

COMMON PRAYER

**from
The Community of
Aidan and Hilda**



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This international version provides an appendix of materials that are appropriate for the southern hemisphere, and a where local additions may be placed.

Introduction – How to Use this Book

These inclusive patterns of worship are provided by the international Community of Aidan and Hilda and draw from early and contemporary Celtic devotion, Anglican, Orthodox, Reformed and Roman Catholic sources. Members and friends of The Community from four continents have contributed material including Valerie Aitken, Graham Booth, David Cole, Richard Deimel, Janet Fife, Geoff Holt, Heather Johnston, Judy Kennedy, Matt Lamont, Julia McGuiness, Michael Mitton, Peter Neilson, Russ Parker, Simon Reed, Ian Robinson, Mark Slater, Carol Smith, Ray Simpson, Jack Stapleton, Meredith Walker, Pauline Warner, Martin Warren and Tania Witter.

These prayer patterns offer a basic structure. Worshipers may add ingredients such as:

- Confession or lament
- Chant, music or song
- Story
- Silent, free, charismatic or person-led prayer
- Silent or spoken reflection

We recommend that during night prayer there is a space for silent examination of the past day in order to become aware of how God has been at work – a blessing for which to give thanks, a failure for which to say sorry or a lesson to learn.

Symbolic prayer aids may be used such as any being invited to:

- take a stone or leaf and place it in a bowl of water

light a candle
dip hands in water
form a circle

Material from the prayer patterns for other times of the same day may be incorporated as appropriate. The Community's Way of Life encourages "all ways of praying" (Ephesians 6:18). Other ways of praying, from silent contemplation to charismatic celebration may be substituted for these patterns as is appropriate, but this book provides "a default position".

In corporate worship words in bold print are to be said by everyone. When a number 1, 2, 3 etc precedes a sentence it indicates that different persons (or female and male or those on the left and the right) may be invited to read them. In individual worship these should be disregarded.

This book provides seven suggested Psalms, Old Testament and New Testament readings for each Morning and Evening. Some users may prefer to use the readings for the day from the Common Lectionary or another lectionary.

This book provides prayer patterns for morning, midday, evening and night. Praying the Hours (page) explains traditional monastic times for up to eight prayer services. Some readers may start with only one or two. Others may pray in unstructured ways but use this material as a resource to dip into. In the context of modern life we think it best for each person or group to sense the appropriate moments for their daily prayers, carrying an awareness that they resonate with the sun rising in the morning, at its zenith at midday, and at its journey towards setting in the evening. Night Prayer is also known as Compline which derives from a Latin word

meaning completion (completorium). It is meant to be a time of quiet and reflection on the day (the examen) after which physical or digital noise fades.

Seasonal prayer patterns need not be used each day of a season. The weather and the atmosphere may indicate when it is appropriate to use a natural season prayer pattern instead of the normal pattern.

Natural Seasons

Some parts of the world have seven seasons, for example a hot, or dry or windy season; some places have only one. Most have four seasons, although these are opposite times of year in the northern and southern hemispheres. Rather than omit all seasonal material, we have based material on the four seasons in Celtic lands, indicating their dates in the southern hemisphere. Where imagery is used which is alien in other lands, for example, frolicking lambs, users of this prayer book may replace these with imagery more familiar to them.

The *Celtic Wheel of the Year* is an annual cycle of seasonal festivals. This cross-cultural construct, formulated in the 20th century, comprises the first day of the four Celtic seasons, the two equinoxes and the two solstices but it draws on ancient, including Christian traditions. In the Southern Hemisphere the dates are advanced by six months to coincide with their own seasons.

Three Lents

There are references in early Irish Penitentials to the practice of keeping three seasons of Lent: the forty week days before

Easter, forty days before the Nativity, and forty days after Pentecost. The introductions to the patterns of prayer for the Christmas and the Pentecost season refer to this option for those who find it helpful.

Sacraments

Some members belong to branches of the church which have their authorised forms of worship for sacraments. For this reason this book does not provide for Eucharists, baptisms, weddings or funerals. Some members belong to branches of the church which allow for expressions of these which suit local or ecumenical circumstances, or for enrichments to prescribed forms. For such purposes we offer material on our web sites and in other publications, and users are welcome to download and use them as they wish.

The worship leader may invite worshippers to adopt a posture such as having the palms of the hands stretched out and open.

Simple, Everyday Prayer Patterns suitable for memorising

Simple Morning Prayer

Opening

Shine on us, Lord, like the sun that lights up day;
chase away the dark and all shadow of sin.
May we wake eager to hear your Word;
as day follows night may we be bathed in your glory.

Psalm

Read from any psalm or this extract from Psalm 63:

O God, I long for you from early morning; my whole being desires you. Like a dry, worn-out and waterless land my soul is thirsty for you. Let me see you in the place of prayer; let me see how glorious you are. Your constant love is better than life itself, and so I will praise you. I will give thanks as long as I live. I will raise my hands to you in prayer. My soul will feast and be satisfied, and I will sing glad songs of praise to you.

Chant or song

Illumine our hearts, O Lord;
implant in us a desire for your truth.
May all that is false within us flee.

Bible reading

Hosea 6:1-6, Luke 4:16-21 or John 6:52-59

Silence, song or meditation

Lord,
we offer you all we are, all we have, all we do,
and all whom we shall connect with this day,
that you will be given the glory.

We offer you our homes and work, our schools
and leisure, and everyone in our community today;
may all be done as to you.

We offer you those who lack and those who earn.
May the wealth and work of the world
be available to all
and for the exploitation of none.

Closing

Circle us, Lord.

Keep strife without, keep peace within.

Keep fear without, keep hope within.

Keep pride without, keep trust within.

Keep harm without, keep good within.

May we walk in the hope of your kingdom,

fill us with your light and love.

Be with us all through this day,

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Simple Midday Prayer

Opening

We come into the presence of the creating Birther.

We come into the presence of the workaday Son.

We come into the presence of the renewing Spirit.

We come into the presence of the Three in One.

Psalm

Unless the Lord builds the house, the work of the builders is useless. Unless the Lord builds the city, the security guards keep watch in vain. It is useless to get up too early and go to bed too late; for the Lord provides for those he loves.

Psalm 127:1, 2

As the press of work pauses at noon

may God's Rest be upon us.

As the sun rides high at noon,

may the Sun of Righteousness shine upon us.

As the rain refreshes the stained, stale streets

may the Spirit bring rain upon our dry ground.

Silence or sharing

Bible reading

Read and meditate on this paraphrase from Ephesians 6:6, 7 or another verse from the Bible.

Whatever the work you do, do it to the Lord, with a sense of respect for those served by your work

The Lord's Prayer may be said.

Lead me from death to life,
from falsehood to truth.

**Lead me from despair to hope,
from fear to trust.**

Lead me from hate to love,
from war to peace.

**Deep peace of the Son of peace
fill our hearts, our workplace, our world.**

Closing

Bless us now, Lord, in the middle of the day,
be with us and all who are dear to us.

**Keep us in the beautiful attitudes,
joyful, simple and gentle.**

May the Three of limitless love
be in the eye of each one we shall meet,
and pour upon us tenderly and generously
hour by hour.

Simple Evening Prayer

Opening

Spirit of the Risen Christ,
As shadows fall and lights shine
light up our hearts with the fire of your love.

Candles may be lit. All say or sing

The light of Christ has come into the world!

We give you thanks that you led our forebears in
the Faith through a cloud by day and a fire by night.
We give you thanks, kindly Light,
that the torch of faith was brought to this land,
and that you ever lead your people on.
Light up our dark hearts by the light of your Christ;
may his Word illumine our way,
for you pour forth loving kindness
upon your whole creation,
Source and Saviour and radiant Spirit.

**May the Light of lights come to my dark heart;
may the Spirit's wisdom come to me from my Saviour.
May the peace of the Spirit be mine this night,
the peace of the Son be mine this night,
the peace of the Father be mine this night,
the peace of all peace be mine this night,
each morning and evening of my life.**

Psalm

Psalm 27 or 146

Bible reading

Mark 4:35-41

Forgiveness

We offer to you, Lord, the troubles of this day;
we lay down our burdens at your feet.
Forgive us our sins, give us your peace,
and help us to receive your Word.

Thanksgiving

We give you thanks that you are always present,
in all things, each day and each night.
We give you thanks for your gifts of creation, life and
friendship.
We give you thanks for the blessings of this day.

Blessings may be named in silence or aloud

There may be singing.

Intercessions

Into your hands, O Lord,
we place our families, our neighbours,
our brothers and sisters in Christ,
and all whom we have met today . . .

pause or give names.

Enfold them in your will.

Enfold them in your will.

Into your hands, O Lord,
we place all who are victims of prejudice, oppression or
neglect;

the unwanted, the frail . . .

pause or give names.

May everyone be cherished from conception to the grave.

May everyone be cherished from conception to the grave.

Into your hands, O Lord,
we place all who are restless, sick,
or prey to the powers of evil . . .

pause or give names.

Keep them in your peace.

Keep them in your peace.

Into your hands, O Lord,
we place these members of our community
and others in our hearts . . . *pause or give names.*

Watch over them.

Watch over them and watch over us this night.

Closing

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

Amen.

Simple Night Prayer

Opening

In the name of the restful Father,
in the name of the calming Son,
in the name of the peaceful Spirit.
May we and God be one.

