

let go

SURRENDER AND LET GOD WORK



TAKING EVERYTHING TO GOD IN
PRAYER & DEVOTION

2021

organized by First Christian Church

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<https://fultonfirstchristianchurch.org/>

As Advent approaches, many of us find ourselves so caught up in the day-to-day challenges of work, festivities, school and extracurricular activities, health, taking care of others, etc., that we often forget to set time aside to talk to God. As we prepare for Advent, we hope this prayer booklet helps you set aside time to let go, surrender, pray, and let God work.

FCC Membership Ministry

"I pray, and I believe, church, that we must always remember to not only sit still before God, but to pray for one another."

Rev. Teresa "Terri" Hord Owens,
General Minister, President, Disciples of Christ

6.11.2021 | <https://disciples.org/tag/prayer/>

Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe you have received it, and it will be yours.

Mark 11:24

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made known to God.

Phillipians 4:6

Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

James 5:16

And, when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

Matthew 6:5-8

Prayer Practices

Lectio Divina - from Know Your Story and Lead with It, p. 138.

The practice of lectio divina, "divine reading," was developed in the monastic tradition. Monastic rules of several orders include it, but the "Rule of St. Benedict" seems to be the one most referenced today. Lectio Divina is a way of reading scripture. In our use of the practice we read a text three times and allowed for a brief period of silence between each reading. Pick out only a verse or two, it needs to be short. Try one or two lines from an above Psalm.

First Reading

- Let the text wash over you. Don't try to do anything with it. Practice receiving.
- Silence.

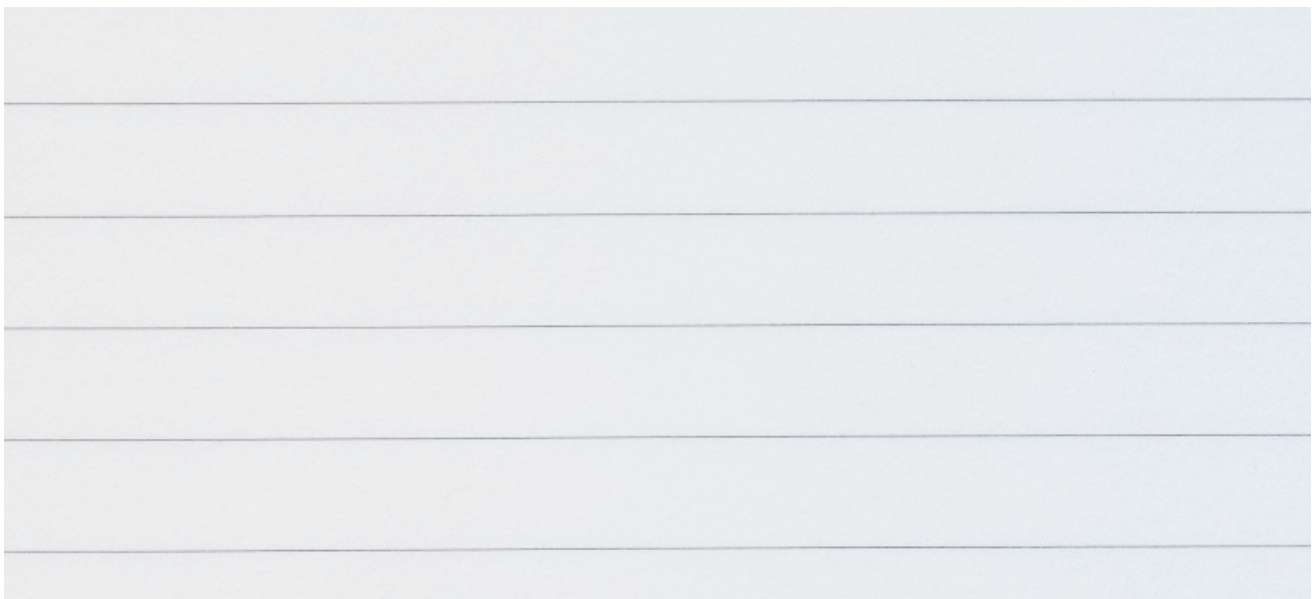
Second Reading

- Listen for a word or phrase that stands out for you. Silently repeat it and savor it.
- Silence.

Third Reading

- Consider the questions: "Why did God give this to me? Where does this text touch my life? What might God be calling me to do?"
- Silence.

After the third silence, take some time to journal or write out what was revealed to you. Then offer a simple prayer of thanksgiving to God for your word/phrase.

