know wonder and awe.  
We thank you for moments of sadness  
with tears shed for love.  
Help us to find in each moment  
your promised gift of life abundant  
and your presence with us now.

Terry Oakley

## God Who Is ...

God who is love,  
before time, beyond time  
you are the ground of reality;  
everything belongs to you,  
all things are intended to express love;  
your whole being is love.

God who is life,  
on earth and beyond earth,  
you are the source of meaning;  
in darkness and death you are a light,  
in doubt and despair you are a friend;  
your whole being is life.

God who is truth,  
in words and beyond words,  
you are the fountain of hope;  
justice and peace are your promise,  
faith and love are your way,  
your whole being is truth.

Terry Oakley

## Praise the God of New Things

God puts a new song into our mouth,  
are we willing to sing it.  
God puts a new heart into our bodies,  
are we willing to use it.  
The love of God empowers and enthuses,  
are we willing to accept the gift.  
Let us praise the God of new things,  
whose gifts are abundant and whose faithfulness is great.

Amen

Nigel Warner

## Be Our New Life

God of creation  
    mystery  
    and the holy place  
draw us to yourself

God of the Word  
    incarnate  
    spoken  
    enacted  
be our strength

God of love  
    forgiveness  
    and the power of tenderness  
be our new life

Amen

Alasdair Pratt

## Hold Us Today

Hold us today.  
Make us aware of your loving arms, under and around us.  
Tease out our tense muscles, our secret thoughts,  
our stubborn minds.  
Help us to trust you through and through.  
May we be honest in our worship  
allowing the people we are to push through  
all the layers of pretence we paint over the top.  
And may we allow you  
to strip away all that is unloving,  
dishonouring or hurtful  
that we may grow in you  
as we should.

Duncan Tuck

## Offering the Best

We give thanks for  
artists, saints, heroes and heroines,  
and ordinary folk who are the salt of the earth.

We pray for  
those under pressure to succeed and  
for those who feel they have failed,  
for those whose guilt is not washed away by mercy,  
and for those without faith or hope for the future.

We give thanks for  
economists, entrepreneurs, enthusiasts for work,  
for politicians, the press, and media stars,  
for dreamers, visionaries, prophets;

We pray for  
the earth, the polluted seas, the blackened beaches,  
the blasted earth, the choking air,  
the oil-coated birds.

We give thanks for  
carers, teachers and ministers,  
for parents, grandparents and god-parents,  
for peace-makers, be-frienders and go-betweeners.

We pray for  
those families who want food,  
for those with a cardboard box that want a house,  
for those with benefit that want independence,  
for those with skills who want work.

Amen

Terry Oakley

## How Wonderful

How wonderful it is to see the beauty of the earth,  
and to know the love of the creative God.

How wonderful it is to hear the sound of truth  
and to understand the word of the faithful God.

How wonderful it is to touch the hand of a friend  
and to feel the presence of the healing God.

How wonderful it is to smell the perfume of joy  
and to offer thanksgiving to the generous God.

How wonderful it is to taste the bread of life  
and to sit at table with the welcoming God.

We give thanks and praise for the abilities we enjoy  
and for the opportunities to help one another.

We give thanks and praise for the confidence we have  
and for the challenges to learn from one another.

We give thanks and praise for the examples we see  
and for the people who have shown us the way.

God, forgive us when we have been selfish.

Help us to seek forgiveness from those we have hurt.

Help us to forgive when others say sorry to us.

Help us to forgive ourselves and to move on  
with confidence in your love.

Terry Oakley

## One-in-three God

Father God who is our life, be with us.  
Christ who is our guide, walk with us.  
Spirit who is our strength, uphold us.  
One-in-three God, sharing each moment,  
bless and hallow this worship,  
cleanse and mould our hearts,  
that we may praise you alone,  
because of who you are,  
and for opening our eyes to see.

Duncan Tuick

## Great Big Beautiful God

Great big beautiful God –  
we are so glad to be here  
with you and with each other  
celebrating our life together as your people.

*In a moment of silence we tell you the things  
we want to give praise and thanks for today*

Thank you for this breathtaking, fragile world we live in  
and for the possibility of responding to you through it –  
in wonder – and intimacy  
in humility – and delight.

Thank you that the world is full of difference,  
where people

experience you differently

worship you differently

serve you differently.

Help us not to use their differences as excuses to build walls  
that separate,

but rather to use them to see the world  
as a kaleidoscope of colours and patterns,  
where everyone is linked to their neighbours,  
bound together by your strong love



Great big beautiful God  
Jesus lived among us demonstrating your love for all people  
but especially the ones

    who have low expectations of themselves  
    whom nobody bothers with  
    who never get a job that pays enough,  
        or a home to call their own,  
        or a task that gives them delight  
        or a special person to love.

If we know someone like that, let us see them through your eyes;  
give us the compassion and the conviction to say to them  
'you are worth it',

Just as, when we doubt whether *we* are worth it,  
Christ says to us: I came so that *you* might have life is all  
its fulness.

Great big beautiful God, thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Amen.

Carolyn Smyth

## Holy Risk-taker

Holy risk-taker, wonderful God,  
You create us out of your deep, exuberant love  
And in great hope.  
More than that, you make us in your own image;  
We are humbled and enlivened by your faith in us.  
Praise to your Name beyond all names.

But as we struggle to discover and perfect your image in  
ourselves  
we struggle too to be rid of burdens which get in the way:  
    burdens of guilt, fear, despair,  
    burdens of anger, resentment, prejudice

Jesus Christ, perfection of God's image;  
as both judge and friend,  
we acknowledge our burdens to you,  
hiding none  
because you already know them.

### *Silence*

Forgive us where we have wrongly burdened others  
help us to forgive those who have wrongly burdened us.  
Release us from all that harms us;  
help us to turn again – and again  
from selfishness to selflessness  
so that we grow in wisdom and maturity  
towards the day when we become  
perfect bearers of God's image.

Amen

Carolyn Smyth

## We Are Here Because You Called

Creating God,  
Fashioner of a universe so vast that mathematics can scarcely  
comprehend it,  
yet so delicately small that physicists can barely imagine it,  
we adore you.

Redeeming God,  
Leading your people from the oppression of Egypt,  
Offering new possibilities in Babylon  
Laying bare the structures of sin on Golgotha  
and inviting us to the new life of the third day,  
we adore you.

Sustaining God,  
Provider of manna,  
Giver of dreams to the old and visions to the young,  
Reconciler of Babel's diversity  
by the gift of the Spirit,  
we adore you.

We are here because you called, and we followed.  
We are here so that you may make us what you would have  
us to be.  
So we pray, loving God,  
take us in our brokenness and bewilderment,  
and in our excitement and anticipation.  
Accept our hopes, quell our fears,  
and make us one in Christ Jesus,  
for he it is who invites us to feast on bread and wine,  
his life,  
the world's salvation.  
Amen

David G Cornick

## Come, Let Us Return to God

Come, let us return to God,  
singing songs of love  
wonderful and true.

Come, let us turn to God  
lamenting our sin  
sharing our sorrow and shame.

Come, let us turn to our neighbours  
confessing our wrong  
seeking forgiveness and offering peace.

Come, let us turn ourselves  
away from pride and envy  
towards humility and service

Holy God, maker of all, have mercy on us.  
Jesus Christ, Servant of the poor, have mercy on us.  
Holy Spirit, breath of life, have mercy on us.  
May God forgive us, Christ renew us,  
and the Spirit enable us to grow in love.

Turn again, O God, and give us life;  
that your people may rejoice in you.  
Create in me a clean heart, O God;  
and renew a right spirit within me.  
Give us again the joy of your help;  
With your Spirit of freedom sustain us.  
Amen.

Terry Oakley

## Thank You Loving God

We thank you, loving God  
For our families who care for us,  
Who give us food and money,  
Hugs when we need them,  
And welcoming places for parties and friends.  
**Thank you loving God, for all that helps us  
To feel we belong in your world.**

We thank you, Loving God,  
For the homes we live in,  
For comfortable beds, teddy bears and computers,  
And places where we can relax and be ourselves.  
**Thank you, loving God for all that helps us  
To feel we belong in your world.**

We thank you, loving God,  
For the friends we enjoy being with,  
Who share their things with us,  
People we can turn to when we need help.  
**Thank you, loving God, for all that helps us  
To feel we belong in your world.**

We thank you, loving God,  
For the fun of being part of a crowd,  
The atmosphere of a football match or concert,  
For the excitement of having people who feel the same way  
all around us.  
**Thank you, loving God, for all that helps us  
To feel we belong in your world.**

Amen

Jan Berry

## Holy and Gracious God

Holy and Gracious God,  
We come before your presence confessing our sins and shortcomings.  
Only you know the depth of our sin;  
Only you know how far we have wandered from your way.

We confess that we have wasted your gifts;  
We have not always been able to fulfil the promise of our lives;  
We have allowed ourselves to suffer in silence;  
We have mistreated our brothers and sisters,  
And stood by as others have mistreated them.

**God, forgive us!**

We confess that we have spoken out of turn;  
That we have not opened up our hearts to other people;  
That we have broken promises;  
That we have not repented.

**God, forgive us!**

**Come, Lord,  
Renew us with your Spirit,  
Forgive us, that we may truly be your people.  
In the name of Jesus, our Saviour.**

**Amen**

Hugh Graham

## In Peace Let Us Pray to the Lord

*(a peace candle may be lit)*

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord have mercy**

For peace from on high and for our salvation,  
Let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord have mercy**

For the peace of the whole world,  
And for the welfare of the Church of God,  
And for its unity, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord have mercy.**

For this holy house  
And for all those who enter here in faith,  
Let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen.**

Liturgy of John Chrysostom. adpt.

## God of Every Day

God of light and power  
God of weakness and darkness

God who can and God who makes  
God who knows of failure and corruption

God of peace and justice.  
God of the troubled and oppressed

God of the calm and strength  
God of defeat and confusion

God of the noise and the singing  
we come to worship you

God of today yesterday and tomorrow  
Now today we worship you

God who has formed each of us with our abilities and failings with our passions and weaknesses we take this time to listen to reflect to think. We know that we have done wrong things. We have failed to go beyond the right to do the best. We have been narrow in our circle of love and care Forgive us. Jesus has come to bring us life in all its fullness. Our sins are forgiven in his name.

Amen

Lesley Charlton



## To Be Here as Our Whole Selves

Let us make sure that we are here as our whole selves.  
Lord if we think there are parts of our lives that you know nothing of, forgive us. If there are parts of ourselves that we pretend do not exist, disabuse us of any idea that you would be ignorant.