We place our souls and bodies
under your guarding this night, O God,
O Father of help to frail pilgrims,
protector of heaven and earth.

**We place our souls and bodies
under your guiding this night, O Christ,
O Son of the tears and the woundings,
may your cross this night be our shield.**

We place our souls and bodies
under your glowing this night, O Spirit,
O gentle Companion, and Soul Friend,
our hearts' eternal Warmth.

Psalm

Say or sing the following from Psalm 134 or read another psalm

**Come bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord,
Who stand by night in the house of the Lord;
Lift up your hands in the holy place,
Come bless the Lord, come bless the Lord.**

May that part of me that did not grow at morning,
grow at nightfall . . . (*Pause.*)

You are our Saviour and Lord.
In our stumbling be our shield.

In our tiredness be our Rest.
In our darkness be our Light.

O Christ, Son of the living God,
may your holy angels guard our sleep;
may they watch over us as we rest
and hover around our beds.
Let them to reveal to us in our dreams
visions of your glorious truth.
May no fears or worries delay
our willing, prompt repose.

Read these or other words of Christ

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will
give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for
I am gentle and humble of heart, and you will find rest for
your souls.

Matthew 11:28, 29

Silence or spontaneous words

O God, bless and keep our dear ones, wherever they are,
especially . . .

May the great and strong heavenly task force
encircle us all with their outstretched arms;

**to protect us from the hostile powers,
to put balm into our dreams,
to give us contented, sweet repose.**

We lie down this night with God
and God will lie down with us.
We lie down this night with Christ
and Christ will lie down with us.
We lie down this night with the Spirit
and the Spirit will lie down with us.
God and Christ and the Spirit
lying down with us.

Closing

I make the sign of the Cross of Christ.
**My Christ, my Shield, my Encircler;
each day, each night, in light, in dark,
my Treasure, my dear One.**

The almighty and merciful Three encircle us,
that awake we may watch with Christ,
and asleep we may rest in peace.

Sundays and Easter Season

Jesus Christ, Son of God, rose from the dead on the first day of the week, so for Christians Sunday is a day to celebrate resurrection and renewal of our personal and common life.

Sunday Morning Prayer

Opening

Rising from death, today Christ greets his people.

Rising with all creation, we greet you as our King.

Singing or a Declaration of praise

Psalm

Psalm 81, 98, 118, 147:1-12, 147:13-20, 148, 150 or the set psalm.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 12, 25:1-9, 26:1-19, 35, 42:10-16, 51:1-11, 61 or the reading of the day.

A psalm, song or Declaration

New Testament Reading

Matthew 28:1-10, Mark 16:1-8, Luke 24:1-12, 1 Corinthians 5:6-8, 15:1-11, Colossians 3:1-7, 3:9-17 or the reading of the day.

*Let us recollect the presence of the Risen Christ
with us now. Short silence*

Forgiveness

Christ Jesus, in the light of your risen presence, and in union with your first frail apostles, we say sorry:

That we have failed to weigh your words, share your trials and believe your promises.

Things for which we are sorry may be recalled aloud or in silence.

Risen Christ,

disperse the sin from our souls as the mist departs from the hills.

Be in what we do, inform what we say, redeem who we are.

Amen.

Jesus says:

I am the resurrection and the life.

You break the power of sin and death.

I am the bread of life.

You feed and fill the hungry.

I am the true vine.

You bring us life eternal.

Let us bless the everlasting Lord.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Reflection

The Apostles Creed or the following may be declared

God of all people,

God of heaven and earth, sea and rivers,

God of sun and moon and all the stars,

God of high mountains and low valleys,

God over heaven and in heaven and under heaven.

God dwells in heaven and in earth and in all things within them.

God inspires all, enlivens all, is over all, supports all.

God makes the sun to shine, the lights of the night, and wells in the dry earth.

God has a Son, co-eternal with himself, and the Holy Spirit breathes in them.

The Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit are not separate.

Echoes 'Saint Patrick's Creed'.

Sing a Gloria or silence.

Intercessions

Risen Christ,

you revealed yourself to Mary in the garden at dawn;

reveal yourself to us in the dawns of our lives.

You revealed yourself to the fisherfolk as they toiled in vain at their work;

reveal yourself to us in the long hours of our toil.

You revealed yourself to the walkers as they welcomed you into their home;

reveal yourself to us as we walk and make welcome our homes.

You revealed yourself to Thomas when he felt the scars in your body;

reveal yourself to us when we touch the scars of the world.

You revealed yourself to many as they met beneath the skies;

reveal yourself to us in the wonder of your creation.

Either invite the Risen Christ into dawnings, work situations, travels or inner conflicts and visualise what He says or does. Or use the following themes as headings for extended intercessions.

We pray for believers;
may their lives be signs of joyful service...

We pray that our churches may bring honour to you;
and healing to the people...

We pray for people in authority;
may they strive for justice and peace...

We pray for our homes;
may they be places of hospitality and hope...

There may be a song.

Closing

The God of life go with us.
The Risen Christ beside us.
The vibrant Spirit within us.

Sunday Midday Prayer

Opening

Risen Christ, you burst from the grave;
burst into life through us.

You are the Light of the world.
A light no darkness can quench.

Jesus, rising in glory,
scatter the darkness from our paths.

Song or psalm

Psalm 30:1-5, 66:1-11, 67, 111, 114, 117, 118:1-14 or the set psalm

Risen Christ, bring newness of life
into our stale routines,
into our wearied spirits,
into our tarnished relationships

New Testament reading

Habakkuk 2:14, Matthew 28:20, Mark 5:39, John 11:25, 1 Corinthians 15:22, 15:35-36, 2 Corinthians 4:12 or the reading of the day.

There may be meditation and song.

Risen Christ of the miraculous catch of fish,
be with us as we work.

Risen Christ of the perfect lakeside meal,
be with us as we eat.

Risen Christ, of the workaday life

make this a day of joy and peace.

Reveal yourself to

At a shared Sunday lunch:

You give us well-being in the midst of the day;

a day of renewal,

a day of growth,

a day of sharing food.

A candle may be lit.

May the freshness and the fragrance of the fields
be with us as we eat.

**May the freshness and fragrance of Christ be
with us as we meet.**

Or

The food which we are to eat is earth, water and sun
coming to us through pleasing plants.

**The food which we are to eat
is the fruit of the labour of many creatures.**

We are thankful for it.

**May it give us health, strength, joy
and may it increase our love.**

Closing

May we

**look upon others with your resurrection eyes,
serve others with your lightness of touch,
and know your well-being in the depths of our soul.**

The Risen Christ be with us
to help us do all things well.

Sunday Evening Prayer

Opening

Spirit of the Risen Christ,
as the lamps light up the evening,
shine into our hearts and kindle in us the fire of your love.

An Easter Candle-lighting, *(See Easter liturgies)*

We offer to you, Lord, the concerns of this day;
we lay down our burdens at your feet.

**Forgive us our sins, give us your peace,
and help us to receive your Word.
In the name of Christ. Amen.**

Psalm

Psalm 66 or the psalm of the day

Old Testament reading

Song of Songs 2:8-end, 3:2-5, 8:6-7, Jeremiah 31:1-14,
Ezekiel 37:1-14, Micah 7:7-end, Zechariah 8:1-8 or the
reading of the day.

New Testament reading

Luke 24:13-15, John 20:1-18, Acts 5:27-32, 13:26-41, 17:16-31, 26:1-23, 1 John 5:4-12 or the reading of the day.

Silent reflection, teaching or song.

We give you thanks, our Provider,
that you are always present, in all things,
each day and each night.

We give you thanks for your gifts of creation,
life and friendship.

We give you thanks for the particular blessings of this day . . .

*There may be a brief pause; sharing of what God has done
for us or the naming of blessings.*

Intercessions

There may be free prayer where indicated (. . .).

Risen Christ, into your hands we place our families, our
neighbours, our brothers and sisters in Christ, and all with
whom we have connected today . . .

Enfold them in your will.

Risen Christ, into your hands we place all who are victims of
prejudice, oppression or neglect; the frail, the unwanted . . .

May everyone be cherished from conception to the grave.

Risen Christ, into your hands we place all who are restless,
sick, or prey to the powers of evil . . .

Tenderly watch over them.

Risen Christ, bring renewal to the land and to the church; to
ordained ministries and to religious communities.

**Raise up new callings and communities that meet the need
of our times.**

There may be a song.

Closing

Lord Jesus Christ, Light of the world,
by your cross you have overcome all darkness that oppresses.
Come and shine on us here

that we may grow and live together in your love
which makes us one with all humanity.

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

Sunday Night Prayer

Opening

Glory to you, Christ our King, radiant with light,
Gleam upon our sleep this night.

Psalm

Psalm 118:15-24, 125:1-3, 126, 136:1-4, 145:1-14, 146, 150
or the set psalm.

Lord Jesus Christ, who at this hour lay in the tomb
And so hallowed the grave to be a bed of hope,
We will lie down in hope and rise up in joy.

This night, O Victor over death:
**raise us from the death of denial,
raise us from the death of fear,
raise us from the death of despair.**

This night, O Victor over death:
**wake us to the eternal 'Yes',
wake us to the rays of Hope,
wake us to the light of Dawn.**

There may be singing or music.

