



Prayer Locker May 2020



A prayer used at ordinations

Almighty and everlasting God,
by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church
is governed and sanctified:
hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful
people,
that in their vocation and ministry
they may serve you in holiness and truth
to the glory of your name;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

King David's Thanksgiving

Then David blessed the LORD in the presence of all
the assembly; David said: 'Blessed are you, O LORD,
the God of our ancestor Israel, for ever and ever.
Yours, O LORD, are the greatness, the power, the
glory, the victory, and the majesty; for all that is in
the heavens and on the earth is yours; yours is the
kingdom, O LORD, and you are exalted as head
above all. Riches and honour come from you, and
you rule over all. In your hand are power and
might; and it is in your hand to make great and to
give strength to all. And now, our God, we give
thanks to you and praise your glorious name.

A grace before food

For what we are about to receive
May the Lord make us truly thankful.
Amen

A prayer from Common Worship to complement Psalm 139

Creator God, may every breath we take be for your
glory, may every footstep show you as our way,
that trusting in your presence in this world, we
may, beyond this life, still be with you where you
are alive and reign for ever and ever. Amen

A comfort for those who grieve

When we are weary and in need of strength,
when we are lost and sick at heart,
we remember them.

When we have a joy we long to share
when we have decisions that are hard to make
we remember them.

At the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter
at the opening of the buds and in the rebirth of
spring,
we remember them.

At the blueness of the skies and in the warmth of
summer
at the rustling of the leaves and in the beauty of
autumn,
we remember them.

At the rising of the sun and at its setting,
we remember them.

Canon Slade's Prayer

Hear our prayers also on behalf of all mankind.
In Thee let all the nations of the earth be blessed.
Especially protect and save the land in which we
dwell.
Bless and sanctify the church to which we belong;
purify it from all corruptions;
defend it from all its enemies;
and bring it to the universal knowledge and love
and obedience
of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Ravensbrück Prayer

O Lord, remember not only the men and women of
good will, but also those of ill will.
But do not remember the suffering they have
inflicted on us; remember the fruits we bought
thanks to this suffering, our comradeship, our
loyalty, our humility, the courage, the generosity,
the greatness of heart which has grown out of all
this.
And when they come to judgement let the fruits we
have borne be their forgiveness.
Amen. Amen. Amen.

A School prayer before food

Thank you for the world so sweet, (clap clap)
Thank you for the food we eat, (yum yum)
Thank you for the birds that sing-a-ling-a-ling,
Thank you, God, for everything.
Amen

Lord for the years

Lord, for ourselves; in living power remake us
self on the cross and Christ upon the throne,
past put behind us, for the future take us:
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.

St Paul's Prayer for the Ephesians

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from
whom every family in heaven and on earth derives
its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he
may strengthen you with power through his Spirit
in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your
hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being
rooted and established in love, may have power,
together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp
how wide and long and high and deep is the love of
Christ, and to know this love that surpasses
knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure
of all the fullness of God.
Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more
than all we ask or imagine, according to his power
that is at work within us, to him be glory in the
church and in Christ Jesus throughout all
generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

A Holy Week Blessing

Christ crucified draw you to himself, to find in him
 a sure ground for faith,
 a firm support for hope
 and the assurance of sins forgiven.
 And the blessing of God almighty,
 Father, Son and Holy Spirit
 Be with you now and always. Amen

A prayer in preparation for Holy Communion

Be present, be present
 Lord Jesus Christ
 Our risen high priest;
 Make yourself known in the breaking of the bread

 Pour upon the poverty of our love
 And the weakness of our praise
 The transforming fire of Thy presence
 Amen.

Karl Barth, To the inmates of Basel Prison on 1st August 1954.