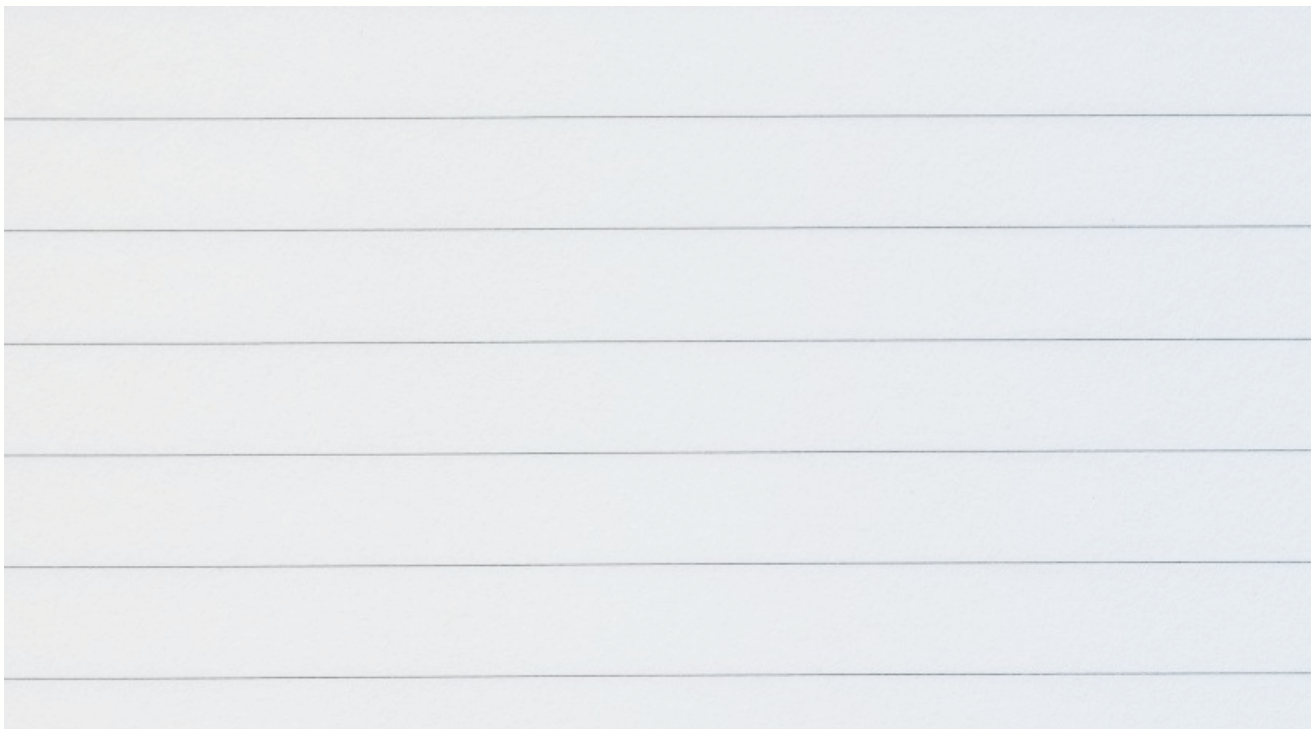
A large rectangular area with horizontal lines, intended for journaling or writing. It consists of a solid light blue header bar at the top, followed by eight horizontal lines on a white background, creating a space for text.

Ignatian Examen from ignatianspirituality.com

Talking to Jesus like a friend, we reflect on our day noticing the ways God was present (or absent) and where God might be leading us to act or let go. Here are the steps:

1. Become aware of God's presence. Look back on the events of the day in the company of the Holy Spirit. The day may seem confusing to you - a blur, a jumble, a muddle. Ask God to bring clarity and understanding.
2. Review the day with gratitude. Gratitude is the foundation of our relationship with God. Walk through your day in the presence of God and note its joys and delights. Focus on the day's gifts. Look at the work you did, the people you interacted with. What did you receive from these people? What did you give them? Pay attention to small things-the food you ate, the sights you saw, and other seemingly small pleasures. God is in the details.
3. Pay attention to your emotions. One of St. Ignatius's great insights was that we detect the presence of the Spirit of God in the movements of our emotions. Reflect on the feelings you experienced during the day. Boredom? Elation? Resentment? Compassion? Anger? Confidence? What is God saying through these feelings?

God will most likely show you some ways that you fell short. Make note of these sins and faults. But look deeply for other implications. Does a feeling of frustration perhaps mean that God wants you to consider a new direction on some area of your work? Are you concerned about a friendship? Perhaps you should reach out to her/him in some way.

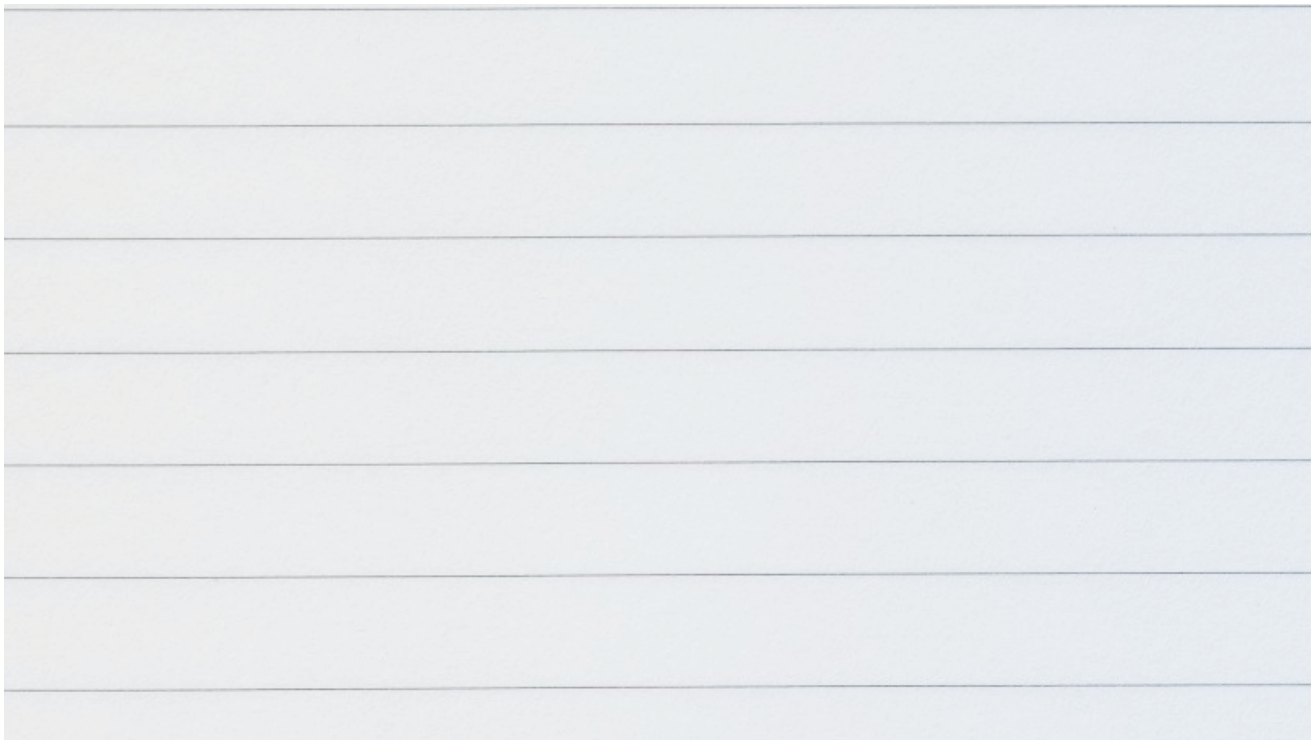
A large rectangular area with horizontal lines, intended for writing reflections. It consists of ten horizontal lines spaced evenly down the page, providing a guide for writing.