New Testament reading

John 20:19-20, 1 Peter 3:18-22, 2 Corinthians 4:11-16 or
another New Testament reading

Risen Christ of the scars, who spoke peace to your desolate
disciples,
speak peace this night to us and to desolate ones we love.

We remember these before you . . .

(Any may mention names.)

Risen Christ of the lakeside, who nourished and inspired your disciples, inspire us and these your loved ones to rest this night in your presence.

We lie down in peace knowing our sins are forgiven;

we lie down in peace knowing death has no fear.

We lie down in peace knowing no powers can harm us;

we lie down in peace knowing angels are near.

There may be silence, singing or music.

Closing

Deep peace of the setting sun,

deep peace of the forgiving heart,

deep peace of the lakeside Christ

be ours, tonight, for ever.

Mondays and Creation

Monday Morning Prayer

Opening

God of life, you summon the day to dawn
and call us to create with you.

**You are the Rock from which all earth is fashioned.
You are the Food from which all souls are fed.
You are the Force from which all power lines travel.
You are the Source who is creation's head.**

Psalm

Psalm 1, 33:1-9, 95, 136:1-9, 146, 148 the following
verses from Psalm 104 or the set psalm.

First

Creator God, how great you are!
You clothe yourself in light;
you stretch out the skies like a tent.

Second

Winds are your messengers,
flames are your servants.
You water the earth until it gives us food.

First

How abundant are your works, O God,
in wisdom have you made them all.

Second

The creatures teeming the earth,
the sea, vast and wide –
innumerable things, small and great, live within it.

All

**All these look to you for their food in due season.
When you send forth your Spirit they are created
and you renew the face of the earth.**

First

May your glory last for ever,
may you always have joy in what you have created.

Second

May our thoughts always give you pleasure,
may we always rejoice in you.

All

**Glory to you, the Source of all being,
Eternal Word and Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be.**

Declaration

This we know, the earth does not belong to us;
the earth is God's and we will serve it.

This we know, we did not weave the web of life;
the earth is God's and we will serve it.

Whatever befalls the earth befalls the sons and daughters of
the earth;
the earth is God's and we will serve it.

Lament

Creator and Saviour,
**we have
exploited earth for our selfish ends,
turned our backs on the cycles of life
and forgotten we are your stewards.**
Now soils become barren,
air and water become unclean,
species disappear,

**and humans are diminished.
In penitence we come to you.**

God, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
God, have mercy.

There may be silence, a statement of forgiveness and singing.

Old Testament reading

Genesis 1:1-8, 1:9-24, 1:25-2:3, Job 38:1-12, 38:13-24,
38:25-33, Isaiah 24:4, 5, Isaiah 55:6-13 or the reading for the
day

New Testament reading

Luke 13:6-9, John 1:1-3a, Acts 14:8-17, Romans 1:19,20,
Colossians 1:15-20, Revelation 21:1, 22:1-5 or the reading for
the day

The Glory of Creation

For earth and sea and sky in the harmony of colour,
we give you thanks, O God.

For the air of the eternal seeping through the physical,
we give you thanks, O God.

For the everlasting glory dipping into time,
we give you thanks, O God.

For nature resplendent, growing beasts, emergent crops, the
energies of the city,
we give you thanks, O God.

For the Person you sent to restore us when we fell away from
the goodness of your creation,

we give you thanks, O God.

For harmony restored through your Spirit moving upon the turbulent waters of our lives,

we give you thanks, O God.

For the honour you give us of lives that flow in the rhythm of your tides,

we give you thanks, O God.

For setting each of us, like the stars upon their courses, within the orbit of your love,

we give you thanks, O God.

Echoes a prayer of George McLeod

This may be followed by teaching, creative activity or a declaration.

Intercessions

For creation such as the following.

May this day be graced with our attentive, loving work.

Caring Father God, we offer to you
the fuels and forests,
the seas and soil,
the air and animals,
the textiles and technology of the world ...

**May we steward your creation to your glory
and for the benefit of future generations.**

Faithful Worker Christ, we bring you
our commerce and communications,
education and government
manufacturing and administration
May our work today be to your glory

For the benefit of all, and for the exploitation of none.

Gracious Spirit, may we bring to you
our caring professions,
health and social services
charities and public provisions
**May this day be graced by attentive care
and loving presence.**

In dependence on the God of life,
may we cherish the precious earth;
**the earth of the God of life,
the earth of the Christ of love,
the earth of the Spirit Holy.**

There may be a special or seasonal prayer or The Lord's Prayer

Closing

God bless the sky that is above us,
the earth that is beneath us,
**your image deep within us,
the day that lies before us.**

Monday Midday Prayer

Opening

Great Spirit, whose breath is felt in the soft breeze,
and whose life surges through socket and screen;
we seek your strength in the midst of the day.
May we, and the peoples of the world,
work in dignity and walk in the beauty of the day.

Blessed be God the birther of life.

Blessed be God the bringer of light.

Blessed be God the bestower of skills.

Intercessions

O Son of God, change our hearts.

Your Spirit composes the songs of the birds,
your creation is a million wondrous miracles.

Your creation is beautiful to look upon.

We ask of you just one more miracle:
beautify our souls.

Music or reflection

Psalm

Psalm 67, 102:25-28, 104:1-24, 119:89-91, Job 38:36-41, Job 38:44-50. Isaiah 24:4, 5, Isaiah 45:18 or the set psalm.

New Testament reading

Listen to words from God:

Happy you who are gentle; the earth belongs to you (Matthew 5:5) or Jeremiah 1:11,12, Jeremiah 8:7, Matthew 7:15-20, Mark 1:9-13, Mark 4:26-34, John 12:24 or the reading of the day.

Worker Christ, as we enter our workplace, may we bring your presence with us.

Grace us to speak your peace and perfect order into its atmosphere.

Remind us to acknowledge your authority over all that will be thought, decided and accomplished within it.

Give us a fresh supply of truth and beauty on which to draw as we work.

O God, you called all life into being;

your presence is around us now,

your Spirit enlivens all who work.

May your kingdom come on earth.

Impart to us wisdom to understand your ways,

to manage well the tasks of this day.

Make us co-creators with you

that when day fades we may come to you without shame.

We pray for this world you have given us;

for the planting of seeds

and for the propagation of stock,

in the soils and in the commerce of the world.

Sustain those who extract the minerals, create textiles, farm the land or develop technology.

**Encircle those who can neither sow nor reap
because human ills have drained them.**

We will labour,

but God will bless our work.

We will walk,

but God will bless our footsteps.

We will suffer,
but God will bless our tears.
Contained in the earth are the seeds of all.
Contained in the soul is the Son of God.

Singing or free prayer.

Bless all work done today
that enables the human family
to be clothed, fed and housed,
to travel and learn,
to communicate and exchange wisely,
to craft and celebrate,
in everything reflecting your glory.

There may be singing.

Closing

May you, our God, who dances with creation,
plants your likeness in the people
and strikes the world with thunder,
send us out to fill the world with love.
Amen.

Monday Evening Prayer

Opening

We bless you, O God and forget not all your benefits,
we bless you for your creation which is alive with your glory.

You nod and beckon to us through every stone and star,
as the sun sets in the west may we settle down with you.

Psalm

Psalm 24, 29, 36:5-9, 95, 104:1-13, 104:14-24, 104:25-35, the following from Psalm 50 or the set psalm.

The mighty God calls to the earth
from sun's rising to its sleep.
God the Eternal Source shines forth
perfect in spiritual beauty.

**With fiery skies and raging storms
God calls to heaven, to earth:
'Bring to me those faithful souls
who give their hearts to me.'**

The Mighty God requires our eyes
and beckons us to listen:
'You cannot earn a place near me,
for all that lives is mine:

**The cattle on a thousand hills,
the wildlife, trees and birds.
If I lacked, I'd not tell you
for all that lives is mine.**

So call to me in trial, in joy,
and give to me your thanks.
Do not ingratiate yourselves;
let gratitude abound.'

*There may be silent reflection on the spoiling of God's
creation, or singing.*

Old Testament reading

Genesis 2:4-9, Genesis 6:17-22, Genesis 8:13-22, Proverbs
30:24-28, Isaiah 11:6-9, Isaiah 65:17-25, Jeremiah 8:5-7,
51:20-24, Hosea 2:14-23, Judith 16:13-16 or the reading of
the day.

New Testament reading

Matthew 6:25-34, Matthew 27:45-51, Mark 13:28,29, Luke
8:22-25, Luke 15:1-7, Romans 8:19-28, 1 John 4:2-12 or the
reading of the day.

*This may be followed by silence, teaching and a
proclamation.*

We bless you, Lord,
**for the beauty of the trees,
the softness of the air,
the fragrance of the grass.**

We bless you, Lord,
**for the soaring of the skies,
the rhythms of the earth,
the stillness of the night.**

We bless you, Lord,
**for the twinkling of the stars,
the freshness of the morning,
the dewdrops on the flower.**

We bless you, Lord,
**for the taste of good food,
the trail of the sun,
and the life that never goes away.**

*Chief Dan George (24 July 1899–23 September 1981)
Chief of the Tsleil-Waututh Nation, North Vancouver,
British Columbia.*

Intercessions

Generosity of God, spilling over into creation,
we pray for the well-being of the creation.
Show us how to reflect your rhythms in our life
and conserve the world's rich resources ...
(Any may mention names.)

