

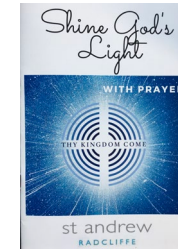
Shine God's Light



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RADCLIFFE

Introduction

In May we took part in the Thy Kingdom Come worldwide prayer initiative with Christians around the world with 12 hours of continuous prayer.



Since then our church family has been on a prayer journey as we have reflected on the Psalms together in our Sunday services and many have taken part in the <https://prayercourse.org/> an eight week journey through the Lord's Prayer.

Strengthened and encouraged, this booklet has been prepared by members of St Andrew's church family to further encourage one another to pray and in particular to be used during our next 12 hours of continuous prayer on 11th September 2020.

Prayers are heard, prayers are answered, prayer changes things!



Prayer of praise

Father I bless you,
 let praise and thanks to you be ever on my lips.
 Jesus I lift you high,
 let praise and thanks to you be ever on my lips.
 Holy Spirit, I bless you,
 let praise and thanks to you be ever on my lips.
 Teach me how to honour you.
 Keep my tongue from evil and lies,
 turn me away from evil and only do good,
 help me to seek peace and to go after it.
 As I look to you,
 would you SHINE your face upon me.
 In your holy name I pray.

Amen



Prayer for who God is

Dear God,
 you are wonderful, you are wonderful eternal love.
 Love that is eternal, love that came to save us
 and heals us in Christ.
 For Christ is God, and is the Word of God,
 and that Word is love.
 We are bound by your constant eternal love,
 that is you God.
 Love that is our life now Lord,
 keep this love with us Lord,
 keep us in this love through our whole lives
 here and now.
 In Jesus' name.

Amen

Prayer of the Archbishop of Canterbury

I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13

God of power
 May the boldness of your Spirit transform us,
 May the gentleness of your Spirit lead us
 May the gifts of your Spirit equip us to serve and worship you
 Now and always
Amen

Suggested by Sheila Roberts

Prayer of thanks for God's goodness

⁶ *The Lord passed in front of Moses, calling out,
 "Yahweh! The Lord!
 The God of compassion and mercy!
 I am slow to anger
 and filled with unfailing love and faithfulness.*

⁷ *I lavish unfailing love to a thousand generations,
 I forgive iniquity, rebellion, and sin.
 But I do not excuse the guilty.*

*I lay the sins of the parents upon their children and grandchildren; the
 entire family is affected—
 even children in the third and fourth generations."*

Exodus 34: 6-7



Thank you Lord,
for your glory.

Thank you Lord,
that you are quick to shower
us with mercy and grace.

Thank you Lord,
that your glory means
that you are slow to anger.

Thank you for your covenant of love
that flows down generations,
and the goodness of your glory
means that our inexorable sin is swallowed up.

Thank you for your merciful goodness,
which is your glory.

Amen

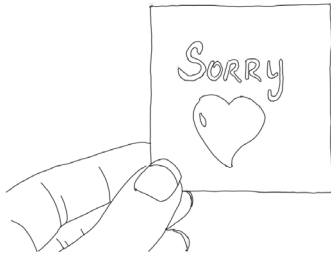


Prayers of repentance

Psalm 51

- ¹Have mercy on me, O God,
because of your unfailing love.
Because of your great compassion,
blot out the stain of my sins.
- ²Wash me clean from my guilt.
Purify me from my sin.
- ³For I recognize my rebellion;
it haunts me day and night.
- ⁴Against you, and you alone, have I sinned;
I have done what is evil in your sight.
You will be proved right in what you say,
and your judgment against me is just.
- ⁵For I was born a sinner—
yes, from the moment my mother conceived me.
- ⁶But you desire honesty from the womb,
teaching me wisdom even there.
- ⁷Purify me from my sins, and I will be clean;
wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.
- ⁸Oh, give me back my joy again;
you have broken me —
now let me rejoice.
- ⁹Don't keep looking at my sins.
Remove the stain of my guilt.
- ¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God.
Renew a loyal spirit within me.
- ¹¹Do not banish me from your presence,
and don't take your Holy Spirit from me.
- ¹²Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and make me willing to obey you.