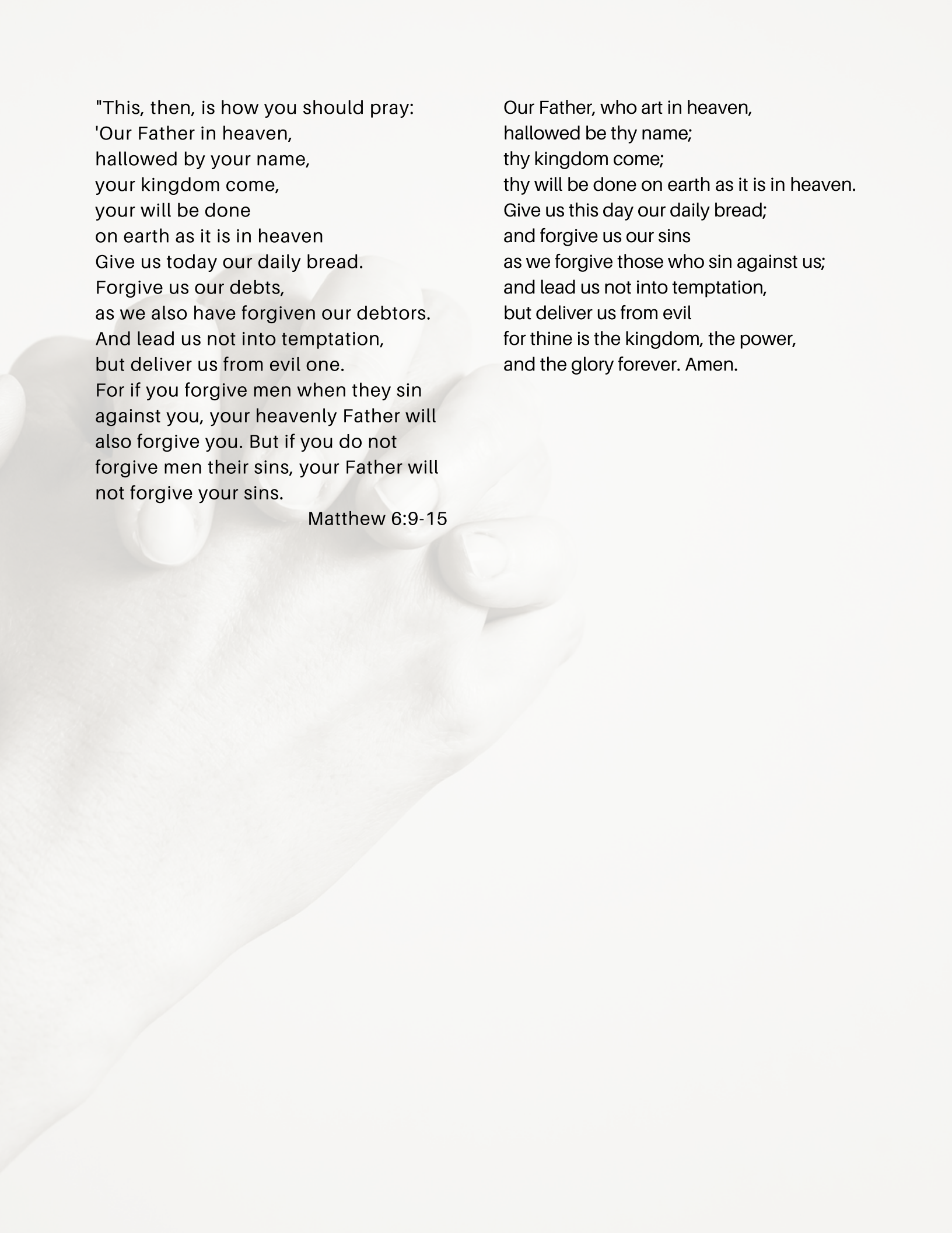
4. Choose one feature of the day and pray from it. Ask the Holy Spirit to direct you to something during the day that God thinks is particularly important. It may involve a feeling—positive or negative. It may be a significant encounter with another person or a vivid moment of pleasure or peace. Or it may be something that seems rather insignificant. Look at it. Pray about it. Allow the prayer to arise spontaneously from your heart—whether intercession, praise, repentance, or gratitude.

5. Look toward tomorrow. Ask God to give you light for tomorrow’s challenges. Pay attention to the feelings that surface as you survey what’s coming up. Are you doubtful? Cheerful? Apprehensive? Full of delighted anticipation? Allow these feelings to turn into prayer. Seek God’s guidance. Ask him for help and understanding. Pray for hope.

Resources for Teaching Children to Pray

- Focus on the Family | <https://www.focusonthefamily.com/parenting/teaching-kids-to-pray/> Group Publishing, Inc | <https://childrensministry.com/teach-kids-to-pray/>
- Christian Parenting | <https://www.christianparenting.org/articles/teaching-kids-pray-2/>
- Light a Candle WITH Children is a daily devotion that invites congregations to join in prayer and devotions with our children. | <http://lightacandle.blogspot.com/>





"This, then, is how you should pray:
'Our Father in heaven,
hallowed by your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as it is in heaven
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil one.
For if you forgive men when they sin
against you, your heavenly Father will
also forgive you. But if you do not
forgive men their sins, your Father will
not forgive your sins.

Matthew 6:9-15

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 sins
as we forgive those who sin against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil
for thine is the kingdom, the power,
and the glory forever. Amen.

Advance God's Kingdom

It is written: "'As surely as I live,' says the Lord, 'every knee shall bow to me; every tongue will confess to God.'"¹¹ Therefore let us stop passing judgement on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in your brother's way.