This day we encircle our brothers and sisters in the
community (especially those in the prayer diary today) ...
the love of the Father to warm you
the arms of Jesus to hold you
the light of the Spirit to guide you
the life of the Three to fill you.

Closing

Into your hands, O Lord,
we place our families,
our neighbours,
and all whom we have met this day ...
encourage and enfold them in your will.

**Peace to the land and all that grows on it.
Peace to the sea and all that swims in it.
Peace to the air and all that flies through it.
Peace with our God who calls us to serve.**

Monday Night Prayer

Opening

Let the light fade and the work be done,
let the flowers and the laptops close,
let the sun go down and the world become still
and let the Son of God draw near.

Blest be all creation,
for all life comes from you.

Blest be the earth,
may it support our bed tonight.

There may be singing.

Psalm

Psalm 8, 16, 19:1-6, 74, 105:26-45, 114, 119:82-91 or the set psalm

Bible reading

Genesis 1:3-5, 31a, Psalm 136:1-9 or another Bible passage

We give you thanks that you are always present,
in all things, each day and each night.

We give you thanks for your gifts of creation, life and friendship.

We give you thanks for the blessings of this day . . .

Name blessings in silence or aloud.

When we are still we can sense you, our Maker,
we can feel your hand upon us.

All that has been made stirs within us creation's
song of praise.

Now we give you thanks for work completed.

We give you thanks for rest of night.

Guardian of the planets,
Kindler of the stars,
we pass into the darkness
encompassed by you.

There may be silence or singing.

We offer you our concerns and the needs of your creation.

Silent or spoken prayer

Thank you for your love for us, strong and nurturing;
we give back our lives to you.

Thank you for our minds and bodies;
we give back our lives to you.

Thank you for the past day;
we give back our lives to you.

After creation God rested;
we give back our lives to you.

Closing

Protect us through the hours of this night,
be they silent or stormy, that we who are wearied
by the changes and chances of a restless world
may rest upon you eternally.

You created the world out of love;
now we return to you in love.

Let us rest in God this night
and awake in newness of life.

Tuesdays Incarnation

God with us – making peace

The Uncreated Light enters into the created world through the vulnerabilities of birth and the embracing of all mortals. We seek that Jesus be incarnate in every people and culture.

The incarnation of God's Son is an act of peacemaking that initiates a ceaseless peace process on earth. The peace for which we pray is not just the absence of war, but is rooted in the fundamental peacemaking action of God, who has made peace with the hostile human race by becoming one with it. At his birth angels proclaimed Jesus to be the Prince of Peace and in the Celtic tradition Jesus is pictured as bounding down mountains towards human beings holding out a hand of reconciliation. Jesus calls us, in turn, to become peacemakers.

Tuesday Morning Prayer

Opening

Glory to the most High God who has come to live
among us,

who has come to make peace in a hostile world.

The night has passed and the day lies open before us
Let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence

Psalm

Psalm 5, 72, 85, 89:19-29, 111, 118:19-29, 122 or the set psalm.

Canticle of the Incarnation

Christ, born of the loveliest Mary,
you are with us in our birth.

Christ, brought up as a carpenter,
you are with us in our work.

Christ, friend of seeker and outcast,
you are with us in our relationships.

Christ, noble in suffering and death,
you are with us in our trials.

Christ, eternal Son of God,
you are with us evermore.

Old Testament reading

Micah 4:1-4, Isaiah 7:14, 26:12, 54:10, 55:12, Genesis 49:8-10, Proverbs 12:20 or the reading of the day.

Dear Son of Mary, you took flesh to redeem us,
change our hearts.

Dear Son of God, You came to us with sacrificial love,
change our hearts.

There may be silence or these words of forgiveness.

The Son of God bounds towards us reaching out
a hand of reconciliation.

Let us take it, and listen to God's Word.

New Testament reading

Matthew 2:13-end, Luke 2:22-40, Galatians 4:1-7, Ephesians 2:12-22, Hebrews 1:1-4, 1 John 1:1-9 or 4:7-16 or the reading of the day.

Time of quiet reflection or the Declaration

We bless you, great God

We bless you, our great God,
for you have set your people free.

You have raised up for us a mighty Saviour,
born of your servant David's family.

Through your holy prophets you promised of old
that you would save us from all who hate us.

You promised to show mercy to our forebears
and to remember your holy covenant.

You vowed to our ancestor Abraham
to set us free to worship you without fear.

The dawn from on high shall break upon us
to shine on those in darkness and to guide us into peace.

You came to make peace.
Your peace come to me and all whom I contact this day.

Intercessions

Babe of heaven, defenceless Love,
you had to travel far from your home.
Strengthen us on our pilgrimage of trust on earth.

King of glory, you accepted such humbling.
Clothe us with the garments of humility.

Your birth shows us the beauty of the Father's love.
Keep us in the beauty of that love.

Prince of Peace, you break down the barriers that divide us
Help us to build bridges, not walls.

Great Reconciler, you call the peace-makers blessed,
Strengthen all who work for peace in places torn apart by the
ravages of sin, especially ...

examples may be named

Christ who comes with justice and peace,
Jesus, Suffering Servant, be with all victims of oppression and
violence, especially ...

examples may be named

Singing or the Lord's Prayer

Closing prayer based on the final words of St David.

Teach us, our God and King,
to love you in each person,
to love by noticing the little things,
to love by cherishing the little things,
to pray by offering the little things,
through the love of your Incarnate Son
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

**God help us to live simply,
Laugh often and love deeply. Amen**

**May we see the face of Christ in everyone we meet.
May everyone we meet see the face of Christ in us.**

Tuesday Midday Prayer

Opening

O Christ, you came forth among us
to restore our ancient beauty

And you know us each by name

In the whirling wheels of the world,
you are with us.

When the day takes its toll,
you are with us.

In the clamour of strife,
you are with us.

When life seems sour,
you are with us.

On suitable occasions anyone may add a sentence:

Any When . . .

All **You are with us.**

There may be singing.

Make us aware, dear God, of
the eye that beholds us,
the hand that holds us,
the heart that loves us,
the Presence that enfolds us.

Psalm

Psalm 100, 103:1-18, 117 or any sections of 119.

Bible verses

Your will keep in perfect peace those whose mind is steadfast because they trust in you.

Isaiah 26:3.

Any of these or other words of Christ are read:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Emmanuel, which means God with us

Matthew 1:23

Happy are you who are peacemakers.

You will be called God's children.

Matthew 5:9

I am with you always to the end of the ages. *Matthew 28:20*

My peace I give to you, not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

John 14:27

Since we have been put right with God through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 5:1

Prayer for the nations of the world.

The following refrain may be said

Peacemaker God, hold back the hands that kill and maim,
Melt the hearts that hate.

Lead us from fear to trust.

Lead us from despair to hope.

Lead us from hate to love.

Lead us from war to peace.

**Deep peace of the Son of peace
Fill our hearts, our workplace, our world.**

**Circle us, O God, for the rest of the day:
Keep strife without, keep peace within.**

Any may pray

Circle us, O God.

Keep ... without,

keep ... within.

Closing

May the eternal Glory shine upon us,
may the Son of Mary stay beside us,
may the life-giving Spirit hover over us,
may the eternal Three be ever with us.

Tuesday Evening Prayer

Opening

The peace of Christ has come into the world.

The peace of Christ come into the world.

Psalm

Psalm 19, 46, 80, 85, 97, 110, 117 or the set psalm.

Mary's Song may be said (see Declarations)

**Magnificat, magnificat,
praise God my soul, always.
God's mercy penetrates my being,
brings joy to all our days.**

**Deserted folk God won't forget,
God meets our every need.
The proud are downed, the poor raised up,
tell our God's wondrous deed.**

To the tune 'Amazing Grace'

There may be a pause.

Forgive us our sins, give us your peace,
and help us to receive your Word.

In the name of Christ.

Old Testament reading

Isaiah 9:2-7, 11:1-9, 41:8-20, 54:9-10, 55:12-13 62:11-end,
Micah 4:1-4 or the reading of the day.

Christ bounds down the mountains

When the day takes its toll,

Christ bounds down the mountains towards us.

When we cry out in pain,

Christ bounds down the mountains towards us.

When all's well with the world,

Christ bounds down the mountains towards us.

When we need strength to do right,

Christ bounds down the mountains towards us.

New Testament reading

Luke 2:67-79, John 14:25-27, Romans 8:28-39, Philippians 2:5-11, 4:4-7, Hebrews 1:1-6, James 4:1-12 or the reading of the day.

Thanksgiving

We give you thanks, our God, that you are always present, in all things, each day and each night. We give you thanks for your gifts of creation, life and friendship. We give you thanks for the blessings of this day . . .

There may be a brief pause, the naming of blessings, or some other sung response.

Intercessions

Christ, the peace of things above, and the rest of those below, establish in your peace the five continents, and especially your universal Church.

Destroy wars from the ends of the earth and disperse those who delight in terror.

Child of glory, Child of Mary, born in the stable, King of all,
you came to our wasteland; in our place suffered.

By choosing to be born as a child
you teach us to revere every human life.

**May we never despise, degrade or destroy it.
Rather, help us sustain and preserve it.**

Child of humanity,
Trinity's only Son,
gentle and strong,
from whose line we come,
bring your peace to your warring children.