- ¹³ Then I will teach your ways to rebels,
and they will return to you.
- ¹⁴ Forgive me for shedding blood, O God who saves;
then I will joyfully sing of your forgiveness.
- ¹⁵ Unseal my lips, O Lord,
that my mouth may praise you.
- ¹⁶ You do not desire a sacrifice, or I would offer one.
You do not want a burnt offering.
- ¹⁷ The sacrifice you desire is a broken spirit.
You will not reject a broken and repentant heart, O God.



Lord Jesus,
we thank you that you are our great high priest.
Thank you that you ascended into heaven having defeated death.
Thank you for your earthly sinless life
And thank for making a way
to 'suffer with' our sins and burdens.
We are sorry for the times
when we give in to temptation.
Would you be with us in our burdens
[name what they are....]
Jesus, would you help me
to receive your mercy and grace.
In your holy name I pray.
Amen

Praying for others who would do us harm

Dear lord

I pray to ask you to help those in need; and that one day we all can
become as one and help each other.

It's sad when people want to see you fail; when they want to disrupt
your progress; when they want to upset you, because they are
unhappy with their own life.

We know that people who come to hurt us are hurting themselves.
We pray that one day they will have a change of heart.
We pray for all of those people, that peace be with them.

Amen

Jackie O'Gara

Praying for God's mission & ministry

*'The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.
Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore,
to send out workers into his harvest field'.*

Luke 10:2

Jesus, the harvest is plentiful but the labourers are few.
Jesus, Lord of the harvest send the labourers we pray.
Lord Jesus, thank you for the opportunity
we have as a church family to share our love for you.
Thank you for the opportunity
we have to share your goodness with others
particularly through social media.
Help us to hear and know your prompting,
and give us confidence
to share how good you are to us.
In Jesus name.

Amen



Prayers for Church

*⁴ Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special
function, ⁵ so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and
we all belong to each other.*

Romans 12:4-5

Loving Father,
We thank you that we live in a country
where we are able to come together
as one body in Christ to worship you,
and that we can be open about our faith
and our relationship with you.

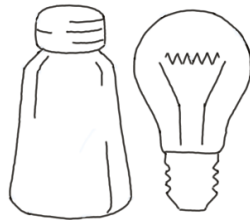
We pray for each church within our local community,
as well as the wider community of our country.
May you be within each church,
filling them with the Holy Spirit.

Amen



We pray for every individual within them,
 that they may hear your calling
 and that they may know what you want them to do in their lives.
 Father, we also want to pray for unity,
 we want to pray that we can work together for you.
 May come together,
 each with our own skills and talents that you have given us,
 so that we may do your work here on earth,
 and help others come to know you.
 Help us to be the salt and light wherever we may go.
 Through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray,
Amen

Eleanor Catterall (Youth Group Member)



Prayer for the persecuted church

⁸ We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed. We are perplexed, but not driven to despair. ⁹ We are hunted down, but never abandoned by God. We get knocked down, but we are not destroyed. ¹⁰ Through suffering, our bodies continue to share in the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may also be seen in our bodies.

2 Corinthians 4:8-10



Lord,

We pray for our brothers and sisters around the world who are persecuted for following you.

We pray for your protection on them as they face danger, for your peace as they live in situations of unrest and for your Word to penetrate the darkness they are experiencing.

In that darkness,

may the light of Jesus Christ spread at unfathomable speed;

despite the persecution,

may the population of Christians explode.

We pray for the leaders of those countries in which it is most difficult to follow you,

we pray that they would discover

what the Gospel actually means for their lives,

and that from this they would surrender to you, beginning to live as imitators of Christ.

May the persecuted Church

know of your immense love and power

and that we as their brothers and sisters

are praying for them.

Amen

Youth Group member (Anon)

Prayers for the world

Give thanks to the Lord and proclaim his greatness.

Let the whole world know what he has done.

1 Chronicles 16:8

Father God,

we thank you for this beautiful world

that you have created,

but Father it fills us with great sadness

when we look at the state of our world today.

We pray for this, our broken world.

Father give hope to all people living in countries

where there is conflict, war and destruction.

May they know your comfort and love

and may they strengthen each other through their suffering.

Encourage those who are working for peace and reconciliation.