If we think that there was anyway that anything we have done would mean that we were excluded from your presence, forgive us.  
Lord as your people in all our imperfections we come.

God of love we know that you forgive us.  
God of justice we know you demand more from us.  
God of kindness we know you would guide us.  
Thank you.

God we have met you this week.  
In the shout for help and the offer of an extended palm.  
In the whisper of comfort and the wise printed word.  
In the breathtaking sunset and the sunlight on a puddle.  
We your ordinary people have lives touched with eternity.  
We praise you for your interest in us and your greatness far beyond us.  
God our saviour, peace to you.  
God our creator, gratitude to you.  
God our empowerer, thanks to you, we pray.

In the name of Jesus who allowed us to see you we pray.

Lesley Charlton

## Jesus We Come to Worship You

God who in Jesus has worked for a week and then stopped to worship, do you know how we feel?

We have many things that we could be doing, yet here we are. Here to reflect, to listen to your word, to be encouraged by you and challenge by your greatness

God who in Jesus lived in a family and had many close relationships, we have hurt other peoples' feelings this week. They annoyed us, were mean to us and they took us for granted. Forgive us for any wrong that we have done.

God who in Jesus has been taught, we thank you for the things that we learned this week. In places of learning and from other places. A wise saying, a quiet idea, a familiar thought suddenly with new power, thank you.

God who is like us in Jesus we come to worship you.  
God who is different from us as creator and spirit we come to worship you.  
Still own minds, open our hearts and thoughts.  
For Jesus sake.

Amen

Lesley Charlton

## God With Us

God, in the noise of this week when the children were crying and the demands would never stop you were God. When people were giving us a hard time and even our friends did not seem to want to know us.

In the emptiness of the last few days when we felt isolated and abandoned thinking that nobody loved us and nobody wanted to be with us, you were the God of love.

In the last week when it was all rush and push and appointment and appointment, you were the peace. You were the balance.

When what happened was not right and we shouted, 'it's so unfair' you were the justice and the mercy.

Thank you that even though we might have thought we were alone you were with us.

God we know that we have been given the tools we need for order and balance in life and we have decided that we can do a much better job on our own, thank you very much. Forgive us.

God, we have been told that you are always there, that you have come on the earth in Jesus but we have not taken the time to see you.

Open our eyes and ears to you present here now. In Jesus name we pray.

Amen

Lesley Charlton



# Prayers of Confession

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## Prayer of Confession

In the presence of the Holy Spirit, we pray.  
Through the grace of Jesus Christ, we pray.  
To God, our creator and our redeemer, we pray.

Knowing that we are weak, we pray.  
Conscious of our sins, we pray.  
Alert to God's abundant love, we pray.

**O God,  
Hear our regret,  
Remove our guilt,  
Carry the weight of our care.**

**As we repent of our sins,  
O God, renew us with your grace.**

**Amen**

Vaughan Jones

## Confession - I

We confess our sins,  
God of grace,  
whatever they are.  
If we got what we deserved we would really be in trouble,  
but Jesus got what we deserved.  
We are truly sorry for all our sins,  
those seen and those unseen.  
Those deliberate and those inadvertent.  
The sins against others and ourselves.  
All signs of our weakness,  
and all, in truth, committed against you.  
For these sins Christ died.  
Forgive us Lord, and help us to accept your forgiveness,  
and to live in the freedom it gives.

Amen

Nigel Warner

## Confession - 2

We confess guilt, Lord.  
Guilt for the things we have done  
and said  
and thought  
and that are yet to be forgiven.  
Guilt for the things we have done  
and said  
and thought  
and from which we have already been forgiven.  
Free us from guilt, we pray,  
and set our feet upon your path of freedom.

Amen

Nigel Warner

## Forgive Us for the Wasted Moment

Forgive us,  
for the wasted moment  
spent selfishly or just filling time;  
for the hurtful moments  
caused by our words or actions;  
for the thoughtless moments  
lacking in love;  
for the destructive moments  
when we let our anger rip;  
for the missed moments  
frozen by hesitation and doubt.  
Help us now and every moment  
to try to live as Jesus lived,  
fully present, fully human, full of love.  
Amen

Terry Oakley



## In Steady Pilgrimage

How complex life is,  
Always we face challenges that seem beyond us.

We are caught in a web of relationships  
Which too often become sterile,  
Or irritating  
Or just a formality.

We face work which is demanding  
Too often with impatience  
And little joy  
Watching the clock.

We hear the cries of a broken world,  
Too often with despair  
Or a sense of futility  
As though we can do nothing to help.

And so we seem to ourselves  
Shallow people  
Just ticking over the calendar  
And not going anywhere.

That is not what you created us to be.

Grant us the spirit of hope infusing our lives,  
So that what we have been  
May not determine what we shall become.  
In Christ, may we draw closer to you  
In steady pilgrimage.

Bernard Thorogood

## Living the Life of Faith

Loving Lord,  
we try so hard to live the life of faith,  
and yet we are told time and again  
that we could do it better.  
Encourage us, we pray, where we have got it right;  
so that we can continue to live for you.  
Encourage us also where we have not got it right;  
so that we might better live for you.  
We pray that our life of faith  
through worship, prayer, and mission  
will show other people the great love you have for them.  
Make us into lamps of your love,  
and our church into the lamp stand that allows the light to  
be seen.

Amen

Nigel Warner

# Prayers of Assurance

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## God, Lover of All

God, lover of all,  
We come to you in our vulnerability,  
Our desperate hopes and fragile new beginnings,  
**Touch us with your Spirit's tenderness and make us whole.**

God, lover of all,  
We come to you with our sense of relationships broken and damaged,  
Our disjointed efforts to mend what is torn and restore trust  
**Touch us with your Spirit's harmony and make us whole.**

God, lover of all,  
We come to you with our awareness of poverty and division  
Our broken attempts to repair community  
**Touch us with your Spirit's healing and make us whole.**

God, lover of all,  
We come to you with our knowledge of oppression and abuse,  
Our struggles against prejudice and exclusion,  
**Touch us with your Spirit's justice and make us whole.**

Jan Berry

## Assurance of Forgiveness

God, we praise you for your love  
For the assurance of your forgiveness,  
And the promise of wholeness.

Amen

Jan Berry

## Forgiveness - 1

Why do you forgive my sin, O Lord,  
when I will only do it again.  
I do not know.  
I do not understand how you can forgive and forget.  
But I accept the gift with gratefulness.  
For your forgiving grace and love,  
I thank you precious God,

Amen

Nigel Warner

## Forgiveness - 2

You are free.  
The grace of God through Jesus makes you free.  
Accept the grace of God.  
Your sins are forgiven.  
You are free.

Amen

Nigel Warner

## Forgive Us

Forgive us, you who created us to live in freedom,  
for we have not only allowed others to be oppressed,  
but have ourselves preferred the familiar walls of the prison  
to the adventure of breaking out into a new life.

Forgive us, you who released us to be a new people,  
for we have colluded with a system which exploits and  
dehumanises,  
kept silence when we should have spoken out,  
stood by when we should have intervened.

Forgive us, you who have come to be one with us,  
for we have rejected the strangers,  
excluded by our words and customs,  
and failed to recognise and welcome you.

Encourage us to take up our duty  
to denounce everything that opposes justice and destroys  
peace.

Enable us to take up our duty  
to break with systems that favour special interests rather  
than the common good.

Enliven us with hope and faith and love  
to liberate the Church from its captivity to wealth,  
to be a poor Church.

Terry Oakley

## Variations of Forgiveness

Heavenly God,  
forgive us .. our trespasses  
the times we have gone wrong,  
failed in what we promised,  
missed the goal, fallen short of the best,  
drifted away from the course we should have followed.

Forgive us ... our sins  
the hurt we have caused,  
the hate we have shown, the harm we have carried out,

Forgive us ,, our debts  
for the love we have received,  
for the opportunities we have been given,  
for the beauty we have experienced,  
for the freedom we have enjoyed.

God forgive us, Christ renew us and  
Spirit of God enable us to grow in love.  
Help us to forgive others,  
their trespasses against us,  
their sins against us,  
their debts against us,  
So may we live in peace,  
with you and with your neighbours.  
In the name and the Spirit of Jesus Christ we pray.

Amen

Terry Oakley



## Absolution

The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance,  
that Christ Jesus came in to the world to save sinners.

1 Timothy 2:15

Let us all acknowledge this in our hearts and believe in Christ.  
In his name, I declare to you the forgiveness of all your sins,  
and declare you to be released of them on earth,  
and in heaven, in eternity.

Amen

John Calvin



# Prayers of Commitment

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## Trinity of Love

Creator, sustainer and giver of life, you have loved us from the beginning, honoured us beyond our deserving, called us your family and made us part of your Great Church which is in heaven and on earth. As we have remembered and given thanks for the pilgrimage of the past so now we bring to you our present and our future.

Christ, king and head of the church yet proclaiming a revolutionary kingdom, liberating women and men from the shackles of inhumanity, you elevate the powerless, exalt the humble, love the unlovable and accept the unacceptable. We bring to you our continuing sense of the church's mission relayed to us through the ages but, by you, made new for each generation.

Spirit of wisdom and truth, who soothes and disturbs us, moves and inspires us, you have empowered people in every age and challenged your Church to live the good news and to proclaim the kingdom in the present tense. We bring to you the dreams we are daring to dream, the hopes we are building now and the actions we are planning.

Trinity of love,

To proclaim the good news of the kingdom

**We commit to you our worship and our life**

To teach, baptise and nurture new believers

**We commit to you our faith and fellowship**

To respond to human need by loving service

**We commit to you our buildings,  
equipment, funds and energies**

To seek to transform unjust structures of society

**We commit to you our courage and  
our compassion**

To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, to sustain and  
renew the life of the earth

**We commit to you our vigilance and our vision**

God, who transformed the cross into a victory and built your  
church on the weak and powerless

**Keep us faithful to our calling,  
equip us for your service,  
guide us on our pilgrimage  
and welcome us into  
your future.**

**Amen**

Alan Paterson

## **Bless Our Children**

Bless our children, loving Lord.  
that as they leave for their classes  
they will draw closer to you,  
and that we will not be held back from your love  
by their absence.

Amen

“Let the children come to me”, spoke our Lord.  
Draw them to you through their classes, O Lord,  
so that the whole family of God might be enriched.

Amen

Give us life, O Lord,  
as these children have life.  
Life in all abundance.  
And teach them in their time together,  
drawing them to you.