**Peace between rich and poor,
peace between believers and unbelievers,
peace between parents and children,
peace in troubled families and those in personal torment.**

Bring your peace to those we name before you
now . . .

There may be singing.

Help us, Lord,
to guard our words,
to overcome hostility with love,
to make peace
in love of the Prince of Peace.

Closing

To be said or sung.

Deep peace of the running wave to you,
deep peace of the flowing air to you,
deep peace of the quiet earth to you,
deep peace of the shining stars to you,
deep peace of the Son of peace to you,
deep peace, deep peace.

Celtic Hymn Book, no. 40

Tuesday Night Prayer

Opening

The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and a perfect end.
Amen.

Peace to us and to all who seek good.

**The peace of the Spirit be mine this night,
the peace of the Son be mine this night,
the peace of the Father be mine this night,
the peace of all peace be mine this night,
each morning and evening of my life.**

Sing 'Before the ending of the day' (See Declarations)

We offer you, Lord, the concerns of this day,
we lay down our burdens at your feet.
Forgive us our sins, give us your peace,
and help us to receive your Word.

Bible readings.

Many people say, 'If only we might see some good!
Let some light from your face shine upon us, O God!'

You have put gladness in my heart
more than when all their material benefits abound.
I will lie down and sleep in peace;
for you alone, O God, make me lie down in safety.

From Psalm 4

The following or other words of Christ are read.

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble of heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

Matthew 11:28, 29

Or John 6:16-21 or another reading.

May fears of day recede,
may treasures of night draw near.

Silent reflection, examen, Lord's Prayer and/or singing.

O Christ, Son of the living God,
may your holy angels guard our sleep;
may they watch over us as we rest
and hover around our beds.
Let them to reveal to us in our dreams
visions of your glorious truth.
May no fears or worries delay
our willing, prompt repose.

Closing

We lie down in peace knowing our sins are forgiven;
we lie down in peace knowing death has no fear.
We lie down in peace knowing no powers can harm us;
we lie down in peace knowing Jesus is near.

Wednesdays and Pentecost Season

The Healing, Renewing Spirit

This follows naturally from the themes of God creating (Mondays) and Redeeming (Tuesdays), and leads into Thursday's theme of the Triune God. We pray for the sick and 'lay hands' on every part of God's world to bless it and recognise its right to wholeness in Christ. The prayer patterns for Pentecost season may replace the followed as desired.

Wednesday Morning Prayer

Opening

Come, Creator Spirit, fresh as the morning dew;
revive us and make us new.

Let us arise today in the Spirit's power.
In the place of fear;
God's strength to uphold us.

In the place of emptiness;
God's love to fill us.

In the place of confusion;
**God's eye for our seeing,
to save us from false agendas
that harm both body and soul.**

There may be singing.

Psalm

Psalm 30:1-5, 41:1-3, 51:1-12, 91, 103:2-4, 107:17-22 or the set psalm.

Forgiveness

From false desires and selfish deeds,
all-knowing God, deliver us.

From unworthy thoughts and prideful claims,
all-seeing God, deliver us.

From unclean hearts and petty ways,
all-cleansing God, deliver us.

Old Testament reading

Exodus 15:26, 23:25, Proverbs 4:20-23, Isaiah 6:1-8, 49:1-8, Jeremiah 17:12-14, Malachi 4:2 or the reading of the day.

There may be singing.

New Testament reading

Matthew 8:16-20, 28:16-20, Luke 4:38-39, 5:12-15, 5:17-26, 6:6-11, 7:11-16 or the reading of the day.

The Spirit pours on Christ

The Immortal who bowed the heavens
bows his head before a mortal.

Glory!

The Uncreated enters the stream of created life.

Glory!

God becomes one with us,
and we are made one with God.

Glory!

Our lost innocence is restored
and the world is charged with the grandeur of God.

Glory!

Father love cascades over the Son;
the Spirit pours upon him;
God in Trinity is revealed.

Glory! Glory! Ever and everywhere.

An Invocation and other prayers.

Most powerful Holy Spirit
come down upon us ...

From heaven where the ordinary is made glorious
and glory seems but ordinary.

Come like fire and warm our hearts.

Come like wind and refresh our frames.

Come like water and revive our souls.

Come like the earth and nourish our being.

Time of waiting on the Holy Spirit.

Holy Spirit refine us,
that we may be just and true.
Sending Spirit, release us,
that we may touch lives for you.
Disturbing Spirit recharge us,
that we wasted lives may renew.

Any of the headings below may be followed by spoken or silent prayer.

On those whose day is drab,

come, Holy Spirit....

On those who harbour fear,

Come Holy Spirit, come, Holy Spirit....

On those tempted to give up,

come, Holy Spirit....

On those who are struggling to survive,

come, Holy Spirit....

A special or seasonal prayer, the Lord's Prayer or the following:

Eternal God and Father,

you create us by your power

and redeem us by your love:

guide and strengthen us by your Spirit,

that we may give ourselves in love and service

to one another and to you.

Closing

Kindling God, send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your Glory.

Amen

Wednesday Midday Prayer

Opening

Holy Spirit,
who comes in the gentle breeze and the howling gale
meet us in the middle of this day,
blow away dross and deceits,
refresh our battered souls,
brace us for what is to come
and settle us in the stillness of your presence.

Psalm

Psalm of the day, psalm 23 sung or in the version below or psalm 127.

God is my shepherd,
who refreshes me in green pastures,
restores me by quiet waters,
and leads me to the right ways.
With God I lack nothing I truly need.

Even though I walk through the valley
of the shadow of death
I will fear no evil, for you are with me,
your protecting staff comforts me.
With God I lack nothing I truly need.

You prepare a feast for me
even when hostile people surround me,
you anoint me with oil and my life overflows.
With God I lack nothing I truly need.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life
and I will dwell in your presence for ever.
With God I lack nothing I truly need.

Perfect Comforter! Wonderful Refreshment!
You make peace to dwell in our soul.
In our labour, you offer rest;
in temptation, strength.
From heaven shine forth with your glorious light.
From the Taizé Prayer Book

Scriptures for meditation

Either

Happy are you when you are defamed or excluded.
Leap for joy, your reward in heaven is great.
Matthew 5:11

Or

The Spirit will show you what to say.
Luke 12:12

Or

The Holy Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are
children of God.
Romans 8:16

And

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness,
generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.
Galatians 5:22,23

Let us pray that these fruits of the Spirit may flourish in the
people we now name . . .

Intercessions for nations ...

Closing

Holy Spirit, for the rest of the day renew in us;

joy in our work,

life in our being,

love in our relationships.

Wednesday Evening Prayer

Opening

Kindling Spirit, come,

Inflame our waiting hearts.

Consoling Spirit, come,

you know our every need.

There may be singing or a Declaration

Psalm

Psalm 29, 33, 113, 126, 133, 138, 139:1-12 or the set psalm.

There may be a pause.

Old Testament reading

Judges 2:11-19, 6:11-24, 7:1-8, 9:6-15, 9:50-end, 11:29-end,
Jeremiah 31:31-34 or the reading of the day.

*Creator Spirit (see Declarations) may be recited or sung to
the tune 'Veni Creator'.*

New Testament reading

John 7:37-39, 14:15-26, Galatians 5:14-26, Matthew 15:30-
31, Acts 18:24-19:7, James 5:13-16, 3 John 2 or the reading
of the day.

Intercessions

Spirit of Truth, look down upon a world in thrall to lies and
illusions,

work in the darkness to bring all things into light.

Anointing Spirit, distribute among us your gifts:
As you choose, and for the good of all.

*There may be a time of waiting to receive from God or to use
of spiritual gifts or singing.*

Great Creator of the glowing moon
and distant stars,
Great Saviour of the miraculous birth
and rising from death,
Great Spirit of the seers and sacred words;
Work through our minds.
Work through our dreams.
Work through our mouths.
That we may become a sign of your presence.

Renewing Spirit,
come to all members of the Aidan and Hilda Community,
especially those named in our prayer diary today ...
Comforting Spirit,
come to all who pass through trial
and to those we love, especially ...
Names may be mentioned.

Closing
Send us out in the power of the Spirit,
to kindle many flames of love.

Wednesday Night Prayer

The Healing Service (see contents) may be used as an alternative

Opening

We gather;
in the presence of the God of wholeness,
in the presence of Compassion's Son,
in the presence of the healing Spirit.

Tonight may we be one.

Christ is always present
when we gather in his name.
Tonight we welcome him as healer.

Bible verses

I Peter 5:6-7, psalm 103:1-5 or 147:1-3.

Singing, or silence

Bible reading

Isaiah 53:4-5 Hosea 6:1-3, 14:4-7, Mark 1:29-45, 2:1-12, Acts 5:15, 16 or another healing story

Prayers

Christ walks the world
with those who suffer;
let us pray for broken peoples and places,
especially . . . *(examples may be named and candles lit)*

**Heal these places of the lust for gain that demeans, and of
the bitterness of revenge that destroys.**

Let us circle in healing prayer those known to us who now we name . . .

Names may be mentioned candles may be lit.

Spirit of the living God, present with us now,
**circle these we have named;
enter their body, mind and spirit
and heal them of all that harms.**

Let us pray for the healing of what is fragmented
in our own lives:

Forgive us for resentment. *Pause*

Forgive us for rush. *Pause*

Forgive us for lack of trust. *Pause*

Forgive us, for the ways we have marred your image in us.