Our times are in your hands Father,

all our hope and trust are in you.

We pray for good to overcome evil,

for love to overcome hate,

that all people will come to know of your great love.

Father let your kingdom come.

Let your will be done.

Amen

Joyce Forster

A prayer for children's spiritual growth

Heavenly Father

Thank you for the children that are in our church, homes and schools.

You have called us to grow in grace, to increase our understanding of Jesus and to develop a close and intimate relationship with you. Lord, please help us to guide them in their spiritual growth and the things you are calling them to.

Help your children to pick up their bibles and learn to walk in spirit and truth.

Father help your children to only desire to be like Jesus, full of compassion, kindness, grace and love.

Thank you for your holy spirit that is guiding them to become more like you; Father we pray that they may come to know You more and more each day.

We pray that the Beauty of our Lord and saviour Jesus Christ may be seen and reflected in them,

In Jesus' name

Amen

Abby Latham-Holt



A prayer for the future

*'Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation,
be constant in prayer'.*

Romans 12:12

God of all,
in whom we love and move and have our being
breathe upon our leaders your Holy Spirit;
the spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and of might,
the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord,
that through your guidance,
they may direct our steps
in the ways of safety and wisdom and hope,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is the way, the truth and the life.

Amen

A prayer for the Emmanuel Community

Father God,

We thank you for the times when Emmanuel Community were able to meet together at the ROC Centre and for being able to come together for a picnic in the park.

We thank you that we have been able to stay in touch over Lock Down and come together through Face Book.

We thank you for the opportunity to help our local community through our CAP Job Club.

We thank you for everyone who helps and supports what we do.

Thank you for the success of our Emmanuel Community online videos and our first online Job Club course.

We ask that you help the local community to hear about what we do and be able to come along and join in.

May everyone who comes feel welcome and know they are completely accepted and valued for who they are.

Please bless our friendships and help us to support each other.

We ask that you guide us and help us as we prepare to reopen at a physical venue.

Please provide the people, premises, finances and resources we need.

May we know your guidance, wisdom and protection.

We thank you for all your blessings and ask that you would continue to bless us in all we do.

In the name of Jesus we pray

Amen

Julie Macauley

Prayer in trusting in God's guiding hand

*'Whether you turn to the right or to the left,
your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying,
"This is the way; walk in it".'*

Isaiah 30:21

Lord Jesus, whether we turn to the right or to the left, you know each of us and our current situation.

Whether we turn to the right or to the left, you are with us in the complexities and challenges, the joys and the struggles.

We thank you that we belong to you and we pray that you would enable us to hear your voice, and to follow your way,

and to trust you as we walk in it.

In your powerful name we pray.

Amen

Protection at work

Father God

We thank you for our paid employment and start by praying for those in unfulfilling jobs and those who are looking for work.

Be with them and help them to find what they need.

We pray for all those in work that they may be kept safe. Keep us alert to the hazards that are in our workplaces and help us to work safely and well.

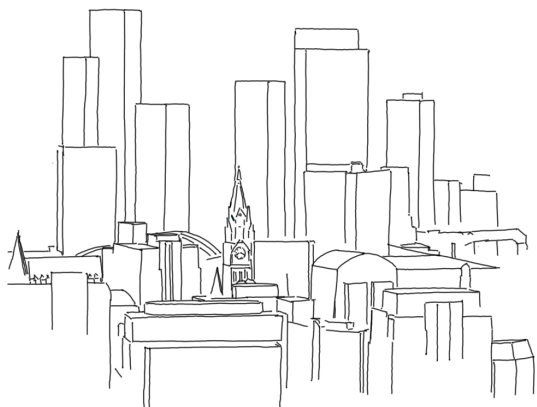
We particularly pray for those who work at home and for their mental wellbeing. Inspire their colleagues to keep in touch with them so they do not feel abandoned, isolated and alone.

As we travel to and from our places of work, Lord we ask you to keep us safe.

We ask these things in Jesus' name

Amen

Mike Vine



Prayer for the NHS & the Sick

"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

Isaiah 41:10

Lord Jesus, we thank you for the NHS and we thank you for the doctors, nurses, healthcare workers, cleaners and other staff who work for the NHS, as they work tirelessly to look after those who are ill. We pray you keep them safe and well in the execution of their duties.