Romans 14:11, 13

God, my desire is to build your kingdom and not my own, but I confess most of the time I live like that is not true. I spend so much of my day trying to build my kingdom, making myself, instead of you, the center of this life. Lord, I need your spirit to remind me minute-by-minute that this life is not all about me. It is all about you. Your word says the time is coming when every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord and your Kingdom will be made complete. In the end, that will be all that matters. Nothing I build for my own glory will be left so I ask you to help me stop spending this life focused on myself. Jesus, I want to see my daily life through the eyes of your kingdom. Help me to seek your kingdom in my heart, mind, and life.

Lord, I know that building your kingdom instead of my own starts with repentance. Jesus, I am sorry for how I live my life trying to control everything and everyone, including you. I don't want to be in control. I want to have a repentant heart, turning from the sin that keeps me seeking my own glory instead of yours. Jesus, please keep the words "repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand," always before me so that I will fight hard against my sin and work hard to bring your kingdom here.

I need you to show me that this life is temporary. I ask that you would put eternity into my heart and that I would long to be in my heavenly dwelling more than my earthly home. You have only given me one life and I want to live it with more purpose, on a mission with you. Lord, I pray that you would give me the eyes to see this place as a temporary home and that my heart would be at home in you alone. Help me to see that this life is but a mist and a fleeting breath.

Lord, I know that building your kingdom instead of my own starts with repentance. Jesus, I am sorry for how I live my life trying to control everything and everyone, including you. I don't want to be in control. I want to have a repentant heart, turning from the sin that keeps me seeking my own glory instead of yours. Jesus, please keep the words "repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand," always before me so that I will fight hard against my sin and work hard to bring your kingdom here.

Retrieved from: <http://rachbaxter.com/12prayers/2016/10/27/12-prayers-building-gods-kingdom-and-not-my-own>

Daily News

Dear Heavenly Father, we love you and thank you for all our great blessings and your grace throughout our lives. We thank you for our world and help us to know how to be much better with it. We thank you for our earthly food and for your loving kindness with forgiving our sins and shortcomings. We pray we love as we should and pray we forgive as we should. We pray to always remember to keep your command to let our hearts be not troubled nor afraid or be anxious about anything... Thank you for forgiving us our sins and saving us and keep us always in your care with joy, peace, and happiness. In Christ name we pray always - Amen Courtesy of Sharon Warner

O great Chief, light a candle within my heart that I may see what is therein and sweep the rubbish from your dwelling place. Anonymous

Advent Season

Father we pray you send your Holy Spirit upon us as we prepare for Christmas. We have so much to do and we seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day. Especially cover those who suffer loneliness and loss during this season.

The Prayer of Jabez (Informal)

Oh, that you would bless me O Lord, and enlarge my territory. And that you would keep your hand around me, keep me from all evil, so that I may not cause pain.

1st Chronicles 4:9-10

Thank you for this day. I trust you, Jesus. Continue to guide us thru these difficult times, protect us. Let us not lose sight of the real reason for this season. Celebration of Jesus birth, God's gift to us. May the spirit of the Lord and this season of love, joy, peace, and hope fill our hearts and minds. May we share with those around us. Lift us up Oh, Lord.

Grace and peace be y ours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

2 Peter 1:2

Oh God, lead us this day that our lips may praise Thee, our lives may bless Thee, our mediations may glorify Thee, thru Christ our Lord. Amen

In this Advent of expectation draw us together in unity,
that our praise and worship might echo in these walls
and also through our lives.

In this Advent of expectation draw us together in mission,
that the hope within might be the song we sing, and the melody of our lives.

In this Advent of expectation draw us together in service,
that the path we follow might lead us from a stable to a glimpse of eternity.

"I pray you will hold others gently today, for there are enough hard places in our lives without adding to them."

Pastor Kelly, Courtesy of Ginger Beasley

Advent Season

Psalm 46

God is our refuge and strength,
a help always near in times of great trouble.
2 That's why we won't be afraid when the world falls apart,
when the mountains crumble into the center of the sea,
3 when its waters roar and rage,
when the mountains shake because of its surging waves. Selah

4 There is a river whose streams gladden God's city,
the holiest dwelling of the Most High.

5 God is in that city. It will never crumble.

God will help it when morning dawns.

6 Nations roar; kingdoms crumble.

God utters his voice; the earth melts.

7 The Lord of heavenly forces is with us!

The God of Jacob is our place of safety. Selah

8 Come, see the Lord's deeds,

what devastation he has imposed on the earth—

9 bringing wars to an end in every corner of the world,

breaking the bow and shattering the spear,

burning chariots with fire.

10 "That's enough! Now know that I am God!

I am exalted among all nations; I am exalted throughout the world!"

11 The Lord of heavenly forces is with us!

The God of Jacob is our place of safety. Selah

May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else.

1 Thessalonians 3:12

Dear Lord, thank you for the gift of this beautiful day, fill us with your glorious presence, so we may radiate your love and then freely give it away. Lord, thank you for your closeness to us and for hearing even our simplest prayers. Thank you for always being there for us. Lord, only you have the answers to our needs, help us to wait patiently, trusting in you for our answers, in Jesus name. Amen

Advent Season

Heavenly Father, you sent your messengers to tell of the birth of your Son, that people might believe in him. Open our ears to hear your call, to repent of our sins, and to seek our heavenly inheritance. May we profess Christ until we stand by his grace before the glory of your majesty; Grant this for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Dear Heavenly Father, Help me to hear your voice. Touch me once again. Give me the courage to be your beloved. Give me courage to choose joy. I need you now this Christmas. Be born in me again. Today. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Father, just as You sent John the Baptist to prepare the way for Jesus, help me to clear the path in my heart, too. Show me the distractions in my life that block me from all-out worship of You this Advent. Lord, I await Your coming! As I celebrate the first Advent-- the first coming-- I look toward the day where I will see You face to face. I imagine what it will be like. Give me a heart, Lord, that looks for Your coming on a daily basis. Help me to live my life where I'm constantly seeking Your presence. My offering to You today is my righteous life for I know I am only clean because of Jesus. Show me today how I need to be refined, purified, forgiven. Give me the strength to ask for forgiveness and to then change my ways.