O Lord our God,
 Come thyself into our midst! Awaken us all! Grant
 us thy light!
 Be our teacher and comforter!
 Speak to each one of us in such a way that we may
 hear that personal word of help that we need.
 Show your mercy to all who are gathered this
 morning as thy congregation, wherever they may
 be.
 Keep us and them steadfast in your word.
 Grant us and them insight, and hope, a clear word
 of witness and joyful hearts.
 Through J.C. our Lord.
 Amen

A prayer of Lancelot Andrewes

We commend unto you, O Lord,
 our souls and our bodies,
 our minds and our thoughts,
 our prayers and our hopes,
 our health and our work,
 our life and our death,
 Our parents, brothers and sisters,
 our benefactors and friends,
 our neighbours and countrymen,
 and all Christian folk.
 Amen

Max Lucado, The Pocket Prayer

(not for prayer warriors but like him, prayer wimps)
 Father,
 You are good,
 I need help. Heal me, forgive me.
 They need help.
 Thank you.
 In Jesus' name, amen.

A prayer of St Ignatius Loyola

Teach us, Good Lord, to serve thee as thou
 deservest,
 To give and not to count the cost.
 To fight and not to heed the wounds,
 To toil and not to seek for rest,
 To labour and not to ask for any reward, save that
 of knowing that we do thy will.
 Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

A hymn by Charles Wesley

Christ, whose glory fills the skies,
 Christ, the true, the only light,
 Sun of Righteousness, arise,
 Triumph o'er the shades of night;
 Dayspring from on high, be near;
 Daystar, in my heart appear.

 Dark and cheerless is the morn
 Unaccompanied by thee;
 joyless is the day's return,
 till thy mercy's beams I see,
 till they inward light impart,
 glad my eyes, and warm my heart.

 Visit then this soul of mine,
 pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
 fill me, radiancy divine,
 scatter all my unbelief;
 more and more thyself display,
 shining to the perfect day.

A note jotted down by Charles Wesley, in humble acknowledgement of his hymn-writing ability as a gift from God.

If well I know the tuneful art
 to captivate the human heart,
 the glory Lord be thine.
 A servant of thy perfect will,
 I hear devote my utmost skill
 to sound thy praise divine.
 Amen

'A quote from another Charles Wesley composition which speaks of the need to step aside from the busyness of the world, and to spend a few moments in the presence of the Divine'

Open Lord my inward ear and bid my heart rejoice
Bid my quiet spirit hear thy comfortable voice
Never in the whirlwind found or earthquakes rock
the place
Still and silent is the sound, the whisper of thy
grace.
From the world of sin and noise and hurry I
withdraw
for the smaller inward voice I wait
humble, silent am I now, and still
dare not in thy presence move.
To my waiting soul reveal
The secret of thy love.
Amen



Prayer Locker during Thy Kingdom Come

Between Ascension Day (21 May) and Pentecost (31 May) the prayers for the Prayer Locker were contributed by invited guests.

**+Chris Edmondson,
Bishop of Bolton 2008 – 2016**

A prayer attributed to Sir Francis Drake, 1577

Disturb us Lord,
When we're too pleased with ourselves
When our dreams come true, because we dreamed
too little
When we arrived safely, because we travelled too
close to the shore.

Disturb us Lord,
When with the abundance of things we possess
We've lost our thirst for the waters of life,
Having fallen in love with life, we have ceased to
dream of eternity.
...and in our efforts to build a new earth, we have
allowed our vision of a new heaven to dim.

Disturb us Lord,
To dare more boldly,
To venture on wilder seas, where storms will show
your majesty,
Where losing sight of land, we shall find the stars.

We ask you to push back the horizons of our hopes,
And to push back the future,
In strength, courage, hope and love.