We thank you Lord, for giving the healthcare workers the knowledge and wisdom to treat us when we are ill, and for finding new treatments to help heal us.

Loving Father, we also pray for those who are sick, especially those who are currently in hospital receiving treatment.



We ask that you be with them in their time of need;
 we ask that you turn any sadness they may have
 being away from loved ones, whilst they are in hospital
 into firmer faith in Jesus;
 bring them closer to you and give them peace.

Almighty God, give those who are sick healing
 and make them stronger each day that passes,
 hold the weak in your arms of love,
 give them hope and patience while they are healing.
 In Jesus' name.

Amen

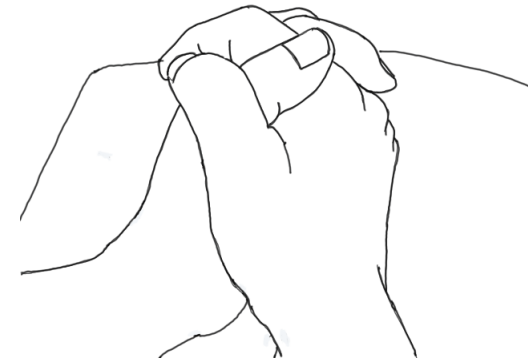
Craig Giles



Prayer to dispel Fear

*'Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
 I have summoned you by name; you are mine.
²When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
 and when you pass through the rivers,
 they will not sweep over you.
 When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned;
 the flames will not set you ablaze'.*

Isaiah 43:1b-2



God of all hope we call on you today.

We pray for those who are living in fear:

Fear of illness, fear for loved ones,

fear of other's reactions to them,

fear of being evicted, fear of displacement,

and fear of rejection.

May your Spirit give calmness, peace and welcome.

We pray for your church, the body of Christ,

in this time of uncertainty.

For those needing to make decisions in order to care for others.

For those people who are worried about attending
worship in church buildings.

For those who will feel more isolated by not being able to attend.

Grant us your wisdom.

Holy God, we remember

that you have promised that nothing will separate us
from your love in Jesus Christ.

Help us turn our eyes, hearts and minds to you.

Amen



Lindy Bladen

Prayer of the Disabled Community

*'I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
your works are wonderful, I know that full well'.*

Psalm 139:14

Father God, we pray for those Christians
to whom a church building has always been inaccessible.

We pray for the disabled community
and the many varying illnesses and disabilities
that make it impossible for them to leave their homes
to join in the with their Christian families
in regular church worship services.

We ask for your forgiveness
for the times we have not considered them
or included them in our thoughts,
prayers or service planning.

Amen

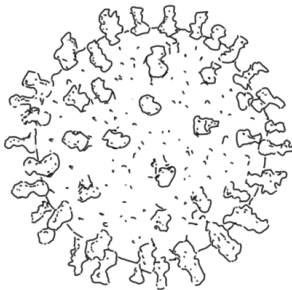


We thank you for radio stations and TV programmes that have allowed them to participate in worship in their homes over the years, before the arrival of COVID 19, and we pray that they have been greatly blessed by the church's recent need for online services.

We ask that as church buildings start to re-open, that we will not forget about the disabled community, that we can work alongside them, be led by them and learn from them to ensure that they are no longer excluded, so that the needs of all our Christian brothers and sisters for fellowship and communion are met. We ask all this in the name of Jesus.

Amen

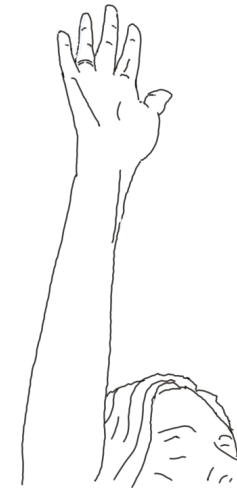
Joyce Herdson



Prayer for happiness and sadness

If we can learn to accept early on that life is going to be a mixed bag of positive and negative experiences we are going to be much better equipped to deal with whatever life will inevitably throw at us down the track:

Love and heartbreak
 Success and failure
 Excitement and boredom
 Dreams and realities
 Health and illness
 Life and death



We cannot change the past; something that others have done to us or we have done to others.