Pause

We open ourselves in love and faith to your healing presence,
O Christ.

*On appropriate occasions, the laying on of hands and/or
anointing with oil may be offered to those who come for
healing now or at the close of the service. The above prayer
may be repeated.*

This may be accompanied or followed by music or singing.

Closing

Great Spirit, who broods over the sleeping world,
as we sleep this night,
**restore the garment of our self-respect
and remake us in your beauty.**

Renew in us as we sleep;
the stillness of our being,
the soundness of our bodies
and bring to dawn our wholeness.

*The following resources may also be used: Giver of Life
(Declarations)*

Thursdays and Trinity Season

God in Community

It was on a Thursday that Jesus prayed for unity, spoke of himself, the Father and the Spirit as a Co-Unity in God and instituted Holy Communion. So on Thursdays we pray for unity, community and sacrament at the heart of the world. There are additional prayer patterns specifically for the Trinity season.

Thursday Morning Prayer

Opening

Birther of the human race,
you summon the day to dawn
and call us to live in communion.
**Thrice holy God, eternal Three in One,
make your people holy, make your people one.**
**Stir up in us the flame
that burns out pride and power,
restore in us the trust
that brings the servant heart to flower.**
**Thrice holy God, come as the morning dew,
in flame in us your love
that draws all lesser loves to you.**

Psalm

Psalm 97, 98, 110, 111, 113, 115, or the set psalm.

Response

**We confess to you, triune God,
that our lives and the world**

are fragmented by sin.

Pause to recollect personal or corporate examples ...

Source of all,
have mercy on us.
Saviour of all,
have mercy on us.
Sustainer of all,
have mercy on us.
Ever-Loving Three
have mercy on us
reconcile and restore us.

Old Testament reading

Genesis 1:26,27, Genesis 18:1-8, Exodus 3:1-6, Isaiah 6:1-8, 40:12-end, 56:1-8 or Revelation 4, or the reading of the day.

Chant, song or music.

New Testament reading

Matthew 28:16-20, Mark 1:1-13, John 3:1-8, Romans 12:4-18, Philippians 2:1-8, or Colossians 3:12-17, 2 Thessalonians 3:18, or the reading of the day.

Reflection

Intercessions

Through Word and Sacrament you come towards us, O Christ
And we come to you.

God makes covenant with us and fills us with life
And we make covenant with God and receive eternal life.

After any of the following responses, examples of current concerns may be offered to God.

Ground of all being, all peoples come from you,
may we honour one another and seek the common good . .

Reconciler of all people,
employers, employees and shareholders
are like fingers on your hand,
**may the wealth and work of the world be available to all
and for the exploitation of none . . .**

Sustainer of the world,
from you all peace, all justice flows,
may we cherish the web of life and respect the rule of law .
. .

Father you bring worlds to birth
and you love all that you have made.
You bring us to birth and you affirm us.

Father affirm them.
Father affirm them.

Saviour you reach our brokenness
and you make us whole,
you reach those who are alienated
and bring them home.
We pray for broken and alienated people ...

Saviour, bring them home.
Saviour, bring them home.

Spirit, you permeate all creation
and renew the springs of life,
we pray for despairing, empty and wearied people ...

Spirit, renew them.
Spirit, renew them.

A special prayer, the Lord's Prayer or singing.

Closing

Eternal God and Father,
you create us by your power
and redeem us by your love;
guide and strengthen us by your Spirit
that we may give ourselves in love and service
to one another and to you.

The following blessing may be said or sung.

**Into the Sacred Three I immerse you,
into their power and peace I place you,
may their breath be ours to live,
may their love be ours to give.
Into the Sacred Three I immerse you.**

Thursday Midday Prayer

Opening

We gather in the name of God, creating, redeeming,
giving us life.

God of friendship, God of peace,
in the middle of the day we take refuge in you.

Glory to you, Father, glory to you.
Glory to you, Saviour, glory to you.
Glory to you Spirit, glory to you.

Psalm

Psalm 121, 125, 133 or the set psalm.

We weave this day:
humility of listening,
depth of understanding,
joy of serving ... Pause.

We weave this day;
peace of being,
gift of loving,
power of meeting.

New Testament reading:

Matthew 7:7-12, Matthew 18:20, 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, 13:4-13, 1 John 1:1-7, 1 John 2:12-14, 1 Corinthians 12:4-13 or the reading of the day.

Time for quiet reflection and response.

All may say or sing to the tune 'Bunessan'

**Christ be within me,
Christ be beside me,
Christ in the stranger,
Christ in the friend,
Christ in my speaking,
Christ in my thinking,
Christ in my working,
Christ at my end.**

God of community,
Spirit of energy and change,
pour on us and our community dispersed throughout the
world, without reserve or distinction,
that we may have strength to plant your justice on earth.

Your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth, as it is in heaven.

Your kingdom come.

Your kingdom come in the people or situations we now name
... people or situations may be named aloud or silently.

Your kingdom come.

We are Grateful for Jesus:
Gatherer of seekers
Teller of stories
Breaker of bread
Pourer of wine
Weaver of lives.

As Jesus washed his disciples' feet
May we wash the feet of the world

Teach us that to work is to pray
and that every chore may be a prayer.

Closing

**The Three who are over our head,
the Three who provide our bread;
be with us wherever we tread.**

Thursday Evening Prayer

Opening

Holy, holy, holy is the eternal Flame undying,
burning here among us in sacrificial love.

Quiet reflection before a visual aid such as three candles or the Rublev icon.

The following prayers may be said by different persons and are followed by a sung version of the Gloria.

I give thanks to the Creator who birthed the world and
breathed life into me.

We sing a version of the Gloria such as the Iona Gloria
Gloria, Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo.

I give thanks to the Saviour who entered the world and
stretched out his hand to me.

Gloria, Gloria...

I give thanks to the Spirit who pervades the world and
energises me.

Gloria, Gloria...

Psalm

Psalm 8, 82, 86:8-13, 93, 116:10-end, 119:129-136, 149, or
the set psalm.

For my shield this day I call:
A mighty power, the Holy Trinity.
Faith in the Three, trust in the One,

embracing all through love.

In faith I trust in the Father of all:
He's my refuge, a very strong tower.
Faith in the Three, trust in the One,
creating all through love.

For my shield this day I call:
Christ's power in his coming,
Christ's power in his dying,
Christ's power in his rising.
Faith in the Three, trust in the One,
redeeming all through love.

For my shield this day I call:
The mighty Spirit who breathes through all.
Who guides us all, who graces all.
Faith in the Three, trust in the One,
sustaining all through love.

Old Testament reading

1 Samuel 21:1-15, Job 13, Job 14, Job 15, Job 16:1-17:2,
Jeremiah 9:23-24, Isaiah 51:4-6, or the reading of the day.

New Testament reading

John 14:18-26, 15:1-11, 17:20-23, Romans 12:1-13, Galatians
3:23-28, Ephesians 3:1-13, Philippians 2:1-11 or the reading
of the day.

Chant, song, or silence.

Intercessions

Gracious Birther who brought worlds into being.

Bring to birth what you long for in us.

Loving Saviour, who re-connected an estranged world to its source.

Reconnect us to the Source of our being.

Generous Spirit, who breathes through everything that lives.

Breathe fullness of life into us.

Triune God who delights in both diversity and unity,

bring unity to our diversity.

Prayer for our dispersed community and local communities.

There may be singing.

Closing

We give you thanks, Kindly Light, that you lead our forebears in the Faith through a cloud by day and a fire by night.

We give you thanks, O Christ, that at your last supper you broke bread, shared a common cup and called your friends into fellowship with you and with one another.

May your churches rejoice in the communion of heaven and attain communion round one table on earth.

We give you thanks that you ever lead your people on and have led us to this place.

We give you thanks that you pour out your kindness on your people, Creator, Saviour, and radiant Spirit.

The blessing of the Source be yours.

The blessing of the Saviour be yours.

The blessing of the Spirit be yours.

The blessing of the ever-loving Three be yours.

May they pour upon us tenderly and generously hour by hour

Thursday Night Prayer

Opening

Three candles may be lit as the following words are said by one or three people.

I light this in the name of the Father who fosters us.

I light this in the name of the Saviour who embraces us.

I light this in the name of the Spirit who encircles us.

The light of Three of Love.

We give you thanks, Kindly Light, that you lead our forebears in the Faith through a cloud by day and a fire by night and that you ever lead your people on.

We give you thanks that you have led us to this plave.

Pour forth your kindness on your people,

Creator, Saviour, and radiant Spirit.

There may be singing.

We thank you for your presence through the day and for friends who have helped us on our way.

As shadows fall and the wheels of the world grow still, forgive us for our failures in love.

Visit this place tonight and drive away all that would harm.

May the holy angels preserve us in peace.

Bible reading

Psalm 11:1-4, 7, 81, 148, John 15:12-17, 17:6-12, Romans 12:15-18, Ephesians 3:14-19

Lord Christ, on your last Thursday on earth you broke bread,
shared a common cup and called your friends into fellowship
with you and with one another

**May your churches rejoice in the communion of heaven
and attain communion round one table on earth.**

On your Church, Lord

Your love descend this night.