Amen

Nigel Warner

## Living God You Challenge Us

A Covenant Prayer for an all-age congregation

There is the Leader with the congregation divided into two groups of children and adults

**Leader:** Living God, you challenge us.

**All:** You call us each by name.

**Leader:** Your challenge reaches us:  
'Who will go for us?'

**Children 1:** Living God, we are too young and too shy;

**Adults 1:** Living God, we are too old, too fearful;

**All:** But still you send us out.

**Children 2:** Out to our schools, to learn, to play;

**Adults 2:** Out to our labours, to work, to talk;

**All:** Out to our families, our friends,  
to mix with others.

**Children 1:** You send us out with fun and energy;

**Adults 1:** You send us out with experience  
and hope;

**All:** You send us out with love and joy.

**Children 2:** You send us out to cheer people up  
and collect for Blue Peter;

**Adults 2:** You send us to visit housebound  
people and recycle glass bottles;

**Children 1:** To make friends with new children at school and teach grandparents to use computers;

**Adults 1:** To listen to worried parents and sign justice petitions;

**All:** Living God  
We bring to you  
Ourselves;  
Women and men,  
Boys and Girls.  
Our life stories, some short, some long.  
Our gifts – those we know and those we have yet to discover.  
Our skills – those we have learned and those we have yet to learn.  
We give them to all to you.  
Use us.

**Leader:** Living God, you challenge us.

**All:** You call us each by name.

**Leader:** Your challenge reaches us:  
'Who will go for us?'

**All:** Here am I. Send me.

The Worship Group, Trinity Church  
(United Reformed/Methodist, Bedlington, Northumberland)





# Global Voices

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**For Intercessions**





## Tomorrow is God's Agenda

There are so many things happening:  
Places to be, people to see!  
And how the people rush, rush, rush on pavement and road,  
in shop and in pub.

Sometimes we're torn between this place and that,  
between this group and that.  
Life is more complicated than ever it was.  
Text and email, mobile phone and the rest,  
is it easier to be in touch?  
Was life simpler when people stayed in their community,  
and knew their place?

But that has never been true.  
Changes were afoot from the earliest stories of the Bible:  
Abraham leaving home at a ripe old age,  
Moses often on the move, half the time scarred and  
certainly harassed!  
Amos, Micah, Jeremiah and the rest.

Jesus and then Peter and Paul, the travelling church,  
the mission.  
Not pursued by God but chasing God!  
How simple it is to long for the old days,  
good or not you knew where you were;  
or at least that's how it feels now!

God's agenda lies not in the past.  
He shapes it through the past towards tomorrow.  
God's agenda is a gift from the future;  
giving imagination, a sense of adventure,  
of making all things new.  
God isn't finished. God can't finish.  
God, too is yet to be in the coming of a kingdom  
of justice and peace,  
God becomes as we create community, and break down barriers,  
and celebrate the common roots of humanity in the God at  
the heart.

God isn't finished, because we're torn.  
God will be finished and dwell among us as we make the  
newness of heaven and earth.

God is becoming as people and communities risk being more  
complete.

John LI Humphreys

## Towards a New Creation

When we hear the voices of self-doubt,  
telling us we are worthless,  
that we are weak and can do nothing  
and change is beyond our grasp:

**God, who has made us in your image  
give us the power of your Spirit to learn and grow,  
and to work with you towards a new creation.**

When the vulnerable are exploited,  
And the trust of the innocent betrayed.  
When the strong seem invincible  
And the weak have nowhere to turn:

**God, who sides with the poor  
give us the power of your Spirit to resist evil  
and to work with you towards a new creation.**

In a world crying out for peace,  
Where conflicts seem hardened into steel  
Where war and poverty uproot families and homes,  
And those seeking refuge are treated as criminals:

**God, who made the world to be one,  
give us the power of your Spirit to struggle for  
justice,  
and to work with you towards a new creation.**

In a church that is afraid of difference,  
And sets up barriers against the outside,  
Where people are fearful of change,  
Clinging to outworn ways:

**God, who calls us to be your people,  
give us the power of your Spirit to witness for you,  
and to work with you towards a new creation.**

Amen

Jan Berry

## The Glory is Yours

The glory is yours, God, Creator,  
life breather,  
giver of such a good creation,  
full of beauty, sustaining our life.  
We give thanks to you,  
for our life, our relationships, our loves and our hope.  
for your image obscured but still visible in humankind.

The glory is yours, God, Renewer,  
making all things new.  
We give thanks to you for the living promise of New  
Jerusalem,  
for new heaven and new earth,  
for relationships recreated,  
for the broken mended and tears wiped away.

The glory is yours, God, in Jesus Christ,  
crucified and raised.  
We give thanks to you for new life already begun,  
for the promise alive and your image made clear,  
for all that is, now being changed by love's victory.

Peter Trow

## May We Live By Grace

As God's creation, the world bears the marks of God.  
Here we think of the world as a body, a child of God.

Ploughing a field we scratch the skin of God;  
Polluting a river we stain the blood of God;  
Exterminate a species and we break God's finger;  
Build bigger cities and we load God's back;  
Oppress the poor and we beat God's children.

Creator God, may we love the world,  
your amazing gift to us,  
for we meet you in all creation.  
Help our eyes to see you in the mountains,  
our ears to hear your voice in the waves,  
and our hearts to respect your gift.

In Christ we know that we are one family  
in the house of the world.  
May we live, by grace, as your children.

Bernard Thorogood

## Small in Terms of the World

God, each of us is small  
even the fattest and most muscled of us.  
We are not among the important people in the world.  
We pray for the leaders of countries and big companies,  
people who have lots of power and responsibilities  
For people who think that all there is, is to get more and  
more things.

We pray for those who are small,  
for those who are small in the terms of the world, hungry  
people, poor people, homeless people and children.

God, each of us is big even the weediest and skinniest of us.  
We are big in the sight of those people who love us.  
We are big in your sight.  
We pray for those people who have nobody who loves them  
and ask that you would make us more loving.  
And we thank you for your loving us and we pray that the  
life we live may be worthy of that love and how far you have  
gone to show your love.

Thank you God that it is OK to be small with you and we do  
not have to pretend and we do not have to grab attention.

We pray in Jesus name

Lesley Charlton



## Peace in Our Communities

The uniform is a cause for fear and derision.  
Expectations about bias abound.  
Ordinary men and women doing their job are turned into  
operatives of the state.

Let us hold up before God those who are involved in keeping  
law and order in our town/city  
Those who are concerned with letting the weakest be  
protected and the vulnerable secure.  
May our police work without prejudice and in the context  
not of what is easiest or quickest but the bigger picture.

We pray for those who feel they have not been treated fairly.  
For all those who have made mistakes that they may have  
the maturity and courage to admit it and that we may allow  
them a second chance

The video recorder is offered for sale for £30. It fell off the  
back of a lorry.  
Silence is kept when the shouting is heard through the wall  
and the mysterious bruises appear next day.  
'Nobody will ever know' becomes the basis of morality.

We pray for ourselves aware that we too are responsible for  
keeping the peace in our society. We get the justice that we  
work for, that we resource.  
May we be wise citizens able to see the picture beyond me  
and mine to think of us and the needs of others.  
We pray in Jesus name

Lesley Charlton

## Come with Peace

Powerful God of the nations  
do not come this day in anger  
but with grace:  
do not come this day with judgement  
but with peace.

Our need is great.  
Your anger is just.  
Your judgement is true.

Forgive the wrongs of the nations  
and heal your people.  
Have mercy, Lord. Have mercy.

Amen

Vaughan Jones

## Respond to Love and Care

The songs of our world call us to respond to your love and care.  
To respond to your love for all.

What music shall we sing? What music shall we offer?

The drum beats out a strong rhythm.

The boom boom boom speaks of marching, pacing, going  
forward and going to war.

For those who fight; for those who wait to fight.

The tune is in the air the melody clear and catchy every one  
sings along

**For those whose lifestyle is easy, pleasing,  
causing envy**

May there be substance rather than all life being froth

May there be generosity from those who have food, stability,  
love and peace in their land.

The notes jar; there is no order and rhythm no tune and no pacing  
for those whose lives demand attention for the wrong reason.

The ones who cannot manage, those in debt, those who are  
disruptive neighbours, those who cannot cope as parents, those  
who will never be able to work for they do not have  
the skills or the discipline

The music from a different place a different age sounds from  
a different country, yuk don't mention country.

Lord there are so many differences how are we to live together.

How are we live together as your people on the earth?

Then there will be the songs of heaven.

Tunes that angels sing.

For those on the earth who can hear them. The dying.

Those who they will leave behind.

Lord we would sing your songs for ever

We say our prayers in Jesus name

Amen

Lesley Charlton

## Commitment for Life

Heavenly Father, when we have our worrying times and concerns enable us to think of people living in the developing countries where their hardships and worries are so much greater than ours. Help us to work for world-wide justice especially where water supplies are needed to give better health; where impoverished land needs to be nourished so that farmers can grow food for themselves and the markets. Help us to work for debt relief and to encourage our supermarkets to promote Fairtrade goods so that life can be improved for everyone.

Amen

Pamela Pavitt

## God of Justice

God of Justice, we pray for our world where trade is unfairly balanced against so many people.

We know that some people live in luxury whilst others struggle to exist and work hard to scratch a living.

Help us to think each time we turn on a tap to run pure water that other people walk mile upon mile to collect a bucket of water which is polluted. Lord, help us to campaign for clean water for all people.

We pray that international organisations may learn to seek your standards of justice and influence the world with their actions.

Help us. Lord God to seek justice at all times and wherever and whenever we have the opportunity.

Pamela Pavitt

## All Are Welcome

Our notice board says “all are welcome”,  
Of course, we’re a friendly church,  
we’d not like it if anyone said otherwise!

Are we?  
Our Bible says all are created in the image of God  
We say “lovely to see you”.

And yet, and yet we prejudge.

Is that man, introducing his partner Peter, welcome?  
Is that single woman with her daughter welcome?  
He’s just come from prison, and he expects a welcome?  
And that refugee, who is so lost?  
And that group of youth, just hanging around the door?

All are welcome, including us with our prejudice and  
partiality!  
Thanks be to God whose nature is welcome.

John LI Humphreys

## The Songs of Our World

The songs of our world call us to respond to your love and care. To respond to your love for all.

What music shall we sing? What music shall we offer?

The drum beats out a strong rhythm.

The boom boom boom speaks of marching, pacing, going forward and going to war.