We cannot change family.

But one thing we can count on is God. God will always be by our side.

Up; down; high; low.

Thank you Father God for being there.

Amen

Jackie O'Gara

Prayer for young people

Father God,

We thank you for our young people in our Church.

We thank you that they know you as their father and Jesus as their friend and saviour.

Lord, we pray for their continued growth in faith. That they may realise how special they are to you and their Church family.

May they, through your spirit, know that they are unique and have a special purpose in you. That they may know that they are so loved and that you have a plan for each of their lives.

May they be aware of the truth that each one of them was born for a time such as this.

Lord, we pray for a renewed revelation of you so they may grow deeper in faith, stronger in their convictions and an ambassador of your love and hope to the world.

We pray protection over their hearts, minds and spirits. Lord, keep them always close to you.

In Jesus name we pray

Amen

Sue Hampson



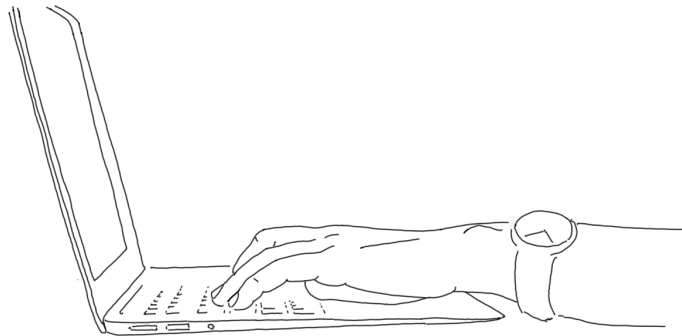
A prayer for those feeling tired and pressured

*'Come to me, all who are weary
I will give you rest'.*

Matthew 11:28

God of all people,
we give you thanks for those whose work
provides us with the necessities of life.
In this time of increased demand and pressure,
help them to continue their work in safety;
give us all the space and peace
amidst the busyness and stress
to care for ourselves and others,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen



Praying for Compassion

*'Just as a father has compassion on his children,
So the Lord has compassion on those who fear Him.
For He Himself knows our frame;
He is mindful that we are but dust'.*

Psalm 103:13-14

Lord Jesus,
thank you that you know what it means to be human
and to have human emotions.
We pray for those who are on our hearts.
Please would you help us to not have compassion fatigue
but to feel the depth of compassion that you have for them.
When there is a need for righteous anger,
we pray that you would give us wisdom
in knowing how to express it in a good and helpful way.
In Jesus name we pray,

Amen



“We must learn to regard people less in the light of what they do or omit to do, and more in the light of what they suffer.” — Dietrich Bonhoeffer

‘When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.’

Mark 6:34

Lord,
Thank you that you came to show us the Way.
Thank you that you modelled compassion and taught us how to treat others.
Just as you have been compassionate to us, may we show compassion to others.
Be with us today Lord and help us to always remember that we can never fully know what others are having to deal with.
Help us to regard people less in the light of what they do or omit to do and more in the light of what they suffer.
In Jesus name we pray.

Amen

Bob May

Prayer for vulnerable Children & Families

Almighty God,
thank you for hearing us when we pray.
Today I pray for vulnerable children,
especially those known to us
and those in our parish.
Please bring peace to their households.

I pray for enough provision
so children never go hungry;
for love, comfort and support
from those who care for them.

I pray for change where change is needed
and trust that you will bring peace and harmony to all,
even in the most difficult situations.
Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

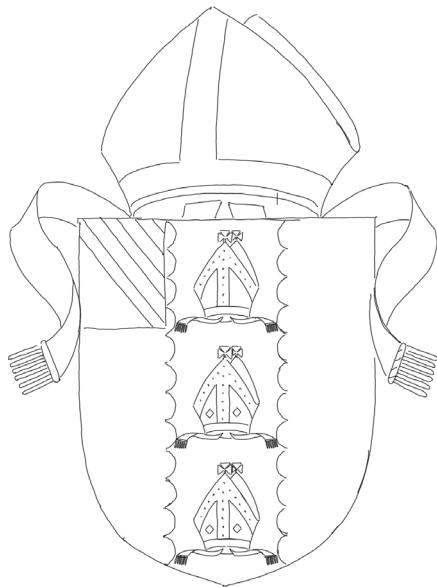
Amen



Prayer for our Diocese & Deanery

Lord
 Strengthen your church to do God's work.
 We pray for our Bishop, David, and all the clergy in our Deanery and Manchester diocese.
 Empower your leaders, Lord, with your Holy Spirit and give them wisdom and compassion at this time.
 Give them a vision of the future so that your church will know your will now and always.
 We pray in Jesus name
Amen