All who work, Lord

Your love descend this night.

Where there is strife, Lord,

Your love descend this night.

Where there is neglect, Lord,

Your love descend this night.

On all who sleep, Lord

Your love descend this night.

On ... *There may be free prayer where indicated (. . .).*

Your love descend this night.

Jesus says:

I am the vine and you are the branches.

Abide in us that we may abide in you.

There may be singing.

Either of the following prayers may be said.

Support us, Lord,
through life's troubled day,
until the shadows lengthen
and evening comes,
the fever of life is over
and our work is done.

Then, Lord, in your mercy,
give us a holy rest,
and peace at the last.

*After a prayer of The Venerable John Henry Newman
(21 February 1801–11 August 1890).*

Circle the world, Lord,
keep grudges without, keep friendship within.

Circle the world, Lord,
keep wrangling without, keep trust within.

Circle those we bring before you now . . .

There may be singing.

Closing

Kindle in our hearts, O God,
the flame of love which never ceases,
that it may burn in us this night
till we shine for ever in your presence.

God with us lying down,
God with us rising up.

Jesus with us sleeping,
Jesus with us waking.

Spirit with us now,
Spirit with us evermore.

Fridays and Passiontide – the Cross

On a Friday, Jesus the Christ, Son of God, was put to death on a cross. In common with the universal Church, we embrace Christ's suffering on Fridays, and also with the suffering and broken people of the world. Some, like Aidan's disciples ate little or no food until 3pm on Fridays in order to develop empathy with Christ and time for meditation.

Friday Morning Prayer

Opening

On this day of Christ's suffering and death,
let us be one with him in his wounds.

**We seek to tread in the steps of Christ
who has shown us the way, when strong, when weak.**

Psalm

Psalm 6, 13, 26, 39, 51, 124 or the set psalm or Isaiah 52:3-5

Forgiveness

Jesus, you were driven to the sands by the searching Spirit,
strip from us what is not of you.

Silent reflection, or as follows.

Forgive us;
**for our selfish deeds,
our empty speech,
and the words with which we have wounded.**

Pause

Forgive us;
**for our false desires,
our vengeful attitudes
and for what we have left untended.**

Pause

Holy Jesus, hanged on a tree, victorious over death;
**forgive us for these sins,
free us from these evils
and power us into new ways.**

Old Testament reading

Genesis 22:1-14, Exodus 1:8-14 & 22, 2:1-15, 6:2-13,
Zephaniah 3:1-7, Habakkuk 1:1-6, Zechariah 3 or the reading
of the day.

Song

New Testament reading

Matthew 20:17-end, Luke 19:1-10, John 10:11-15, John 15:
12-17, 19:16-30, Romans 6:6-11, Hebrews 13:10-16 or the
reading of the day.

Quiet reflection.

*Either Jesus, Saviour of the world (Declarations) or another
faith statement.*

Intercessions

Jesus, broken on the Cross,

we bring to you those suffering from
broken dreams,
broken relationships
and broken promises . . . *(Pause or give names.)*

Jesus,
have mercy on them.

Jesus, who lost everything,
we bring to you those who have suffered loss of work,
mobility and well-being . . . *(Pause or give names.)*

Jesus,
have mercy on them.

Jesus, defenceless victim,
we bring to you those who are victims of violence, abuse and
false accusation . . . *(Pause or give names.)*

Jesus,
have mercy on them.

Jesus, alone and destitute,
we bring to you those who are lonely, homeless and hungry . .
. (Pause or give names.)

Jesus,
have mercy on them.

Saviour, you died that we may be brought back to you,
save and raise up those who have none but you to turn to.

Jesus,

have mercy on them.

The Lord's Prayer may be said or there may be singing.

Closing

**May the Christ who walks with wounded feet
walk with us on the road.**

**May the Christ who serves with wounded hands
stretch out our hands to serve.**

**May the Christ who loves with the wounded heart
open our hearts to love.**

Friday Midday Prayer

Opening

We draw aside in the middle of the day
the day Christ was nailed to the Cross.

Jesus, Master Carpenter of Nazareth,
who, through wood and nails,
won our full salvation,
wield well your tools in this, your workshop,
that we who come to you rough-hewn
may here be fashioned into a truer beauty by your hand.

Psalm

Psalm 13 or 31:1-5

Be strong and take courage, all you who wait on the Lord.
Be strong and take courage, all you who wait on the Lord.

Lord Jesus,
in the midst of mockery and madness
you found peace to remain in your Father's will.
In the middle of this day full of worries,
give us peace to remain in our Father's will.

Silent reflection

New Testament reading

Matthew 5:4, 6, 7, Luke 14:25-33, 15:11-32, 18:9-14 or the
reading of the day.

Intercessions

We draw aside in the midst of the day,
we weep for the hungry and poor;
the children mistreated, those broken by force
and the maimed who can't finish their course.
**We plead for your justice to fill all the lands
as the waters cover the sands.**

We pray against cruelty, hatred and pain,
against pride and greed for gain.
We pray for the homeless and victims of war,
the strangers to love at the door.
**We plead for your justice to fill all the lands
as the waters cover the sands.**

*Free prayer for persecuted Christians, suffering peoples and
those who suffer in our dispersed community.*

There may be a chant

Lord Jesus, at this hour you hung on the cross,
stretching out your arms in love to all.
**May the peoples of the world
be drawn to your uplifted love,
especially those with whom we shall connect this day.**

Give us the will to share our bread with the hungry,
to give room to those who feel rejected
and to reach out to those in need.
**We pray for those whose tasks are backbreaking,
whose bodies are mutilated or whose spirits are crushed.**

Closing

Jesus said, take up your cross daily and follow me:
working and praying
may we walk in the way of the cross
each hour of this day.

Friday Evening Prayer

Opening

Sacrificial Love lingers still among us,
calling us to wait and to watch.

Eternal Goodness,
deliver us from evil.

Eternal Power,
strengthen us.

Eternal Wisdom,
scatter the darkness of our ignorance.

Eternal Pity,
have mercy on us.

Eternal Light,
shine into our hearts.

**With our whole being we shall seek your face
until we are brought to your holy presence.**

After Alcuin

There may be a meditative chant or singing.

Psalm

Psalm 40, 42, 43, 54, 122, 139:1-13, 139:23-34 or the set
psalm.

There may be silence.

Old Testament reading

Lamentations 1:1-12a, 2:8-19, 3:1-18, 3:25-40, Jeremiah 11:18-20, 44:1-14, Zechariah 9:9-12 or the reading of the day.

Lord, you were tested by the evil one;

break in us the hold of power and pride.

You knew deep tears and weaknesses;

help us to be vulnerable for you.

You followed to the end the Way of the Cross;

help us to be faithful to you to the end of our days.

New Testament reading

John 10:11-18, Galatians 6:11-end, Hebrews 9:15-end, 10:1-10, 10:12-22, 1 Peter 2:21b-25 or the reading of the day.

Reflection

Intercessions

Lord Jesus, you embraced the cross that we might learn to give our lives for the sake of love.

Help us, Lamb of God

You died to save us, not from suffering, but from self-will; that we might live as you did, who died to yourself.

Help us, Lamb of God

In union with witnesses and martyrs of Christ;

in communion with all

who have died in the faith of Christ,

we commit ourselves to our living God.

As we struggle to be faithful to you and establish justice,
we bring to you those who are in chains.

Pause or free prayer

We bring to you people who are persecuted or oppressed, the
homeless, the hungry and those in grinding poverty.

Pause or free prayer

We bring to you those who are in pain behind closed doors.

Lord Jesus,

you were released from the pain of the Cross;

in you may the suffering find release.

We bring to you those who are locked into hatred;

**calm their hatred; fill their hearts and ours with generous
love.**

There may be singing or free prayer.

Closing

We go in the sign of the Cross of Christ (*make sign*).

The Cross before us to keep us true.

The Cross behind us to shield us from ill.

The Cross above us to lead us through.

Friday Night Prayer

Opening

Shadows darken this day;
the day Christ was laid in a grave.

The darkness shall not engulf us;
for with you the darkness is light.

Lord, by your Cross and precious death;
**save us from the powers of evil,
save us from another's harm,
save us from our selfish failings,
come this night and give us calm.**

There may be singing.

Psalm

Psalm 90:1-12 or verses from another psalm

Evolved, accepted, loved: in response to this grace of God
let us confess our sins,
**that when our bodies become but ashes we may live with
you for ever.**

Let us reflect on the things that distance us from Christ.

There may be a silent examination of conscience.

Forgive us our sins.
Lord, forgive.

Words such as 'Lord, have mercy' or 'Kyrie Eleison' may be sung.

As he was dying a martyr's death Jesus said:
'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'

Christ forsaken,
have mercy on all who are forsaken.

Christ afraid,
have mercy on all who are afraid.

Christ betrayed,
have mercy on all who are betrayed.

At the foot of the cross we join our prayers with yours, O
Christ

*People may mention those who need prayers, in silence or
aloud.*

Great God who mothers us all,
gather the sufferings of all
into the communion of the crucified Christ.
**Shield and deliver them
and look on them with your merciful gaze.**

There may be singing.

Jesus said: 'Father into your hands I commit my life';
Father into your hands we commit our lives.

Father, at the foot of your Son's Cross,
help us to see and know your love for us.
Father, into your hands we commit our lives.