Above tree prayers retrieved from: <https://www.christianity.com/wiki/prayer/pray-for-advent-the-best-advent-prayers.html>

Dear Lord, thank you for the gift of this beautiful day, fill us with your glorious presence, so we may radiate your love and then freely give it away. Lord, thank you for your closeness to us and for hearing even our simplest prayers. Thank you for always being there for us. Lord, only you have the answers to our needs, help us to wait patiently, trusting in you for our answers, in Jesus name. Amen.

Church Leadership

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

Galatians 6:9-10

Prayer for Wisdom

Almighty God, I come before You on behalf of our pastor leaders and church. Please crush any weapon formed against them, and do not allow it to prosper. God, we pray that You will grant our leaders with the spirit of Solomon so that they may have sound wisdom, knowledge and understanding. Lead them with the Holy Spirit. Counsel our pastor leaders and church so that they may do Your work and lead Your people. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Isaiah 54:17, 2 Chronicles 1:10

Prayer for Healing

Jesus our Redeemer, we thank You for Your Word that reminds us that 'by Your stripes we are healed.' You have pardoned our sins and restored us to Your favor. You have suffered in our places. Lord, I pray that You would grant supernatural healing for our leaders. Grant Your healing powers on them, so that Your healing flows and touches every organ and function of their bodies. Your suffering on our behalf has saved the world. Please once again purchase for our pastors and church the Spirit and grace of God. By faith, we ask this in Jesus' name, Amen.

Isaiah 53:5

Prayer for Help Through Challenges

Heavenly Father, I thank You that You are the joy of our strength. I ask that You grant joy and strength to our pastor leaders and church, in Jesus' name. Father, in the midst of challenges, help them to push through, even though their spirits feel weak and their thoughts tells them to quit. Help our pastor leaders and church to condition themselves to draw on Your strength to overcome the plans of the adversary. In Christ Jesus, Amen.

Nehemiah 8:10, Psalm 23:4, 2 Corinthians 12:10

Prayer for Obedience to Scripture

Our loving Savior, hallowed be Your name in and over all the earth. Lord, we pray that You will help our pastor, leaders and church preach the gospel of Jesus Christ with boldness, with clarity, and without fear of criticism of Your truth. I declare that our pastor leaders and church will stand on Your word, in which You said that You have not given them a spirit of fear, but of power, love and of a sound mind. Keep them obedient to Your word with a clear understanding and sound judgment of the scriptures. Amen.

2 Timothy 1:7

Prayer for Endurance

Dear Father, I thank You for our pastor leaders and church and the blessings they bring to the congregation. I pray that You will help them to walk in determination, steadfastness and endurance. Give them the strength to finish what they have started and endure to the end, just as Christ endured the cross. Father, we trust in Your Word, and pray that they will put aside every weight, and sin which so easily ensnares them, and they will run with endurance the race that is set before them, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Hebrews 12:1-2

Prayer for Peace

Dear Lord, we thank you for Your peace that surpasses all understanding. We bless You because Your Word teaches us to say, peace, be still! Just as Christ rebuked the wind and the sea, I intercede on behalf of our pastor leaders and church and declare that they have the power and authority to silence every turmoil and earthquake in their life and that of the church family. Lord, help them not to be anxious about anything, because You will keep them in perfect peace if they keep their mind on You. Amen.

Philippians 4:7, Mark 4:39, Isaiah 26:3

Prayer for God's Deputies to Prophesize

God of Jacob, I pray for our pastors, leaders, and church in Your holy name. Help them and our church to walk in victory and not be defeated. Make every pastor and leader fruitful and not fruitless, happy and not sad. Crush the workings of satan so that they are not overwhelmed by his evil forces. Give them the power and authority to root out, pull down, destroy, throw down, build and plant. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Jeremiah 1:10