Sheila Roberts



Thank you for the blessing of children

¹⁴ But Jesus said, "Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who are like these children." ¹⁵ And he placed his hands on their heads and blessed them before he left.

Matthew 19:13

Our Father in heaven,
 hallowed be your name.
 I want to thank you for the biggest blessing on this Earth,
 our children.
 Thank you for the overwhelming sense of love they make us feel.
 The way they make us smile each and every day,
 The way they look at us with adoration, as we look at you.
 The way they make us feel like the most important thing on Earth to them,
 Thank you for their tiny fingers
 and their tiny toes and for every bone in their tiny bodies.
 Thank you for the sacrifice you made
 when you gave your only son
 so that we could have eternal life,
 we are truly blessed that you love us that much.
Amen



Prayers for those who are childless

God, please be with those who have not been blessed with a child.

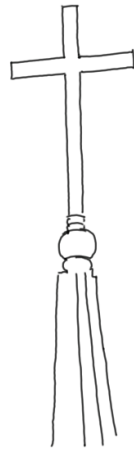
Please be with those whose children have been too perfect for this Earth and are with you in heaven.

We pray that you would be with them as they daily carry their heavy hearts and may they know that their child is safe in your arms.

Thank you God

Amen

Gemma Roberts



A prayer for those returning to or starting a new job or school

Lord, thank you that you journey with me.

Thank you that you have been in the process of my learning and searching and securing this place.

Thank you that I can continue to rely on you.

Fill my mind with confidence as I begin this new chapter in my life.

Whenever I lack confidence and self-belief, may I know that you are with me.

When I feel uncertain about decisions in this new work, may I lean on you and your wisdom to guide me.

Amen

Bob May

Lord, please protect me as I go to school.

Lord, please protect me as I go to work.

Lord, please protect me during the day.

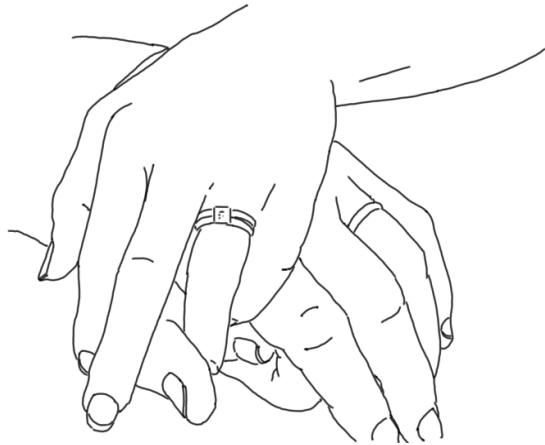
Lord, please help me to stand tall for you today.

Amen

Bob May

Prayer for specific occasions

We pray for those who were hoping to celebrate birthdays, marriages and special events;
 We pray there may be an opportunity to do this soon.
 In Jesus name,
Amen



God of love & hope

*'Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful,
 and endures through every circumstance.'*

1 Corinthians 13:7

God of love, thank you that you listen to our prayers.
 Help us to remember all the positive things
 we have achieved with your strength.
 For the good things we have witnessed
 and the support we have received
 from friends, family and strangers
 to come this far through 'lockdown'.
 Remind us of resilience shown by front line workers
 who have fought on with selflessness and commitment to serve.

Give us hope for the future,
 strength to believe that we will, once again,
 be free to hug our loved ones,
 spend time together and rejoice in freedom.
 Remind us Lord, not to take things for granted in the future.
Amen

God of love,
 be with all those children returning to nurseries and schools,
 young adults preparing for college and university,
 may they trust in you, O Lord.

Guide them always and may they know your name.
 Be with the teachers as they take steps forward
 to return to some normality,
 let them not be afraid but shine like beacons.