For those who fight; for those who wait to fight.

The tune is in the air the melody clear and catchy every one sings along.

For those whose lifestyle is easy, pleasing, causing envy.

May there be substance rather than all life being froth

May there be generosity from those who have food, stability, love and peace in their land.

The notes jar; there is no order and rhythm no tune and no pacing.

For those whose lives demand attention for the wrong reason.

The ones who cannot manage, those in debt, those who are disruptive neighbours, those who cannot cope as parents, those who will never be able to work for they do not have the skills or the discipline.

The music from a different place a different age sounds from a different country, yuk don't mention country.

Lord there are so many differences how are we to live together.

How are we live together as your people on the earth?

Then there will be the songs of heaven.

Tunes that angels sing.

For those on the earth who can hear them. The dying.

Those who they will leave behind.

Lord we would sing your songs for ever

We say our prayers in Jesus name

Lesley Charlton

## Jesus Who Meets Our Hungers

Jesus, who meets our hungers - we would be fed by you

Jesus, able to meet everyone's hungers - we all would be fed by you

Empty, alone, hungry desolate

For those facing the darkness of death, their own or of someone they love

For those isolated because of geography or social factors

For those who are empty, for food, for contact

For those who are broken

Full, included, fed, satisfied

For those who have things and believe that through them they have all the answers

For those who are smothered by friends and family unable to be themselves and who long to be alone

For those who grow the food we eat, around the world, in the UK, those who bring it to our shops and those who sell it to us

For those in danger of becoming complacent

Jesus who meets our hungers - we would be fed by you

Jesus able to meet everyone's hungers - we all would be fed by you

We pray in your name.

Lesley Charlton



## Can the World Get Better?

The savages rounded up their prisoners and beat them to death.

Ancient history?

Medieval tragedy?

Far away and long ago?

No, it was there on television last night.

It is today's world, my world.

But what wonderful progress

in our hospitals, fighting diseases,

in our transport, ease of travel,

in our homes, comfort and cleanliness,

in our country, freedom and peace.

Why do we go on hurting one another

and smashing so much that is precious

and polluting air and sea?

Is the world getting wiser

or more peaceful

or more just?

It is hard for me to understand, God of the ages.

Take my small life

and let it be on the side of peace

and justice and healing

Jesus, don't let me forget

the power of One.

Bernard Thorogood

## The Face of God

In Jesus we see the face of God  
Not in my face, not in your face  
My face and your face always have a mask  
The smile, the frown, the politeness, the pre-occupation  
Our masks mask the face of God  
Our masks mask the freedom of God  
Our masks mask the love and grace of God  
In Jesus we see the face of God  
And Jesus saw beyond the mask

Jesus saw the face of God in  
    the hungry,  
        the thirsty,  
            the stranger,  
                the naked,  
                    the sick,  
                        the prisoner  
Jesus saw that the least of these sisters and brothers, too,  
mask the face of God.

let's look at each other – let's look for the face of God  
let's not even pretend God stops here.

We commit ourselves to look for the face of God in each  
and all.

John LI Humphreys

## God's Invitation to All

Lord Jesus,  
in your life and death  
you suffered so much injustice at the hands of others,  
and yet you faced it and challenged it wherever you found it.  
From those with leprosy and disability,  
to the tax collectors and prostitutes,  
you offered them all a way out of their situations  
into the freedom and fullness of your love.  
Help us to do as you do,  
forgiving and restoring,  
inviting and loving,  
all in the love of God  
through the power of the Holy Spirit  
**Amen**

Nigel Warner

## Images of God

*Use a number of different voices.*

We are free to speak of God in so many ways  
For some, there is an objective being standing separate from us  
For others, there is the intimacy of the God within, expressed  
differently in various cultures and periods in history.

The God who is vengeful  
The God who is embracing  
The God who is inclusive  
The God who is judgemental  
The God who is never deterred

There's the image I like  
There's the image I don't like  
And there're the images the other people don't like

Not for me the old man in the sky, not the young Victorian  
blue eyed figure that has never seen, let alone come from  
The Holy Land.

Not for me the notion of Job, the God who tests and plays  
games that in any person we'd detest.

Not for me the notion of God who plays doctor with  
people's minor ailments and forgets the epidemics of HIV  
and Aids

Not for me the God who magically makes a problem dissolve  
and forgets to lift even a metaphorical finger for the hungry  
and thirsty of the world.

Let's get free from childish images of God.

Let's be brave about who we see, and how we see God  
Let's admit there is no three-decker universe where we're  
caught in the middle.

Let's celebrate the God who is in the nature of human life.  
Let's celebrate the divine which is human life  
Let's rejoice in beauty to appreciate possibility  
Let's celebrate the mystery of love!

John L I Humphreys  
(amended 2019)

## Prayers for Hope

God our Saviour,  
We pray for those without hope that they hearing your  
good news  
may be set free from their despair.

### **Silence**

We pray that the Church will faithfully present the Gospel  
in word and in action so all may be saved.

We pray for those who with their hope dashed  
feel bereft, abandoned and betrayed.

### **Silence**

We pray that the Church will stand in solidarity with the  
suffering,  
working for justice and peace.

We pray for those who beginning to hope,  
dare to dream that tomorrow might be different.

### **Silence**

We pray that the Church will encourage and empower them,  
teach and nurture them in faith.

We pray for those who working in hope  
towards a better future face opposition and oppression.

### **Silence**

We pray that the church  
will prefer to opt for them, even to the extent of sacrificial  
giving.

We pray for those who are at last enjoying some of life's  
fulness,  
who are full of thanks and praise.

### **Silence**

We pray that the Church  
rejoicing with them may continue to seek justice and peace  
for all.

We pray for those who are poor, sick, homeless, lonely,  
imprisoned, oppressed and powerless.

**Silence**

May your love reach them and may the Church stand with them.

So that all may come to give thanks to you, and rejoice with one another.

Amen

Terry Oakley

## The Body of Christ

That's us, the church!  
How gross it is.  
No longer lithe and supple,  
Full of energy,  
Now twisted and deformed,  
Lethargic in the extreme.

Once I dreamed  
As all young men do  
Of a vibrant renewed Church.  
United yet not uniform.  
Exhibiting its rich diversity  
In all aspects of life.

Can we break free  
From the 'straight jacket'; of tradition.  
Remove ritual's noose  
That would choke  
Any out reach of the spirit,  
Beyond the enmeshing structures.

Uniting together with one mission,  
Affirming all we hold in common,  
Spelling out the differences,  
Respecting each other in love,  
Acknowledging our ignorance  
About each other and our faith.

If we are unfit  
Our bodies suffer  
Likewise with the Church.  
Shed the weighty burden  
Of out-moded structures and customs  
Adopt a healthy spiritual diet.

As Christ's human body  
Was broken and scarred,  
So the Church bears signs  
Of conflict and dissent.  
Yet healing is possible  
Gained through his timeless victory.

Y Mochyn Daear

## The Church

Lord we pray for the Church  
Christians facing persecution and physical danger  
Churches that are an interest group of sections of society  
providing no voice for the voiceless and complacency in  
abundance  
Churches that are made up of exclusive groups with no room  
for the new comer, no space for the person who is not  
exactly like us

Lord we pray for the world for which Christ died.  
People facing persecution and physical danger  
People with no voice and those who feel excluded from  
society and those who have chosen to opt out.  
We pray for peace

For those who are on the edges because of poverty or illness  
or because they are close to death.  
For those who are on the edge because it would be too  
difficult to include them, we would have to change the ways  
we do things, have to communicate in different way change  
our buildings and thinking  
Those we keep out because it is easier for us.

Those we keep out because their enthusiasm and certainty is  
difficult for us to live with.

Those we keep out because their questioning undermines  
our faith.

Lord we pray for those we love.

We pray for ourselves.

Build your Church Lord. Begin with me.

Lesley Charlton



## The Calling of the Church

Loving Lord,  
you have called us to follow you as disciples,  
in our life together and as individuals,  
through worship, prayer and mission.  
Be with us as we seek to live this call.  
Give us the strength and enthusiasm to live the life you have  
called us to live.  
Help us as we seek to care for and nurture people,  
as we challenge areas of injustice that we find,  
and as we seek to serve you in our service of other people.  
In all that we speak, think, and say,  
be with us Lord.  
So that the people we meet and serve will not see us,  
but will see you in us.  
We do all that we do for you,  
Holy and life giving Lord.  
Your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven

Amen

Nigel Warner

## Deeper Discipleship

Master,  
teach us to be your disciples,  
to follow you through thick and thin,  
never to deny that we know you,  
and always to point other people towards you.  
I just want to say Thank You  
for these wonderful horizons,  
for all the technical wonders  
of miniature circuitry  
and optic cable and satellite; link.  
Thank you for an unlimited future.

As you care for and nurture your people,  
help us to do the same as your disciples.  
Show us how we might draw others  
into a closer relationship with you,  
so that they might be strengthened  
and transformed into your likeness,  
as we ourselves desire to be strengthened and transformed.  
Through the love of others,  
bring us to understand what it is to be truly loved by you,  
our Saviour and Lord,  
and to be filled with your Holy Spirit

Amen

Nigel Warner

## Relationships

There are people, as you know God, who are married and wish that they were single. People who feel that they have the wrong partner. People who have changed and their partner has not. People who have stayed the same and their partner has altered.

We hold them up before you.

There are people God, as you know, who are single and wish they were married. People, who said no, when they should have said yes, people who have never met the right one, or never recognised that one. People who have made a vow that they now regret.

We hold them up to you now.

Those whose marriages are close to collapse. Those who left the heart of their partner years ago and now will leave their home. Those who are coming to terms with their new singleness, some with relish, some with pain.

People who have been divorced for years.

People who are happily married.

People who are happily single.

Today there are people, as you know God, trying to decide whether to commit to a particular person or whether to run away. May they go the right way.

Amen

Lesley Charlton

## Now Is the Time

Now is the time.  
Do it now.

Lord there are some running out of time.  
Terminally ill.  
Those who strain the patience of the people who care for them.  
Those who have the debt collector and the red letters.

Those who feel that their job is for young people and the press of the years is beginning to tell so they worry, 'what should they do next?'

Time, time, there is so much time  
Those who feel time is heavy on their hands who wonder about your use of their time  
Those confined to bed. Those waiting to fight.  
Those waiting to give birth, waiting to conceive.  
Those who cannot find work.  
Cannot find a role, who are in a strange country and they do not know how it all works.