Family of Faith

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 6: 17-20

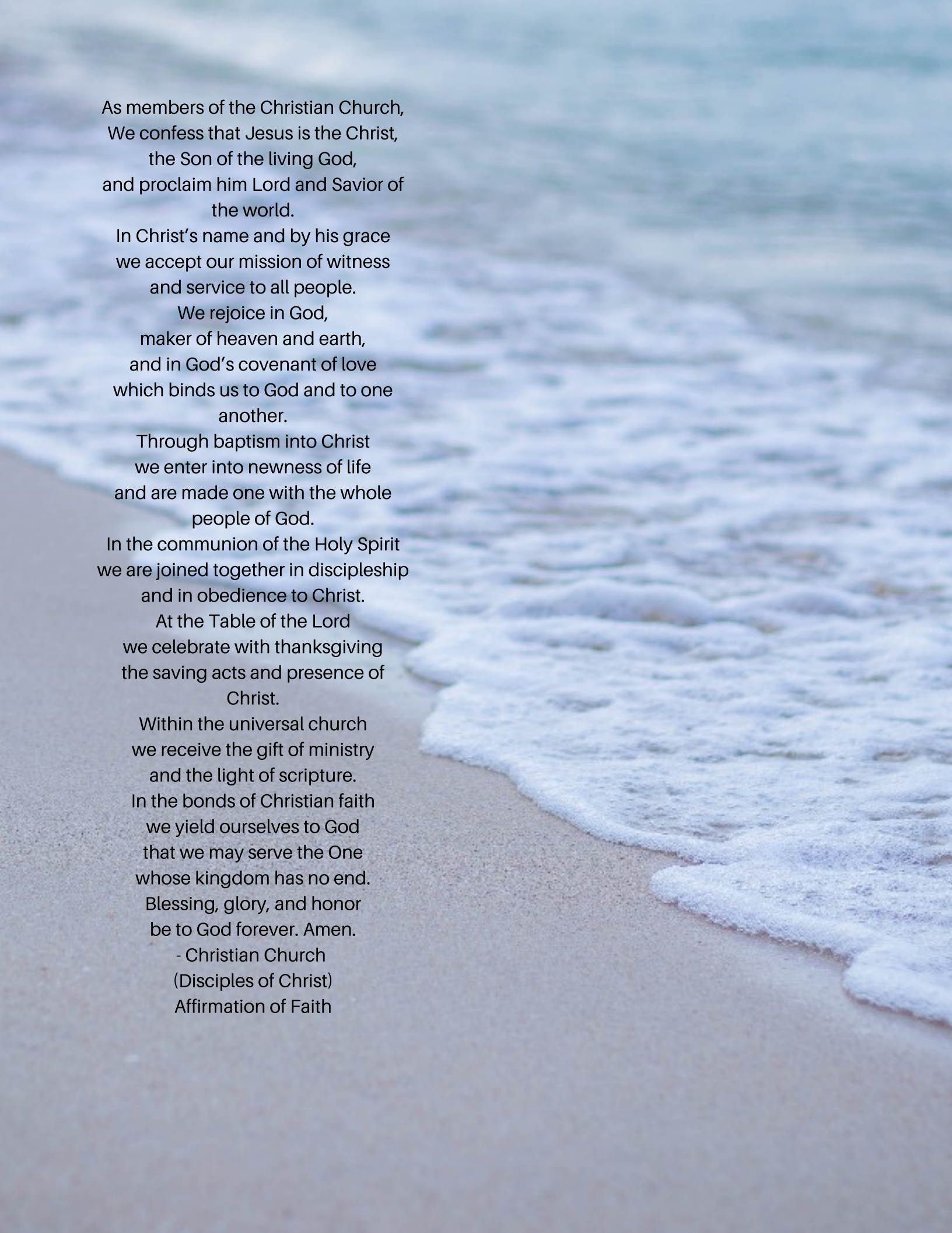
Thank you, God, for the body of believers who are called to serve you, who are proclaiming the Good News to all who will hear. From those who minister across the country to the men, women, and youth here at home, send us out to be a light in the dark. Send us out to speak life. Send us out to extend grace and mercy. Send us out to feed the hungry, to befriend the lonely, to find the lost. Open the doors of this church and fill it with the broken, the angry, the hurting. Let them find forgiveness and comfort here in the presence of the Holy Spirit. In Jesus' name, Amen

Thank you, Heavenly Father, for where you have placed me at this time. Where I live is no accident. This neighborhood is my mission field, and I declare these streets are covered by the blood of Jesus. Satan has no power here. Neighbor will embrace neighbor. The strong will stand for the weak. The young will respect the old. The capable will assist the unable. These homes will be safe havens of friendship, kindness, and compassion. No one will go hungry. No one will go unnoticed. Lives here will be changed in the name of Jesus. Amen!

Retrieved from: <https://rockthis.org/faith/prayers-for-community>

Almighty God, you have created all people and all of creation. We give you thanks for this gift we're invited to engage with hope, joy and love as your disciples. Open our hearts and our eyes to see our communities as you would have us to see them. Help us to find courage to sit and hear others when so often we want to be heard first. You are good and you are gracious, O God. Let us see all people as children of you, who created us all. It is in the name Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Retrieved from: <https://www.greatplainsumc.org/prayer-for-community>



As members of the Christian Church,
We confess that Jesus is the Christ,
the Son of the living God,
and proclaim him Lord and Savior of
the world.

In Christ's name and by his grace
we accept our mission of witness
and service to all people.

We rejoice in God,
maker of heaven and earth,
and in God's covenant of love
which binds us to God and to one
another.

Through baptism into Christ
we enter into newness of life
and are made one with the whole
people of God.

In the communion of the Holy Spirit
we are joined together in discipleship
and in obedience to Christ.

At the Table of the Lord
we celebrate with thanksgiving
the saving acts and presence of
Christ.

Within the universal church
we receive the gift of ministry
and the light of scripture.

In the bonds of Christian faith
we yield ourselves to God
that we may serve the One
whose kingdom has no end.
Blessing, glory, and honor
be to God forever. Amen.

- Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
Affirmation of Faith

Dear Lord, thank you for the gift of this beautiful day, fill us with your glorious presence, so we may radiate your love and then freely give it away. Lord, thank you for your closeness to us and for hearing even our simplest prayers. Thank you for always being there for us. Lord, only you have the answers to our needs, help us to wait patiently, trusting in your for our answers, in Jesus name. Amen.

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,

to the glory of your Name. Amen. – Book of Common Prayer

O Omnipotent God, who cares for each of us as if no one else existed and for all of us as if we were all but one! Blessed Is the person who loves you. To you I entrust my whole being and all I have received from You. You made me for Yourself, and my heart is restless until it rests in You.

St. Augustine of Hippo

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 pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to
eternal life

- attributed to St. Francis of Assisi

Eternal God, you are the light of the
minds that know you,
the joy of the hearts that love you, and
the strength of the wills that serve you.
Grant us so to know you that we may
truly love you, and
so to love you that we may fully serve
you,
whom to serve is perfect freedom.

- St. Augustine of Hippo

God be in my head and in my
understanding;
God be in my eyes
and in my looking;
God be in my mouth
and in my speaking;
God be in my heart
and in my thinking;
God be in my end
and at my departing.

- Sarum Primer

Education Systems

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Ephesians 4:29; 5:1-2

Father God, thank you for providing your son Jesus Christ as the example of how we should live. Holy Spirit, invade our schools. Break down barriers that divide and isolate our students. Unite administration and faculty. Stand guard at the doors and blow through the halls. Be the friendship and acceptance that every student longs for. Be the firm yet loving authority every teacher needs. Our classrooms belong to you, God, in the name of Jesus! Amen.