This we ask in the name of our captain,
Who is Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

**Revd Phil Mason,
Chaplain to Bolton Wanderers
Abide With Me**

Abide with me, fast falls the eventide
The darkness deepens Lord, with me abide
When other helpers fail and comforts flee
Help of the helpless, oh, abide with me

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away
Change and decay in all around I see
O Thou who changest not, abide with me

I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness
Where is death's sting?
Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if Thou abide with me

Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows
flee
In life, in death, o Lord, abide with me
Abide with me, abide with me

Revd Judie Horrocks, Lecturer at Bolton Parish Church 2011-2015
A prayer attributed to St. Teresa of Avila:

"Christ has no body now but ours.
No hands, no feet on earth but ours.
Ours are the eyes through which he looks
compassion on this world.
Ours are the feet with which he walks to do good.
Ours are the hands through which he blesses all
the world.
Ours are the hands, ours are the feet, ours are the
eyes, we are his body.
Christ has no body now on earth but ours."
Amen

**Deborah Smith, Director of Education
for the Diocese of Manchester**

Deborah says that her tradition is to use her own words in prayer rather than 'set words'. But this prayer is one she has found helpful on many occasions. It's used in our church schools and churches; it's the prayer Jesus taught his disciples to pray:

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For yours is the kingdom, the power, and the
glory
now and for ever. Amen

Dave Bagley, CEO, Urban Outreach
Matthew 25. 34-40

"Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

St Teresa's Prayer

"Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours.
Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world.
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good.
Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world.
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are the body.
Christ has no body now on earth but yours." Amen

Jean Burgess, Archdeacon of Bolton
Caim Prayer (circling prayer)

Circle me Lord,
Keep protection near and danger afar
Circle me Lord,
Keep light near and darkness afar,
Circle me Lord,
Keep peace within and evil without
Circle me Lord,
Keep hope within and doubt without
May you be a bright flame before me
May you be a guiding star above me
May you be a smooth path below me
And a loving guide behind me,
Today, tonight and forever, Amen

+Mark Ashcroft, Bishop of Bolton

Bishop Mark shared a prayer from the Kenyan liturgy which reminds him of his ten years in Kenya

Though the mango tree does not blossom,
nor the fruit be on the vines,
the crop of the coconut fails
and the fields yield no food.
Though the flock be cut off from the fold,
and there be no herd in the stall,
yet will I rejoice in the Lord;
I will rejoice in the God of my salvation.



+Jill Duff, Bishop of Lancaster, born and brought up in Bolton.

God has put incredible warmth and wit in Bolton, deep wells of God's joy. A prayer of protection for keyworkers and everyone in Bolton, from St Patrick, known as the prayer of St Patrick's breastplate

I bind unto myself today
The strong name of the Trinity,
By invocation of the same,
The Three in One and One in Three.

I bind this day to me for ever,
By power of faith, Christ's Incarnation;
His baptism in the Jordan River;
His death on cross for my salvation;
His bursting from the spiced tomb;
His riding up the heavenly way;
His coming at the day of doom;
I bind unto myself today.

I bind unto myself the power
Of the great love of the Cherubim;
The sweet 'Well done' in judgment hour;
The service of the Seraphim,
Confessors' faith, Apostles' word,
The Patriarchs' prayers, the Prophets' scrolls,
All good deeds done unto the Lord,
And purity of virgin souls.

I bind unto myself today
The virtues of the starlit heaven,
The glorious sun's life-giving ray,
The whiteness of the moon at even,
The flashing of the lightning free,
The whirling wind's tempestuous shocks,
The stable earth, the deep salt sea,
Around the old eternal rocks.

I bind unto myself today
The power of God to hold and lead,
His eye to watch, His might to stay,
His ear to hearken to my need.
The wisdom of my God to teach,
His hand to guide, his shield to ward,
The word of God to give me speech,
His heavenly host to be my guard.

+ Cherry Vann, Bishop of Monmouth, Parish Deacon at Bolton Parish Church 1994-1998

This prayer, '**Morning Offering**', was given to +Cherry by a Catholic nun in Whitby

Lord, catch me off guard today.
Surprise me with some moment
Of beauty or pain
So that, at least for the moment,
I am startled into seeing
That you are here in all your splendour,
Always and everywhere,
Barely hidden, beneath and beyond,
Within this life that I breathe. Amen.