Lord take our time.  
We know that we waste it doing things that are not ours to do and over-stretching ourselves and not giving the time to the things that matter to you.

Let us rest in your company and walk at your pace.

Lesley Charlton

## Compassion

God, you created the world for freedom,  
forgive the abuse of power  
and our collusion with the waste of human life.  
We pray for the hungry,  
the sick  
and the dying.  
In your mercy protect them,  
and through them awaken us  
to your compassion  
and to their need.  
Amen

Vaughan Jones

## Draw New People to You

Living God,  
we gather together as a church,  
as a community of believers,  
because we have the common belief that you love us.  
You love all people, Lord.  
That is why you sent your Son to die for all people.  
We thank you that we know this.  
Help us to help others to know this.  
We pray that you will,  
through us as your tools,  
show the people that we meet and live amongst  
that this truth is for them too.  
Draw new people to you, Lord God,  
so that they might receive the freedom that you give.  
Use us we pray,  
in Jesus name,  
and by the power of the Holy Spirit

Amen

Nigel Warner

## Meeting New People

Everything around me says that appearances matter.

The photos, the models, the film stars, the ads.  
All say what you look like is the key to success.  
If your hair is just so, and your skin is a peach,  
and your suit is the colour that's right for today.  
You can spend on a nose job or develop your bust,  
it's as though life is a beauty and fashion parade.

But it's false, it's a con.

What is on the outside is never the key  
to the heart and the mind and the spirit,  
that is the real person, the real me.  
It's not the outside that counts when the chips are  
down  
and we face a disaster.  
Then it's the courage and the steadiness  
that will lift us up on our feet again.  
It's not the outside that counts  
when we are sick and need good nursing.  
It's not the hair style that matters  
when we want to be forgiven.

So, God as you don't judge by the outside,  
may I never be trapped that way,  
but be able to meet everyone  
of all races and ages and faces  
and clothing and accents  
as people with hearts and minds  
that take time to understand.  
And may that be how people see me.

Bernard Thorogood

## People Matter Most

I love the screen.  
All the games we can play  
that flash and storm and chatter;  
all the pictures I can make  
and all the messages I can receive.  
Here I am at the centre  
with all the world at my fingertips

And at the screen there's no complaining,  
no one comments on my manners,  
or tells me to get a haircut.  
for it is my own kingdom  
where I can do more than my parents  
who are so clumsy at the keyboard.

But remind me, God of wonders,  
that, behind all the screens  
people matter most.

Bernard Thorogood



## Sir, We Would See Jesus

'Sir we would see Jesus'  
So enquired the Greeks.  
Andrew heard them.  
Took them to meet his Lord.  
There they could talk.  
Because Jesus was home in Galilee.

'Sir we would see Jesus'  
So enquired eager worshippers,  
But he was not to be found  
In hymns, music or prayers.  
Absent from the sermon,  
Because Jesus has gone to Galilee.

'Sir we would see Jesus'  
So enquired a newly ordained minister,  
Seeking him in committees,  
Enmeshed in denominational structures.  
Striving to witness to an absent Christ,  
Because Jesus has gone to Galilee.

'Sir we would see Jesus'.  
Where can he be found?  
Why do we fail!  
Have we missed the clue?  
Directions are clear enough.  
He's gone before us to Galilee.

'Sir we would see Jesus'.  
Our task is to engage with Him,  
Reveal the Lord of life who is present  
In the modern work place,  
Confirming our intrinsic worth,  
Christ who dwells in Our Galilee.

Y Mochyn Daear

## Journeying God

Journeying God,  
we ask for you to be with all those at risk when travelling –  
those who fly, sail, ride or walk.  
We pray especially for refugees and those fleeing war,  
hunger or persecution.  
We pray for those who offer hospitality, relief, food and  
shelter, those who are good Samaritans, friendly neighbours  
and welcoming communities.  
God journey with all who need you.

Renewing God,  
we ask for you to be with all those who begin something new  
this week, a new term, a new job, a new friendship, a new  
responsibility.  
We pray especially for those taking up positions of power and  
authority in governments around the world.  
We pray for those who are faced with redundancy, the death  
of someone in the family or a friend or with an ending.  
God renew all who hope in you.

Listening God,  
we ask for you to be with all those who are worried and afraid.  
We pray especially for those with no one to turn to, no one  
who cares, no one who will help.  
We pray for those who are prepared to listen, to share the  
problem, to stand in solidarity.  
God listen to all who call to you.

God be with us, renew us, listen to us  
And help us to work with you to answer these prayers,  
In the name and Spirit of Jesus Christ.  
Amen.

Terry Oakley.

## Praising God with Senses

God of all,  
we gaze with wonder at the world.  
We hear the beauty of the songs of birds and whales.  
We smell the perfumes of the flowers and the tang of the sea.  
We touch the softness of wool, the velvet of redwood bark.  
We taste the succulent fruits and crunchy nuts.  
We speak with people from all over the world and send our  
greetings into space.  
We know that there are people in need, including ourselves.  
We mourn the loss of some species of the variety of life  
on earth.

But above all,  
we praise you and your purpose of love in all things,  
we offer our sorrow and remorse  
for what we have done to break the unity of what is;  
we ask for forgiveness  
and the faith to try again  
to live in the way that is acceptable to you,  
loving to our neighbours  
and gentle with the earth.  
in the name and Spirit of Jesus Christ.  
Amen

Terry Oakley

## A Countryside Patchwork

Thank you, Creator God, for colours.  
Thank you, for the shades and tones of our countryside ...  
the red of poppies in a field of grain;  
the yellow of rape set in its own field  
the brown of a ploughed field  
the lush greens of well-watered meadows  
the mixture of green and brown in the woodland;  
the myriad colours of wild flowers.  
Thank you for the patchwork of colours  
and for the gift of eyesight  
to enjoy this bounty of nature.

Pamela Pavitt

## Somerset Sunset

Looking upwards  
What do I see?  
Clouds like grey cotton wool  
Strung across the sky.  
A scrambled sun is dropping,  
Glowing orange and red  
Like molten iron  
Poured across the heavens  
With controlled precision  
Issuing from a primeval furnace.  
By He/She who fashioned creation.  
The Lord our God.

What will the morning bring  
A dry sunny day?  
Change from rain and cold,  
Can the country dwellers  
Read the signs?  
Give the farmers a chance  
Make some late hay,  
Tend the arable crops,  
Redress the balance,  
Weather folk make an informed forecast  
Only the creator knows.  
The Lord our God.

Sun-set gives a clue  
To something greater  
Than tomorrow's weather.  
A glimpse of the power  
Released at creation  
Fashioning sand shaping  
Hills, moors and valleys  
Festooned with rivers and streams  
Across the Wyvern county  
Just one small piece  
in the jigsaw puzzle designed by  
The Lord our God.

Y Mochyn Daear

## Prayers Before A Meeting

Come to me all who labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest.

Rest, rest, we have not got time to rest.  
There is so much to do.  
There are papers and discussions and plans.

Come and rest  
Rest, rest, we cannot rest  
There is mission and vision and purpose  
There is decline in numbers and balancing the budget  
Don't you know God how desperate the situation is?

God who spoke and the world was.  
God who turned on the lights and blew the waters apart.  
God of order and the rhythm of life  
We live in your presence.  
Rushing through our days busy getting on doing your will,  
so busy that we do not have time to work out what it is.  
We who live hurtling towards death, you are all around us.

We are your people, we wait upon you.

We are your sinful people, we confess.

The God of justice is also the God of mercy  
who has come among us in Jesus.  
Receive your forgiveness and hear again  
the call to come and follow.  
In Jesus name.

Lesley Charlton

# Faith

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## I Believe

I believe that God, who is Love  
is at the heart of the world.

I believe that we are meant by God  
to live a life of love,  
sharing God's gifts,  
caring for the world.

I believe that Jesus is God living with us,  
showing God's way of loving  
in a human life.

I believe that Jesus shows me  
that although I do wrong things  
I am still accepted and loved by God.

I believe that Jesus died to show this truth  
to me and all the world

I believe that Jesus rose from death,  
by God's power,  
to show that love is stronger than hate,  
and life is stronger than death.

I believe that God's Spirit is alive now,  
calling me and everyone  
to join the people who follow Jesus,  
to carry on his work,  
and make the world  
as God wants it to be.

So I give myself to God.

Trinity Church (United Reformed/Methodist,  
Bedlington, Northumberland

## An Affirmation

we believe in God – the Shorthand

Shorthand for justice and love  
Shorthand for dignity and compassion  
Shorthand for humanity's deep spiritual yearning  
Shorthand for courage, beauty, and extra miles

the Shorthand of parent-language, of creator-language  
speaking of the divine permeating all life.

the Shorthand of son-language  
speaking of the intimacy of this God  
the human-being-Jesus expressing love and grace,  
beyond imagining

the Shorthand of spirit-language  
speaking of the on-going desire  
to reach for tomorrow's day  
to be the doers of beauty and the tellers of good.

*(Ask the congregation to add some other words for which the  
word 'God' is 'Shorthand')*

John LI Humphreys

## A Litany of Faith

In the drone of bees in the heather  
And the drone of distant chainsaws in the forest

**God bides with creation.**

In the clicking of grasshoppers in the high pastures  
And the clicking of keyboards in the office

**God bides with creation.**

In the teeming life of an ants' nest  
And the teeming chaos of the city

**God bides with creation.**

In the theatre of a livestock mart  
And the drama of the courtroom

**God bides with the people.**

In the high tops of Torridon  
And the tower blocks of Motherwell  
In the concrete canyons on the city's edge  
And the ghost towns and wastelands of decaying industries

**God bides with the people.**

In the spreading deserts of Africa  
And the drowning islands of the Pacific  
In the world's shanty-towns and disputed territories  
In the hospital wards and in the battlefields  
In the wars of oppression and the wars of liberation

**God bides with the people.**

In prison cells and stock exchanges  
In power stations and chain stores  
In Zimbabwe and Kabul, Sudan and Cyprus  
In Ramallah and Colombia, Kashmir and Beijing  
In Manhattan and Westray, Sri Lanka and Eriskay  
In Easterhouse and Harlem

**God bides with the people.**

In the cycles of the seasons  
In the buzz of insects  
In the whine of windscreen wipers  
In the chugging of dump-trucks  
In the howl of sirens  
In the beep of bar-code readers  
As in the song of birds and the rhythm of the rains  
Creation still pulses today.

