

PRAYER OF APPROACH, CONFESSION, & THE LORD'S PRAYER

O Mighty God,
Present in the booming thunder
and the sweet sounding church bells,
Present in the violent wind
And the gentle breeze.

You are present not only in the calm following the storm, when the rain stops, the sun shines, and a rainbow appears on the horizon.
You are present in the very heart of it, with us, when the lightning cracks, the winds howl and the waters rise.

You are present not only in our answers, when we are sure and certain and have it all figured out,
You are present in our questioning and our doubting.

God, your mightiness is great enough to hold all our criticisms, and concerns.

Yet, we confess that too often we do not come forward to confront you with our questions, and our doubts,
Instead we take their presence to be proof of your absence.

We lose patience when the answers are not simple, quick or easy.

We get angry,
We fight and spit and swear.

We throw up our hands like frustrated children,
“We don’t want to, it’s too hard...”
“We hate this or that or them...”
“We can’t do this; can you just do it for us...”
We say.

Forgetting that you already have.

Help us to have patience enough to ask you to help us with our questions.
Remind us of your grace made known to us in Jesus, as we pray together the prayer he taught us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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, forever and ever, AMEN...**

Peace¹

Not an easy peace,
Not an insignificant peace,
Not a half-hearted peace,
But the peace of Christ be with you.

¹ Adapted from *A Wee Worship Book: Fourth Incarnation*