Thank you Jesus for our Church family,
 volunteers, on-line services and leadership.
 Pour blessings on our local community
 and worldwide brothers and sisters.

I pray for peace for all those suffering loss
 and heartbreak during this pandemic.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Karen Ramsey



Prayer for daily strength & endurance

³ *We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials,
 for we know that they help us develop endurance.*

⁴ *And endurance develops strength of character,
 and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation.*

⁵ *And this hope will not lead to disappointment.*

*For we know how dearly God loves us,
 because he has given us the Holy Spirit
 to fill our hearts with his love.*

Romans 5:3-5



Almighty God

I often struggle for the words to say to You
but I want to pray, and I know You will listen.

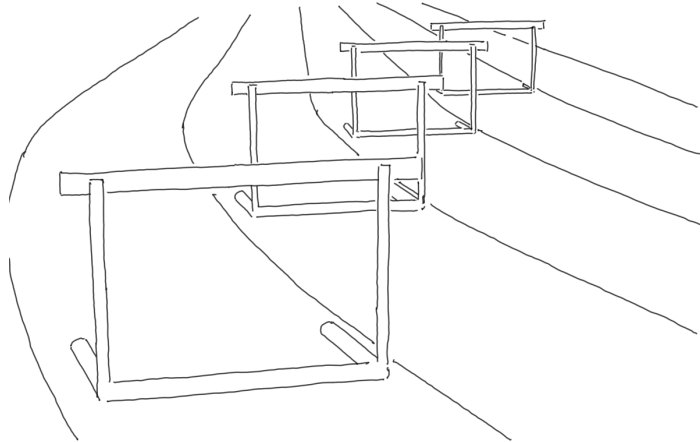
Lord, give me the strength to rise each day;
to stay positive and to concentrate on the good around me.

Be with me as I jump over
the many and frequent hurdles I face in life.
Help me to worry less and to focus on You
as I juggle so many things.

Finally, help me to remember
that it is You who is truly in control.

Amen

Helen George



A prayer for those who are feeling disappointed

*'Fear not, for I am with you,
be not dismayed,
I will strengthen you'.*

Isaiah 41:10

God of hope,
in times of disappointment
you lead us to seek fresh purpose and new hope.
Be with all those who are unable to participate
in services, ceremonies and events they were looking forward to.
Amidst the sadness,
help all to find joy in the simple things of daily living,
and amidst the difficulty of today,
remind us of the hope of better things to come,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

General prayers

*Then I pray to you, O Lord. I say, "You are my place of refuge.
You are all I really want in life.*

Psalm 142:5

Almighty Lord your majesty is above all.
Allow us to repent our sins.
We thank you for your blessings and our wellbeing.
We ask you for healing courage and wisdom.
And we pray for others less fortunate than ourselves.
Receive our prayers and answer in only the way you can.

Amen

Bill Openshaw



*¹⁰⁵ Your word is a lamp to guide my feet
and a light for my path.
¹⁰⁶ I've promised it once, and I'll promise it again:
I will obey your righteous regulations.*

Psalm 119:105-106

Dear Lord,
thank you for looking after my family and friends
during these challenging times and keeping us safe.
I pray for our world and our leaders
that you will guide and nurture those
whose responsibilities include making decisions
that affects many people over many disciplines.
Please guide them and us along the correct path.
Grant understanding and compassion
to those who require it,
and please give us peace
when we may be finding things difficult.
In your almighty name we pray.

Amen

Nicola Smithies

*He is the Rock; his deeds are perfect. Everything he does is just and fair.
He is a faithful God who does no wrong; how just and upright he is!*

Deuteronomy 32:4

Lord Jesus,
help me to be kind to others
in thought word and deed.
In Jesus name,
Amen

Simon Trewartha

*God is our refuge and strength, always ready
to help in times of trouble.*

Psalm 46:1

Lord Father God,
thank you for being ever present.
I pray that you bring your peace and protection to the lonely,
anxious, sick and broken hearted.
I pray for your guidance and strength
to continue through these unfamiliar times,
Let your love surround each and everyone of us
as we support and care for one another,
In your name Jesus we pray
Amen

Louise McConnell



Reflective prayerful poems

To the morning

Early in the morning our praise shall rise to you,
 We thank you Lord for the morning sunshine.
 For the dampness of the grass.
 We thank you for breakfast punctuated with birdsong.
 For hillsides sown with sheep and stones.
 For valleys damp with streams and sky echo lakes.
 We thank you Lord for this new day.