**And wherever people are, while the earth remains,  
The Creator still watches over with a parent's love.**

**With the stricken and the broken,  
the Christ still bleeds, still cries;  
And opens new possibilities of reconciliation.**

**The Spirit still sows seeds of hope, challenges hearts,  
Paints visions of justice,  
And ignites dreams of a new heaven and a new earth.**

Alan Paterson

## A Children's Creed

I believe in God, who made the world and who made me.  
God loves me as a perfect parent, and I am God's child.

I believe in Jesus Christ, who loved me so much that he died  
for me, but rose again to beat death. He shows me how to  
live my life, happy and full, wherever I am. And forgives me  
the things I do wrong if I say sorry in my heart.

I believe in the Holy Spirit. The power of God in my life,  
guiding my life and filling my heart with love.

I believe in myself, I am God's child, always loved as I am.

I believe in others, and I must treat them as I want to be  
treated, because they are God's children too.

I believe in Life.  
The great gift of God, to be lived to the full as Jesus taught.

Amen

Nigel Warner

## Fear

### Music

He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High  
Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

**I will say to the Lord**

**‘He is my refuge and my fortress**

**My God, in him I will trust.’**

Surely he shall deliver you from the snare of the poacher  
He shall cover you with his feathers.

**And under his wings you shall take refuge;**

**His truth shall be your shield and buckler.**

You shall not be afraid of the terror by night,

Nor of the arrow that flies at you.

**Because you have made the Lord your refuge,**

**Even the Most High your dwelling place.**

No evil shall befall you,

Nor shall any plague come near your dwelling.

**For he shall give his angels charge over you**

**To keep you in all your ways.**

God our Mother,

Living Water,

River of Mercy,

Source of Life,

In whom we live

and move

and have our being,

Who quenches our thirst,

Refreshes our weariness

Bathes

and washes

and cleanses

Our wounds

You are always a fountain of life,

and for the world a river of hope

Springing up in the midst

Of the deserts of despair.

Where there is fear God, you can bring hope,

**From Fear to Hope**

From Darkness to Light

**From Fear to Hope**

From Despair to Vision

**From Fear to Hope**

From Anger to Acceptance

**From Fear to Hope**

From Sadness to Determination

**From Fear to Hope**

From Illness to Well-being

**From Fear to Hope**

From Ignorance to Understanding

**From Fear to Hope**

From Poverty to Fullness

**From Fear to Hope**

From Brokenness to Unity

**From Fear to Hope**

From Violence to Safety

**From Fear to Hope**

From Loss to Restoration

For you God bridge the gap from fear to hope.

**Reading**

**The Silent Peace with Candles**

**The Eucharist**

Anoint the wounds  
Of my spirit  
With the balm  
Of forgiveness  
Pour the oil  
Of your calm  
On the waters  
Of my heart ...

Take the squeal  
Of frustration  
From the wheels  
Of passion  
That the power  
Of your tenderness  
May smooth  
The way I love ...

That the tedium  
Of giving  
In the risk  
Of surrender  
And the reaching  
Out naked  
To a world  
That must wound ...

May be kindled  
Fresh daily  
To a blaze  
Of compassion  
That the grain  
May fall gladly  
And the harvest abound.

## **Music**

## **Blessing**

May the everlasting Father himself take you  
In his own generous clasp  
In his own generous arm  
May the everlasting Father shield you  
East and West wherever you go.  
Amen

Charity Hamilton

## In Love You ...

In love you freely created,  
you expressed yourself in light and dark,  
day and night, sea and land, in a multitude of life.  
You gave us your image to reflect your glory;  
you filled us with your goodness to love one another;  
you honoured us with responsibility to care for your  
creation.

### *Silence*

In hope you freely acted  
you released us from slavery and oppression,  
fear and guilt, helplessness and hopelessness,  
imprisonment to sin.  
You gave us a name, a land, a future, a purpose.  
you raised us when we had fallen to stand with dignity;  
you led us when we were lost to bring us home.

### *Silence*

In faith you came to us,  
you chose us to be your people,  
called us, sent us, gave us your message, made us  
partners in your mission.  
You lived with us when we did not know you to be our  
neighbour;  
you stood with us when we were alone, to be our friend;  
you died for us when we rejected you, to be our Saviour.

Terry Oakley



## Confidence in God

Romans 8:35-39

What can separate us from the love of Christ?

Can affliction or hardship?

**No, never!**

Can persecution, hunger, nakedness,  
peril or sword?

**No, never!**

Can bullets and bombs  
or weaknesses or old age?

**No, never!**

In all such trials we are given  
a victory in Christ.

We are convinced  
that there is nothing in death or life,  
in the great powers that shape human society  
in the world we know or the world of the future,  
nothing whatever,  
can separate us from the love of God  
which we know in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Bernard Thorogood

## Our Prayer for You

Ephesians 3:14-21

We pray to the Father,  
our Father and yours,  
that he may be strength and staying power  
in your lives, through the Spirit,  
so that you may have steady faith  
rooted deep in your hearts.

And may the Spirit  
hold you in fellowship  
with the universal Church,  
so that you experience  
    the immense length to which God's love goes,  
    the breadth of that love for all people,  
    the height of God's joy in all faithful obedience,  
    and the depth of God's suffering with us.

Then you will surely know  
the reality of the God we worship.

We worship God,  
the one beyond all calculation,  
whose living word  
speaks in the Church  
and in all loving human lives for ever.  
To God be the glory.

Bernard Thorogood

## A New Vision

Revelation 21 and 22

A new day of creation  
God's blessed seventh day,  
is surely coming.

All is made fresh and bright,  
earth and sky shine.  
The city is laid  
like a great tapestry on the ground.  
God's city with gleaming walls  
has gates always open  
so all may go in freely.

You cannot see a temple there,  
for prayers and praises  
fill every part.  
The city is the temple of the spirit.  
People from every nation  
find it is a home for them.

And from the heart of the city  
flows the river of good water,  
living water,  
healing water,  
so no-one need be thirsty ever again.

Wonderful God, may we see this vision too  
and live this vision  
in the community of faith.

Bernard Thorogood

## To Touch and To Heal

Lord Jesus you reached out to touch and to heal.  
Praise to your Holy Name.  
For those who need healing.  
Ill, unhappy, bereaved.

Lord Jesus you reached out to heal.  
For those who feel the lack human of human touch,  
marriages where intimacy died years ago,  
people who seek more.

Lord your touch healed and restored.  
We pray for those who have been abused, for those who are  
the victims of violence.

Lord our prayers are not just for individuals  
but communities as well.  
Where there is bloodshed and neglect  
Where some have too much and others not enough.

Lord, touch each one of us and may we receive your healing  
In Jesus name we pray.

Lesley Charlton

## The Laying On of Hands

Come Spirit Come,  
Come with love;  
Come with compassionate healing powers;  
Descend now;  
Transform weakness into strength;  
Doubt into searching;  
Failure into resurrection;  
Come Spirit come;  
Call, renew,  
Strengthen your servant  
Surround and protect with love.

In the name of the Father  
and of the Son  
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Vaughan Jones

## Look Forward

Look back, not with regret at missed opportunities,  
but with thankfulness for what has been.

Look forward, not with fear at what may or may not come,  
but with excitement at the possibilities.

And be grateful for what is today.

Brian Hudson



# Celebrating the Lord's Supper

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## Invitation to the Lord's Table

This is the Lord's table.  
It does not belong to you, you are a guest here.  
It does not belong to us, we are guests here.

This is the Lord's table.  
You are a cherished guest here.  
We are all cherished guests here.

This is the Lord's table.  
You are a person for whom Jesus gave his life.

Guest of God, you are welcome at the table.

Lesley Charlton



## Eucharistic Prayer for Creation

Father, we praise you that when all things began  
you brought order out of chaos through your Word  
and formed a universe of wonderful beauty  
in which the earth, our home, is but a fragment.  
We praise you that in your goodness you created  
light and darkness, sun, moon and stars,  
sea and land, creatures great and small,  
and that you set us in a garden full of trees and fruit  
to live in harmony with you and all creation.  
Your love did not desert us when we tasted the forbidden fruit,  
when we forfeited paradise for a wasteland  
in which brother murders brother  
and the beauty all around us is despoiled.  
For in the days of Noah you brought all living things to safety  
through the Flood  
and in the rainbow made your first covenant of grace  
with every living creature.  
You called to yourself a people, born in slavery,  
to witness to your light and set your Law in human hearts.  
You gave us a land of milk and honey,  
but when you looked for justice you saw bloodshed,  
for righteousness, you heard a cry.  
We would not listen to your prophets when they sang of  
One to come:  
now we have beheld his glory, by whom the worlds were made.  
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.**

He opened our eyes to the wonder around us  
and through him the birds of the air and the lilies of the field  
preached to us of Love.  
Yet he was made a cause of stumbling:

when he was lifted up,  
iron from the earth nailed him to the wood of a tree  
and he offered up his lifeblood for the sins of the world.

[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.']

Though all save the women deserted him,  
fearful and amazed his disciples met him  
in a garden and by the lakeside, for death could not cut him down.  
Risen and ascended, he brought back hope from the dead,  
life and glory from the place of destruction.  
We have seen and heard and touched the Word of life:  
his is the sacrifice we plead: this is the mystery of faith:  
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  
and who comes in wind and fire  
descend upon these harvest gifts of bread and wine  
and so fill our lives that they become for us  
the fruits of his Passion, his body and his blood,  
given for the healing of the nations and the life of the world;  
and, when all things are complete according to your will,  
may your whole creation sing for joy in your eternal presence,  
one God throughout all ages, the Trinity of love.

**Amen.**

Colin Thompson

## Eucharistic Prayer for Love

Holy and blessed are you, gracious and merciful God:  
you loved the world so much that you gave your only Son  
to bring us life abundant and lead us to eternal life.

He was with you in the beginning  
when your Spirit brooded over the waters  
and brought forth into life all that has being.  
You bound yourself to Israel, to be your bride,  
but she was unfaithful to her Beloved  
and would not keep the Law or heed the Prophets.  
So in love you sent your Son, born of woman:  
in love he came, forgiving sins, healing hurt,  
opening doors long closed, warming hearts long cold.  
By John he was baptized in water  
and in his own lifeblood, for our sins.

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 love was all his Passion; love drove him to the Cross.  
In that hour of darkness Love strove with death  
and shone and could not be extinguished.  
In love for us he rose, a bright Sun,  
to banish fear and burn away all evil;  
he ascended to the Father that we might rise with him.  
In love the Holy Spirit called the Church to be his Bride  
and we are now bade welcome to the feast of love.