Against the demon snares of sin,
The vice that gives temptation force,
The natural lusts that war within,
The hostile men that mar my course;
Or few or many, far or nigh,
In every place and in all hours
Against their fierce hostility,
I bind to me these holy powers.

Against all Satan's spells and wiles,
Against false words of heresy,
Against the knowledge that defiles,
Against the heart's idolatry,
Against the wizard's evil craft,
Against the death-wound and the burning
The choking wave and the poisoned shaft,
Protect me, Christ, till thy returning.

Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me,
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

I bind unto myself the name,
The strong name of the Trinity;
By invocation of the same.
The Three in One, and One in Three,
Of whom all nature hath creation,
Eternal Father, Spirit, Word:
Praise to the Lord of my salvation,
salvation is of Christ the Lord.

Amen

Neville Norcross, Member, Bolton & Farnworth C of E Primary Multi-Academy Trust

The prayer of St Francis

Lord, Make me an instrument of your peace,
Where there is hatred let me sow love,
Where there is injury, pardon,
Where there is doubt, faith,
Where there is despair, hope,
Where there is darkness let me give light,
Where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may
Not so much seek to be consoled as to console
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive,
It is in forgiving that we are forgiven,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Keith Armstrong, Bolton Town Centre Chaplain
A Prayer for Parents from 'Roots and Wings' by Marion Stroud

Dear God,

Two of the lasting things that we can give our children are roots and wings.

Our children receive so many lovely gifts and each one is a token of the joyful welcome that exists for them. But there are things they will need that money cannot buy and loving hands can never manufacture. Please show us God, how we can give those precious but invisible gifts to our children – roots and wings; security and freedom. We know that they will need to feel secure, to know that we will always love them come what may. But we're just human beings – there may be times when we don't feel so loving, when daily life is just too 'daily' and the fabric of our family life gets frayed around the edges. Give us your love then, Lord; help us to know that if human parents get it wrong from time to time, we can all depend completely on a heavenly Father who never makes mistakes.

The freedom bit is harder. There are so many dangers all around them. Our instinct is to mould and train, to shelter and protect. And this is right. But in the midst of all our caring they must be allowed to be themselves. To grow into the special person that you have planned for them to be, not some pale copy of another. So, Lord God, help us to explore your world together. Enable them to discover their own gifts and develop them fully. And when we have done all that we can, give us courage to stand aside and allow them to fly, knowing that your arms will always be around them wherever they go.

Amen.

+David Walker, Bishop of Manchester - A Pentecost Prayer

When I was growing up in Lancashire, today was known as Whitsunday. It began a week in which, on a chosen day, local churches of all denominations would parade through the streets of their town or village. Banners and brass bands led the way, and there were always buns and fruit squash back in the church to follow. So here's a prayer that seeks to recapture that spirit, even where the tradition cannot, especially at present, be maintained.

Heavenly Father,
Help us this day to march boldly to the beat of your drum;
May we carry your banner high,
And never be fearful or ashamed of what we believe.
Guard and protect us at this time,
When gatherings cannot happen;
Be our companion when we feel the burden of isolation;
And strengthen us by your Holy Spirit,
That we may love and serve our neighbours
Even as we love and follow you. Amen.

Canon Chris Bracegirdle, Vicar of Bolton Parish Church and Borough Dean of Bolton
A prayer for the Borough of Bolton

Lord God, we give you thanks and praise for the freedom and safety in which we live: for peaceful homes, for justice and order in our society, for standards of truth and honour, and for all our rights and privileges.

We pray for those whose work is to maintain and extend these blessings, especially in this borough of Bolton: all who are given authority and responsibility in administering the law and maintaining the peace, in education and the care of children, in planning and building, in providing both for work and for leisure.

Direct and use their influence, that together we may build a community and neighbourhood whose life does honour to your name. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.