Retrieved from: <https://rockthis.org/faith/prayers-for-community>

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, you have committed to your holy Church the care and nurture of your children. Enlighten with your wisdom those who teach and those who learn, that rejoicing in the knowledge of your truth, they may worship you and serve you from generation to generation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lord, we want more for our students than mere survival. We pray You will make them outstanding leaders and imitators of Your character, secure in their faith. Our students deal with tests often, not just with their schoolwork, but in their spiritual lives. Help them to be bold as lions, in the sense that their faith won't be shaken by those who attack or question it. Give them knowledge of Your Word and time to memorize and meditate often on its biblical truths. Teach them to respect others' beliefs without compromising their own.

Above two prayers retrieved from: <https://rockthis.org/faith/prayers-for-community>

Education Systems

O Lord, our Father, we know that every good gift and every perfect gift comes from you. So, we come to you now, to thank you for the gift of good teachers. Thank you for teachers who teach what is good. Thank you for teachers who use their gift of teaching to serve others. Thank you for teachers who encourage our students with patient instruction. Thank you for teachers who inspire our students, build them up, and prepare them for the future.

Thank you, Kind Father, for teachers who teach with all their heart, as though they were working for you. Thank you for teachers who teach with integrity, setting an example of goodness. Thank you for teachers who teach with wisdom and kindness. Thank you, Heavenly Father, for teachers who go out of their way to help weaker students. Thank you for teachers who exemplify Christ's teaching of "It is more blessed to give than to receive." We ask, Lord, that you repay our teachers for all they have done, and that you bless them with a full reward.

**O Lord, please bless our teachers; make your face to shine upon them and be gracious to them; Lord, look upon our teachers and shower them with peace.
Amen**

Retrieved from: <https://everydaychristianity365.com/prayers-for-teachers/>

Government Leaders

Therefore, you kings, be wise; be warned, you rulers of the earth. Serve the Lord with fear and rejoice with trembling.

Psalms 2:10-11

For a lack of guidance a nation falls, but many advisers make victory sure.

Proverbs 11:14

If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

2 Chronicles 7:14

I thank you, Lord, that I live in the land of the free because of the brave. What freedom and privilege I enjoy each day without fear of persecution. Raise up God-fearing men and women to serve in state and local government. Promote those who are in right standing with you. Appoint the righteous to represent your people. Holy Spirit, speak to the leaders of this country. Instruct our heads of state. May their will bend to the influence of the Holy Spirit. May they serve with pure hearts and right motives. In Jesus' name, Amen.

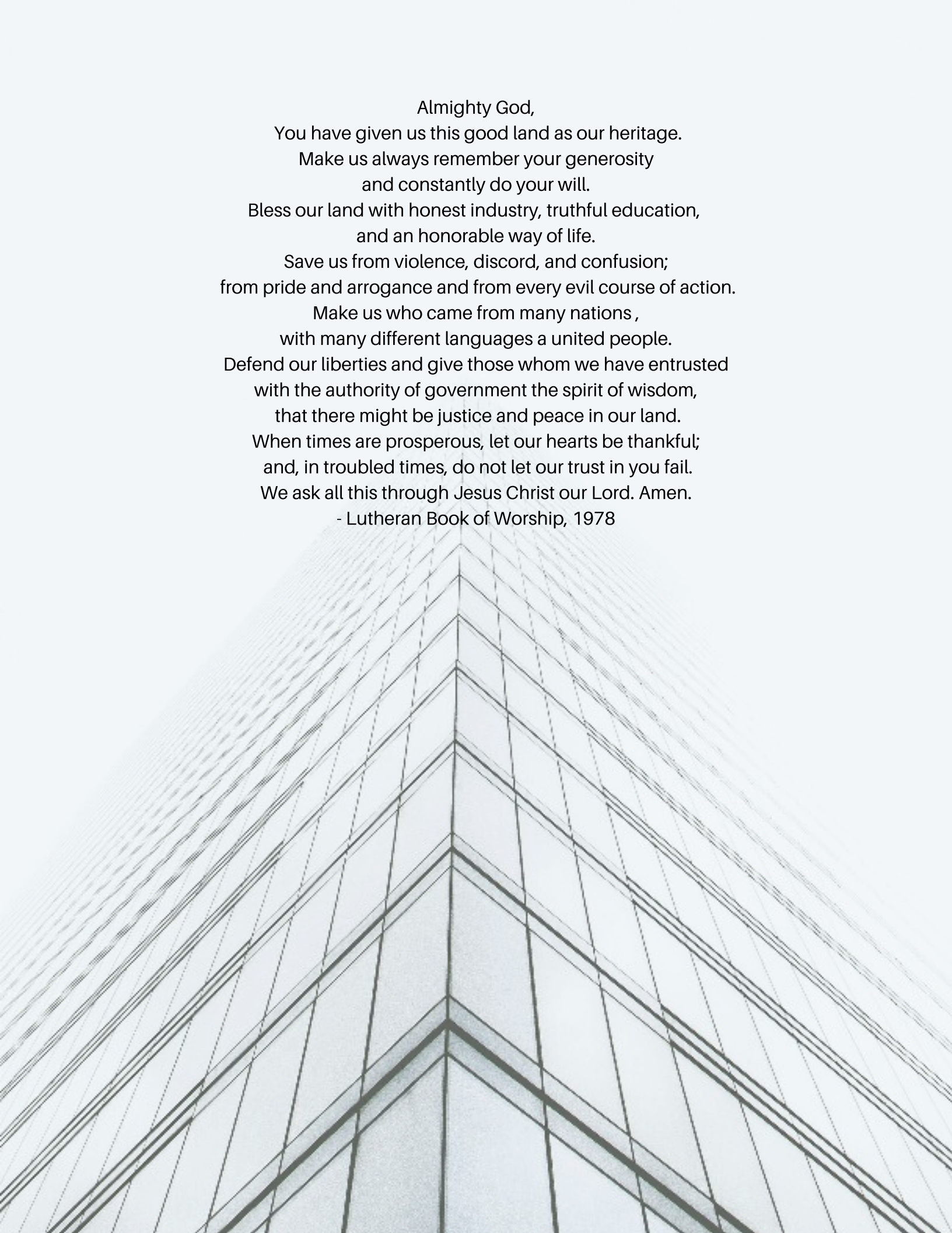
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God of hope, in these times of change, unite our nation and guide our leaders with your wisdom. Give us courage to overcome our fears, and help us to build a future in which all may prosper and share; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