[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.**

Remembering therefore all his works of love  
we pray that the Holy Spirit will come down in power  
to transform the common into the divine -  
this bread his body and this wine his blood.  
Accept us as we seek to be his lovers in and for the world.  
Join us with his lovers of all times  
*[special names may be added]*  
and with Mary his mother, full of grace,  
that we may be one in the unending joys of heaven  
through the Beloved Christ,  
in whom are reconciled all things in earth and heaven.

Colin Thompson

## Eucharistic Prayer for the Excluded

God of all compassion and grace  
we bless you for the gift of creation:  
for the beauties of our earth  
and all the wonder of the universe.  
We bless you for your gift of forgiveness  
through the long ages of our human sin.  
We bless you for your power to reconcile your children,  
haunted, like Jacob and Esau, by bitter memories  
so that they embrace as friends.  
We bless you for those, like Naomi and Ruth,  
who found the bond of love  
across barriers of race and faith and culture,  
Above all we bless you for the One  
who taught us to forgive without end,  
to love our enemies  
and to pray for those who persecute us.  
We bless you that through him you chose the folly of the Cross  
to confound the wisdom of the world.  
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.**

Because his judgements were all of love and mercy  
because he kept company with outcasts and sinners  
the righteous pursued him to an unjust death.  
Yet even in that hour of darkness  
he prayed for our forgiveness.  
In rising from the place of death  
in ascending to the heavens  
in sending forth his Spirit on his people  
he brought to us the victory  
over hatred and oppression.  
Here in our midst he is with us still.

[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.**

Therefore we pray  
that through sharing in his death and resurrection  
we may know his power made perfect in our weakness.  
May his broken body and his blood poured out  
be a sign of healing for the nations,  
and may your Son, once tortured and despised  
free us from all hatred and oppression  
and bring us to the kingdom of his justice  
where all his children shall be free  
to sing the new song of your saving love  
through endless ages.

**Amen.**

Colin Thompson

## Eucharistic Prayer

based on 'En una noche oscura' ('On a dark night')  
by St John of the Cross (1542-91)

God, our way, our truth, our life:  
we bless you that you call us from the prisons of the self  
to travel onward through the dark night.  
Your ways are far beyond our understanding,  
yet you shine within us,  
more brightly than the midday sun.  
We bless you for the journey of faith:  
of old you led your people  
in a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.  
Through the long night of our fears and doubts  
you travel with us;  
you gently call us onward  
to taste the joys you have prepared for us.  
In your Son you walked our earthly way,  
drank deep of our tears and laughter,  
and passed through the chill waters of death.  
Yet still the bright flame of your love shone forth:  
when you were raised, night was turned to day  
and we awoke to a new dawning of your love.  
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.**

Hear us as we set before you this thanksgiving meal,  
a foretaste of the joys of heaven.  
Unite us in the Spirit with the Beloved Christ  
through these gifts of bread and wine,  
the food of pilgrims and the bread of angels.  
May they refresh us through the darkness  
and be to us the bearers of his light.

[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.**

In joyful union with him

may we embrace our world with love,

bring his healing to its pain,

the kiss of his compassion to its hurt.

Lead us when our earthly journey is completed

to him whom now we know by faith,

that we may rest within his close embrace

all searching and all longing past,

in the eternal communion of your love,

Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Colin Thompson



## Order for Communion at which Children are Present

### Invitation

This is the joyful feast of the people of God.  
Men and women and all God's Children,  
Come from the East and the West,  
From the North and the South,  
And gather about Christ's table.  
This table is for all Christians  
Who wish to know the presence of Christ,  
And to share in the community of God's people.

### Communion Prayer

Caring God, you made this world in love,  
and you filled it with good things.  
You made us so that we could know you,  
and you called us your family.  
Through the leaders and prophets and priests of ancient  
Israel, you said how we should live.  
Your loving word became flesh for us,  
in the infant Jesus, the Suffering Servant, the Crucified Christ.  
Because Christ Jesus lives,  
and still gives himself to others,  
a new kind of life has been given to us,  
free from selfishness, from the fear of death, and free to help  
in your loving work.  
Your Holy Spirit calms us, and excites us,  
stirs us up and makes us strong.  
We remember all the people around the world  
and down through hundreds of years  
who shared in this supper,  
who knew Christ was there  
and had their fears and worries lifted.  
And so we thank you that we can join them all  
in Jesus' feast.  
As we eat and drink, help us to know you,  
in us, beside us, and around us and tell us we are welcome.  
Amen

## **The Bread**

On the night in which he was delivered into the hands of his enemies, Jesus took bread, and when he had thanked God for it, he broke it and said:

‘This means my body, which is for you, so eat this and every time you eat it, remember me.’

## **The Wine**

In the same way, at the end of the meal, Jesus took the cup and said:

‘This cup stands for the new way of being close to God that will happen because of my death, so drink this and every time you drink it, remember me.’

## **Prayer**

You called us to this feast, Christ Jesus,  
and you are the feast itself.  
We thank you for feeding our hearts and minds,  
today and every day,  
joining us to your great church  
that is in Heaven and on Earth.

Holy Spirit, you have helped us  
to remember Jesus on Earth and to know  
he is risen and with us now.  
Help us tomorrow to remember him,  
when we are angry or happy, laughing or crying,  
and to welcome him into our whole life  
as he welcomes us.

Loving Father send us from this place  
assured that we are forgiven, accepted and loved,  
Send us with your light in our eyes  
your peace in our hearts,  
and knowing that nothing can ever separate us  
from your love in Christ Jesus our lord.

Amen

Alan Paterson

## Communion

*Let this service be conducted informally.*

*Let there be a circle of people around the table. If the service is to be held in a room with pews, people should at least be close to each other. One loaf (or roll of bread) and common cup(s) are appropriate.*

*This service assumes there has been the reading and proclamation of/ reflection on the scriptures.*

*Be flexible about the order in which elements of worship are introduced. Be conscious of sights, sounds, touch, smells and taste which will also contribute to the atmosphere of worship.*

*“Voice”, indicates a single speaker, preferably not the same person throughout.*

## Gathering around the table

**Voice:** So many people are invited here, drawn here because there is friendship, welcome and belonging here. We are invited because we are the focus of love which is Divine. God is within each, and because God is within each, God surrounds each. Our breath is the Spirit of the Holy.

In silence, hear each other, hear God’s breath.

*Invite silent prayer: Who is the neighbour I find it difficult to imagine at this table?*

**Voice:** Let’s welcome each other to this gathering place. May God help us overcome any sense of our own worth rejecting the worth of another.

**All:** **There can be no one unwelcome. We have no right, authority or desire to turn anyone away!**  
**We give each other a sign of welcome and a touch of peace.**

*The people gathered share the peace or say the grace to each other.*

**Voice:** We don't come because we have the right to be here. We come because we're wanted here. We want each other and sense the wanting of God. How we are, how we feel towards one another, is a glimpse of God's feeling towards us seen in Jesus. It is a divine, embracing and limitless act of community to discover we are each and all drawn to eat, drink and accept love here.

### **Deep Community**

**Voice:** At the heart of the Jewish faith lies the ancient understanding of the Hebrew people that they were rescued from harsh slavery by a God who listened to their plight. Moses and Joshua led them to the Promised Land. It was God.

When Jesus sat for what we call the Last Supper with the women and men who were his closest companions and friends, they thought on Moses and Joshua. And at the Passover of the Last Supper the land of Palestine was occupied. There was no freedom in the Promised Land. Some expected a fantastic release from this occupation.

**Voice:** Jesus talks about the meal as life. It is a meal to celebrate life. Jesus speaks about giving himself because life is so important. This is not to persuade God that life is important. Jesus knew that God already showed that as he sprung out of almost everything and everyone that Jesus saw! The sower, the mustard seed, the farmer, the servant and the unjust steward, were for Jesus stories about God. The prostitute, the poor, the untouchable, the foreigner and so many more who were the least of his sisters and brothers and in whom Jesus found it so obvious to look for what God is like.

**Voice:** This meal is cruel. We know life has cruel, painful and distorting moments. Crucifixion is close. There is a highly charged emotion. How intimately Jesus offers his friends food. Through generations of welcome and rescue from isolation and destitution food has been a constant symbol of the good host and acceptance.

**Voice:** We know too that life is meant for living to the fullest possible measure. This means that the richness of life is expressed very differently by each of us. We are different people; we grew differently. The depth of community, the prophetic nature of our community is that God who is at the centre of our being speaks through each person to be met more fully by our being together. The meal is one in which we receive the welcome of God, the trust of God and the commitment of God. This meal is the example of how the whole of human life can be.

### **Breaking Bread**

**Voice:** Words of institution I Corinthians 12

**Voice:** These are not words to make us cower. They are the down to earth giving of one individual to another, the giving of God to you. The invitation is open; the purpose is to make us look at each other and at the world with love, hope and faith.

Bread is a basic commodity for life. Food is vital. Jesus spoke of himself as food, not physical food but nourishing commitment of God. There is hope. Life becomes richer. Our communities become more just. People are embraced. Here and now, in this sharing, the divine welcome, the community of God has already begun.

Look at this bread and wine. This is a wonderfully divine moment. To receive is to say God's yes to each person. There are no exclusion zones around this table. There are no requirements other than to want to say 'yes' to the divine invitation, and celebrate the life of Jesus.

**Leader:** Mysterious God, deep at the centre of each of us, reaching out from each, enable us to be a gathering in which there is a genuine demonstration of community, as you sought community amongst the rough gathering of Hebrew slaves walking to an unknown and sometimes frightening future. As they saw your being in and with them because of manna and sustenance on their journey, so too, let us see that the bread and wine on this table are signs for us that the journey is with you, for you and in you.

As we share bread, we remember the fact that in Jesus we are shocked by the power of your love for all human beings.

As we drink this wine we remember that you, holy, mysterious God are not remote, not 'out there' like some strange alien. We remember Jesus' life, Jesus' death and the experience of Jesus' being as the visible likeness of the invisible divinity at the heart of every child, woman and man in the richness of our diversity.

**All:** **The Holy God within us demands that we speak well to and of each other. The Holy God around us in our communities of work, rest and play celebrates the kaleidoscope of humanity. This wonderful God speaks well, blesses, rejoices in each and looks for that shalom, that peace with justice where we can each rejoice because of the other and rejoice because we are each embraced.**

**Voice:** I take this bread to be food for life. I take it to share its life with my communities.

**All: We take this bread because the God in Jesus is the God in us.**

*The bread is passed on from one to another, or distributed as appropriate to the room, and its furnishings (similarly the distribution and the wine). Explain how this is to be done so that all feel comfortable.*

**Voice:** I take this wine, symbol of blood, the life which rushes through all life. It is the life of Jesus.

**All: We take this wine because the God in Jesus is the God in us**

*Silence*

**Voice:** Let's look at each other.

What does God see?