Amen

Before Sleep

At night when the wings of night flutter round us;
 You are there Lord.
 At night when sleep is difficult;
 Your arms of love comfort us.
 When the worries of the day nag at us;
 You are there Lord reminding us of your everlasting
 protection.
 Keep us safe Lord, give us our rest Lord
 And bring us safe to the dawning of a new day.

Amen

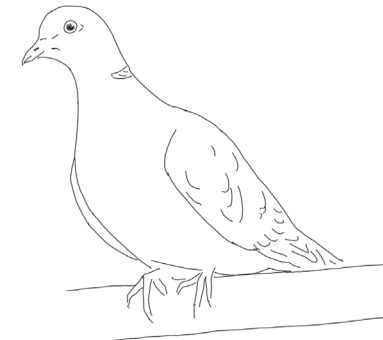
Dave Roberts

Near

Did angels touch my brow?
 Easing pains that flowed right thru'
 A mind called out in terror and fear;
 Leave me not, please stay near.
 One at the foot, one at the head,
 one a dove over my bed.
 soothing strokes so gentle that led...

Touch me now, in the warmth;
 the time is here, there is no fear.
 We gently walk in fields of greens;
 that is high with grass, yields and needs.
 Softly spring like sun, resting on the head of one;
 Holding onto a hand for poise...

Did you leave me all alone?
 I was holding your torn and broken bone.
 Hearing you cry out in the night;
 The Father's prayer so deeply right.
 Yet opening areas of challenging fright;
 Hallowed be your glorious name, none other
 sweeter.



Stop, stuck cannot recall;
 How I once committed all.
 Surrender now dear child of mine;
 Speak the line,
 'Your will be done'
 Let it shine!

So, said at last;
 Will I fall and not be grasped.
 Caught and held so graciously;
 Never hurting, never so free.
 The great and mighty one,
 saving a life promised for thee
 In the Lord is only peace; and come one day,
 all pain will cease...

Pray with all your earnest might,
 Let Him come and ease our plight.
 Light of beauty, Light of truth,
 Night draws near, please appear.
 Rest my children, you are so dear;
 As always, I Am near...

Pat Turner

Thank you Jesus that you are always near
 and you promise never to leave us or forsake us.
 Thank you that our lives are in your hands.

Amen

Prodigal Son

Took my inheritance and just went
 Wine and women my money soon spent
 Famine then gripped the land
 Turned fertile soil to useless sand

One of my boys asks me to split my wealth
 Wants his inheritance not my health
 Like a death in my life he departed
 For wine, women and endless parties

I went from riches to attending swine
 Frittered away all that was mine
 Envy the food the pigs get to eat
 I should throw myself at my father's feet

Watch from my window every day
 Hoping the lost, dead, return this way
 I see a figure on the horizon
 Could it really be my lost son?

I see him rushing towards me
 My father, please hear this plea
 I have sinned against heaven, sinned against you
 Make me a servant, tell me what to do

Here, wear these fine robes and ring
 Come, we will celebrate and sing
 The fattened calf we shall eat
 Beside me take your rightful seat

Father, my brother returns from foreign soil
 Yet here I stayed to work and toil
 I got nothing, he gets this celebration
 Yet I've served you for the duration

My love you have always had
 He was lost, my heart was sad
 I watched you with pride, unconcerned
 My prodigal son was dead but has returned

David Wild

Lord Jesus, thank you that your arms
 are wide open ready to embrace us.
 Thank you that you don't wait for us
 to come back to you but you run towards us,
 making a way for us to see you at work.

We are sorry for the times
 when we are like the prodigal child
 wanting to do life our own way.

We are sorry for the times
 when we are like the older brother
 being judgemental and condemning others.
 Help us to focus on you
 as our perfect heavenly Father.

Amen

Our thanks go to all church members who have written prayers for this booklet.

Line drawings by Bob May



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