O God our heavenly Father, whose love sets no boundaries and whose strength is in service; grant to the leaders of the nations wisdom, courage and insight at this time of change and uncertainty. Give to all who exercise authority determination to defend the principles of freedom, love and tolerance, strength to protect and safeguard the innocent and clarity of vision to guide the world into the paths of justice and peace. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Retrieved from: <https://www.oxford.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Post-Brexit-Liturgical-Resources.pdf>

God of wisdom, patience and love, we pray for forgiveness and for strength, courage, and wisdom to battle against bitterness, selfishness, hate, and inequity in our governments, home, and across this land. Through your son Jesus Christ, we pray, thy will be done.



Almighty God,
You have given us this good land as our heritage.
Make us always remember your generosity
and constantly do your will.
Bless our land with honest industry, truthful education,
and an honorable way of life.
Save us from violence, discord, and confusion;
from pride and arrogance and from every evil course of action.
Make us who came from many nations,
with many different languages a united people.
Defend our liberties and give those whom we have entrusted
with the authority of government the spirit of wisdom,
that there might be justice and peace in our land.
When times are prosperous, let our hearts be thankful;
and, in troubled times, do not let our trust in you fail.
We ask all this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
- Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978

Emergency Personnel

**For I am the Lord, your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you,
Do not fear; I will help you. Isaiah 41:13**

Almighty God, you lend your strength to all those who are there for us in times of crisis, fear, and hurt. You give courage to the first responders who continue to do this important work they are called to do, looking beyond the risk for the sake of those who need your help and protection. We give you thanks for the many ways they give of themselves, their skills, knowledge and help in troubling times. Protect them, o Lord. Extend your shielding hand over them and comfort their hearts when they are tired and heartbroken.

God, we also lift up prayers of thanksgiving and comfort for the families of first responders and all who support them. Give them hope and courage. Surround them with your loving presence and give them peace when their loved ones run toward uncertainty. All this we pray in your name.

Amen

Retrieved from: <https://www.augsburg.edu/campusministry/2020/03/25/a-prayer-for-first-responders/>

All wise God, you who gives seeds to the sower, you who gives gifts of teaching/instruction without repentance we offer this prayer of thanksgiving and encouragement to Augsburg University's faculty and teachers who are self-less and giving beyond expectations. We offer a prayer of gratitude rain down on their accepting this new challenge of educating our leaders in new ways. We ask that the fruit of their labor produce students who succeed and flourish like new grass under these unforeseen circumstances.

We also prayer for the well-being of all faculty and teachers that they do not feel stressed, discouraged or defeated during this time. Oh God, be mindful of your gifted "tender plants" as they face these challenges and meet the task at hand. Giving the confidence in their vocational call this season. Bless them now we pray with the presence of your promised Holy Comforter and Guide. Amen ~ Rev. Babette Chapman

Retrieved from: <https://www.augsburg.edu/campusministry/2020/03/24/a-prayer-forfaculty-and-teachers/>

Healthcare

God of healing touch, your revelatory vision for the world teems with life, renewal, and wholeness. By way of this vision, you gift humanity with medical knowledge and the healing arts thus equipping healers among us. In these hours, O God, give courage and resolve to doctors, nurses, pharmacists, physician assistants, lab technicians, medical researchers, office support staff, and all healthcare workers laboring in harm's way these trying times of coronavirus. Keep them safe as they bear your fruits of healing for the sake of our nation and all the nations of your world. This we pray offering our thanksgiving for all who are called to heal. Amen. ~ Rev. Justin Lind-Ayres

Retrieved from: <https://www.augsburg.edu/campusministry/2020/03/26/a-prayer-for-healthcare-workers/>

Lord, I come to you asking that you fill healthcare workers and staff with hope, strength, courage and perseverance as they make important and often difficult decisions every day. Provide them the knowledge and wisdom to care for and treat the sick with compassion, excellence, and discernment. Grant them peace in uncertain times through your Holy Spirit. Amen.

Sick, Forgotten and the Marginalized

"This is what the Lord Almighty says; 'Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another. Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the alien or the poor. In your hearts do not think evil of each other.'" Zechariah 7:9-10

God, thank you for the abundance of life, relationships, health, comfort, and wealth you have provided, and thank you that even in times of need, despair, and brokenness, you are there. Please, put your arms around children and families in extreme poverty so they feel comfort and hope; meet their needs both physically and spiritually. And, Lord, guide me so I can be your hands and feet pursuing justice for the poor and upholding the cause of the needy.

Retrieved from: <https://worldvisionadvocacy.org/2016/12/13/praying-for-people-in-poverty/>

Lord, you've asked us to feed the hungry and clothe the naked. Help us Lord to be obedient to your calling and live as your ambassadors. Renew our hearts to care for the poor. Lord, we pray for faster and long-lasting economic development which will empower the poor by improving their living standards. Lord, help us to utilize your resources in a optimum way to address the challenges surrounding poverty. We pray that you will make us more and more like your son, so that we live a life of grace and charity

Excerpts Retrieved from: <https://cornwallalliance.org/2018/03/prayer-for-the-weak-and-the-poor/>

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, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.

Additional Resources

Justice Devotional | Disciples of Christ | <https://cdn.disciples.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/06162546/2013JusticeDevotional.pdf>

Light a Candle With Children is a daily devotion that invites congregations to join in prayer and devotions with our children. | <https://lightacandle.blogspot.com/>

Psalms 4, 9, 19, 22, 23, 32, 42, 44, 51

Psalms 62, 69, 78, 82, 96, 102, 118

Psalms 121, 122, 133, 137, 139, 146