The present, future and hope of humanity!

**All: Let's go and be  
a people of grace  
a people of hope  
a people of justice  
a people of love**

**A people for the world.  
A people for God.  
Let's go!**

John L I Humphreys

## Communion Prayers

### Prayer of Confession

Loving God,  
we are ill at ease in your presence  
unless we can be assured  
that the faults we carry with us are truly forgiven.  
We have become too familiar with them  
and too easily excuse them  
as not being grievous or significant.  
But now we see  
that they stand between us and you and each other  
and we regret the harm they do.  
Therefore, again, we beg forgiveness  
and ask you, for your sake, to mend us. Amen

### Prayer of Approach

Lord Jesus,  
whose table this is,  
you make clear how much you want  
to share fellowship with us.  
But it seems remarkable  
that you should still seek our company  
when our friendship and loyalty  
are so often in doubt.

Open our hearts to welcome you  
with gratitude  
that is as great and deep  
as your grace and mercy towards us.  
Look upon us gathered here,  
the flock you still shepherd  
and for which you laid down your life. Amen

Duncan Wilson



## Prayer after Communion

We have received God's food,  
bread that is life for the spirit  
and wine that marks a new covenant.

Glory be to God the Father

We have received Christ in our hands,  
his self-sacrifice, his obedience,  
his living presence with us now.

Glory be to God the Son

We have been touched by the Spirit,  
making holy what is ordinary,  
and renewing us in our journey of faith.

Glory be to God the Spirit

Here we have joined all who follow Jesus,  
across all divisions of race, language, politics,  
across all generations,  
to be part of the worshipping church of God.

as it was, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end.

Amen

Bernard Thorogood

## The Heartbeat of God

based on Ezekiel 11:19–20

*To be used as a meditative part during a Eucharist*

*(sound of a slow drum beat)*

Listen to the heartbeat of God.  
Remember that God is with you, close by,  
close enough for you to hear the heartbeat of love  
that courses through the universe.  
Close enough to you.  
So close that, at times,  
you could almost imagine it is your own heartbeat.  
Know that God's heart beats with care and compassion for *you* –  
*you* – despite your faults, your mistakes,  
your insecurities and failures.  
Know that God is concerned about you.

*(drum beat and tempo grow faster, louder)*

Now know that God's heart beat strongly within Jesus,  
that our Communion here is more than just a remembering  
of the past.  
Instead it is God's heart there for you in the bread.  
It is God's passion there for you in the wine.  
And you are called to take up this bread and wine –  
allowing God to become so much a part of your life  
that your own heart beats like God's;  
your own blood flows with the life and joy of God;  
your own body is given in compassion  
as part of God's self-giving to the world.

*(change to slow drum beat)*

Listen to the heart beat.  
Listen.  
Hear God calling you.

Duncan Tuck

## Whose Are the Hands of God?

Oh come let us sing to the Lord!  
Let us shout joyfully to the rock of our salvation.

**Let us come before His presence with  
thanksgiving;  
Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms.**

For the Lord is the great God,  
And the great king above all gods.

**In His hand are the deep places of the earth;  
The heights of the hills in His hands also.**

The sea is His, for He made it,  
And His hands formed the dry land.

**Oh come let us worship and bow down;  
Let us kneel before the Lord our maker,  
For He is our God,**

And we are the people of His pasture,  
And the sheep of His hand.

### Music

#### Reading: Matthew 25:37-40

God of the least of these,  
**We come to you  
to offer our selves  
as praise to you.**

God of the least of these,  
**The bodies you formed  
with your hands,  
are offerings to you.**

God of the least of these,  
**Where there is suffering, sickness and despair,  
may our hands  
restore and heal.**

God of the least of these,  
**God of the least of us,**  
Help us to know your hands  
**Help us to be your hands.**

Amen

**Reading: Luke 8:37-38**

**Music**

**A Reflection**

**Music**

**The Eucharist**

**Blessing**

May you be anointed with love,  
And may you anoint with love.  
May you weep,  
And may you dry tears,  
May you feel the hand of God,  
And may you be the hand of God.

Amen

Charity Hamilton

## Music

God of all things,  
God in all things,  
God in nothing,  
Maker of everything,  
Lover of everything,  
Cleanser of everything,  
Eyes see everything,  
Hands touch everything,

Thank you.

For the light of the day  
And all things in it  
For the darkness of night  
And the covering it offers

For the bride of Christ  
And the nourishment she offers  
For the purity of your love  
And the heart of compassion

**God of all things,  
God in all things,  
Thank you.**

Your eyes have seen everything  
**But we have been too proud to weep.**

Your hands touch everything  
**But we have been too afraid  
to reach out in love.**

Your heart has ached  
**But we have become empty of compassion**

Forgive the things that hurt and make hurt  
That we may have

**Eyes that weep for the world  
Hands that reach out with your love,  
Hearts that pulse with compassion.**

**God of all things,  
God in all things,  
Thank you.**

**Psalm of Praise**

**And He Delivers Them**

**Reading: Free choice**

**Music**

**A Reflection**

**Music**

**Silence**

## **Some things to think about ...**

Whose eyes will weep for the poor ... ?  
Whose hands will reach out in love ... ?  
Whose heart will break for the broken ... ?

Now these eyes will weep for the poor.  
These hands will reach out in love.  
This heart will break for the broken.  
My hands will reach out in love.

## **The Peace**

### **Eucharist**

### **Blessing**

May the God of all things  
Bless you in your brokenness that you may reach out,  
Bless you in your shame that you may be compassionate,  
Bless you as the outcast,  
Bless you with his touch.  
Amen

Charity Hamilton





# Blessings

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## As We Leave This Place

As we leave this place  
let us go into the world  
with love in our hearts:  
    love for God  
        love for our neighbour  
            love for ourselves;  
may that love bring goodness and kindness  
to all we meet  
and may God -  
Maker, Saviour and Comforter -  
bless us as we go  
now and forever.

Amen

Carolyn Smyth

## Receive Gladly

The blessing of God  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit  
Be with you.  
Receive gladly God's blessing  
And let it spill over into the lives of those you meet.

Amen

Carolyn Smyth

## Rejoice in the Living God

Go on your way rejoicing in the living God;  
And the blessing of God,  
Creator, Redeemer and Spirit,  
Be with you all.

Amen

Jan Berry

## Ever-loving God

Living God, the source of all life  
**prompt us into new beginnings**  
Ever-present God, travelling alongside us  
**guide us to walk in your way.**  
Ever-loving God, surrounding us with care  
**help us to detect your presence.**  
In the name of Christ.  
Amen.

Jan Berry

## Creator, Redeemer and Spirit

May the blessing of the living God,  
Creator, Redeemer, and Spirit,  
Be with you and remain with you always.

Amen

Jan Berry

## The Spirit's Power for Change

Go your way rejoicing in the Spirit's power for change;  
And may the living God, Creator, Redeemer and Spirit  
Work with you and within you  
Until God's justice fills the earth

Amen

Jan Berry

## Fill Us with Courage, Wisdom and Joy

May the God who guides our journey  
The Christ who bears the suffering of the world  
The Spirit who empowers us with the gifts of life,  
Fill us with courage, wisdom and joy.

Amen

Jan Berry

## Today, Tomorrow and Forever

Let preachers hear Good News  
Let seekers believe Good News  
Let carers be Good News  
Let victims make Good News  
Let the earth hold Good News  
Let us celebrate Good News  
Today, tomorrow and forever,  
In the name and Spirit of Jesus Christ.  
Amen

Terry Oakley

## Bless, Protect and Guide

Bless, protect and guide each one of us here,  
and each one whom we love,  
and each one who needs our love,  
and to you, Blessed God, be glory and honour and praise.  
now and forever.  
Amen

Terry Oakley

## May the Strength of God ...

May the strength of God surround us;  
the promise of God protect us;  
and the grace of God guide us;  
so may we be markers of God's mercy  
to those whom we love and serve  
Amen

Terry Oakley

## The Light of God Lead You

The light of God lead you;  
the presence of God protect you;  
the goodness of God go with you;  
this day and every day.  
Amen

Terry Oakley

## All Our Generations

The blessing of the God  
of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, David  
of Tamar, Rahab, Ruth and Bathsheba  
of Jesus, son of Mary and Joseph  
be with us and all our generations  
now and forever.  
Amen

Terry Oakley

## The Unity of Your Whole Creation

God, Maker and Lover of us all  
Help us to live and breathe with the life of your Spirit,  
That we may work with you  
Towards the unity of your whole creation.

Amen

Jan Berry

## For the Freedom of the Whole Creation

May the God in whose image we are made,  
Strengthen us in our struggle,  
Embrace us in our weakness,  
And inspire us with hope for a different future:  
As we work, separately and together  
For the freedom of the whole creation.

Amen

Jan Berry

## Spontaneous Love of the Creator

The spontaneous love of the creator renew us;  
The sacrificial love of the Christ reconcile us;  
The sanctifying love of the Spirit restore us;  
and blessing of grace, mercy and peace  
be on us and all whom we love,  
this day and for always.  
Amen

Terry Oakley

## God of Strength, of Truth and of Love

In the darkness, God, source of strength,  
be present with us to guard and protect,  
rest and encourage.

In the dawn, God, spring of truth,  
reveal yourself to us to inspire and guide  
refresh and renew.

In the daylight, God, spirit of love,  
show us the way to justice and peace,  
unity and joy.

Terry Oakley

## Living God

Living God,  
may our hearts feel the beat of your love for all;  
may our hands reach out to each other in healing;  
may our lips be open to drink in the delight of life;  
may our ears hear the agony of inhumanity;  
may our eyes see Christ in the stranger.  
Breathe your Spirit into us  
so that we are filled with the life of Christ.  
Amen

Terry Oakley

## Bring Us to New Life

God of creative beginnings – bring us to new life;  
Saviour with healing hands – make us whole;  
Spirit of wisdom – send visions to old and young.  
With grace, mercy and peace bless us and those around us,  
This day and each day.  
Amen

Terry Oakley

May the God of peace sanctify you entirely;  
and may your spirit and soul and body  
be kept sound and blameless  
at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
Amen

I Thessalonians 5:23



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