'Simeon's song' (see index)

Closing

O Christ who at this evening hour rested in the tomb
and made it become a bed of hope, visit our homes tonight,
that we may pass through the death of sleep
and rise from our beds in hope of life eternal.

**Then, Lord, give us a peaceful night
and a good ending to life.**

I make the sign of the Cross of Christ *(make sign)*;
**my Christ, my Shield, my Saviour;
each day, each night, in light, in dark,
my Treasure, my dear One,
my eternal home.**

Saturdays and Society

God's way on earth and in heaven

For many people Saturday is a time for leisure, shopping or converse with the world, so we pray for God's will to be done on earth as it is in heaven.

As the week draws to a close. Evening and Night Prayer draw us towards converse with the saints, heaven, Sunday and resurrection.

Saturday Morning Prayer

Opening

Life-giving God, the world lies open before you
and you summon the day to dawn.

Open our being
and we shall show life.

Open our hearts
and we shall show love.

Open our mouths
and we shall give praise.

There may be singing.

Psalm

Psalm 33, 67, 82, 117, 125, 145, 148 or the set psalm.

Old Testament reading

Genesis 18:20-23, Deuteronomy 11:8-15, Nehemiah 2:11-18, 5:1-12, Isaiah 66:12-14, Jeremiah 29:4-7, Amos 5:11-14 or the reading of the day.

New Testament Reading

Matthew 7:7-13, 25:31-40, Luke 10:1-12, Acts 17:24-28,
Romans 12:7-10, 1 Thessalonians 5:12-24, Revelation 22:1-5
or the reading of the day.

*There may be meditation and singing. The following may be
said here or before the psalm.*

All that moves on the earth

bless your God.

All that swims in the waters

bless your God.

Homes and gardens

give glory to God who nurtures us all.

Parents and children

bless your God.

Friends and lovers

bless your God.

Musicians and athletes

give glory to God who nurtures us all.

Parks and play areas

bless your God.

Streets and shops

bless your God.

Let all that is done today

give glory to God who nurtures us all.

We believe

We believe, O God of all gods,
that you are the eternal God of life.

We believe, O God of all peoples,

that you are the eternal God of love.

We believe that you create earth and seas and skies;

we believe that you create us in your image, and give us eternal worth.

We honour you with our whole being

we consecrate this day to you.

Intercessions

Creator God, thank you for gifts of engineering and design, infrastructure and organisation that maintain the fabric of our life without drawing attention to themselves.

We give thanks for these things we take for granted that sustain the fabric of our common life ...

All-Compassionate and All-Powerful One, some who see this unjust world retire into their shell while others lash out or kill: teach us that there is another way, your way of transformation.

Make whole the leisure and activity of this day; restrain its hostile impulses, fill its moments with reflections of your glory.

Our Father in heaven,
honoured be your name,
your kingdom come
your will be done
on earth, as in heaven.

In our pleasures,
your kingdom come.
In our leaders,

your kingdom come.

In our gatherings,

your kingdom come.

On the roads,

your kingdom come.

On the networks,

your kingdom come.

In . . . (*examples may be mentioned*),

your kingdom come.

In each thing we do this day,

your kingdom come.

Give us this day our daily supplies

and forgive us our sins,

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power

and the glory are yours,

now and for ever.

Amen.

There may be singing.

Closing

May we do this day on earth

as the saints do in heaven.

May we live this day in your light

and walk in the hope of your kingdom.

Saturday Midday Prayer

Opening

God bless to us this day
God bless to us each friend
God bless to us our play
God bless to us our end.

Pause

God of justice
God of journey
God of . . .

Be with us in the middle of the day.

There may be singing.

Psalm

Psalm 18:25-34, 119:9-16, 122, 127, 144, Song of Songs 2:3-13, 150 or the set psam.

Reflection

Spirit, kindle in our hearts
a flame of love to friends, to all.
**Guardian, be over the restless people,
a covering of truth and peace.**

Happy you who are poor in heart;
yours is the kingdom of God.
Happy you who are clear in heart;
you will see God.

Matthew 5:3, 8

Or

Luke 4:17-21

There may be silence and singing.

Thanksgiving

Thank you for regulations that prevent cruelty to animals, children and stateless adults.

Thank you for regulations that ensure that no-one need be unfed, un-housed, untaught, un-nursed or unprotected by law.

Thank you for . . .

Intercessions

We pray:

For financial institutions to invest wisely and honestly for the common good.

All seeing God ... **hear our prayer**

For clean, caring and creative cities

All seeing God ... **hear our prayer**

For safe, clean, caring and creative local communities

All seeing God ... **hear our prayer**

For public services available to all which keep a personal touch

All seeing God ... **hear our prayer**

For parliaments of conscience and just and compassionate governments that earn the trust of all

All seeing God ... **hear our prayer**

For . . .

All seeing God ... **hear our prayer.**

There may be silent or free prayer.

Closing

May the saints and the Saviour watch over us
and keep us true in all we do.

**May we live the rest of this day
in the joy of the Saviour's will.**

Saturday Evening Prayer

Opening

Let us go for a while to the courts of heaven
and join with the saints in praise.

Psalm

Psalm 15, 97, 99, 125, 145, 149 or the set psalm.

We offer you our all, O God,
for your mercies never fail.

From Psalm 66

We still could not thank you enough

If our mouths were as full of song as the sea,
our tongues with joyful sounds
like the roar of its waves,
our lips with praise like the outspread sky,
**we still could not thank you enough
for the good you have done to us and our forebears.**

If our eyes were shining like the sun and the moon,
our hands stretched out like eagles' wings in the air,
our feet as swift as the wild deer,
**we still could not thank you enough, Yahweh,
for the good you have done to us and our forebears.**

You rescued us from the tyrant,
you freed us from slavery.

**In times of famine you fed us,
in times of plenty you built us up.**

From violence you delivered us,
from plagues you saved us.

Therefore to you who breathed life into us

**we shall give praise with all our breath,
honour with all our memory,
worship with all our being.**

Jewish liturgy

Bible reading

Proverbs 3:1-10, Ecclesiasticus 44:1-15, Wisdom 3:1-9,
Isaiah 43:1-7, Amos 3:1-8, 5:10-15 or 6:1-8.

New Testament reading

1 Corinthians 13:8-13, 15:50-end, Philippians 3:17-end,
Hebrews 12:22-23, Philemon, Revelation 4:1-8, 15:1-4 or the
reading of the day.

There may be meditation or singing.

Intercessions

God of the call, as we give thanks for the saints
we pray for those who feel thwarted in their vocation;
may they do on earth as the saints do in heaven.

God of resurrection, in their worship
may our churches bring honour to you,
joy to the people, and healing to the land;
may they do on earth as the saints do in heaven.

There may be free prayer and singing.

Closing

Let us bless the Lord.

**For yours, Lord, is the glory, the power
and the majesty,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Saturday Night Prayer

On occasions when Saturday Night Prayer is extended into a vigil the reading for Sunday's main worship may be read and pondered. Or there may be the slow, thoughtful repetition of the Jesus Prayer e.g. each person repeats fifty times: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy.

Opening

Eternal Creator of the weeks and years,
as the week draws to a close, draw close to us
and we will draw close to you.

Eternal Creator of the days and nights,
as darkness deepens, draw near to us
and we will draw near to you.

In silence let us reflect on the blessings and failings of this day or week

Forgiveness

Merciful God
we confess to you
before the company of heaven and one another
that we have sinned in thought, word and deed
and in what we have failed to do.
Forgive us our sins,
heal us by your Spirit
and raise us to new life in Christ.

Psalm

Psalm 4, 91, 119:52-62 or other verses.

Bible reading

Jeremiah 14:9, Hebrews 3:12-4, 4:9-11 or Philippians 4:8

When we neglect you, Compassionate One,

remind us of your presence;

when we are frightened,

give us courage;

when we are tempted,

give us the power to resist;

when we are anxious and worried,

give us peace;

when we are weary in service,

renew our tired frame.

The following or another hymn may be sung or said.

Before the ending of the day,

creator of the world, we pray,

that you, with steadfast love, would keep

your watch around us while we sleep.

From evil dreams defend our sight,

from fears and terror of the night;

tread under foot our deadly foe,

that we no sinful thought may know.

O Father, that we ask be done,

through Jesus Christ, your only Son

and Holy Spirit, by whose breath,

our souls are raised to life from death.

Amen.

Let us bring before God the concerns of this day.

These may be mentioned aloud or in silence.

Into our place of darkness,
into our place of strife,
into our fears and worries,
come with eternal life.

There may be singing.

Jesus,
Master of apostles,
Teacher of evangelists,
Strength of martyrs,
Friend of the poor,
Crown of saints,
lead us through the night into a day of renewal.

We lay down the week that is past

We lie down to rest in you.

Let us sleep in the lap of Jesus

Now and in eternity.

Closing

May we rest secure in your love,
and rise up to serve you with joy.
Come with the breaking of the day
Meet us in the breaking of bread.

Christian Festivals

Advent

In Advent we contemplate the coming among us of God in Christ, and the fact that all people have to give account to God who comes as the light that exposes darkness. The English word advent means arrival - we reflect on the two arrivals of Christ: the first as a baby at Bethlehem, and the second as the Ultimate Fulfiller of all whose little arrivals point us towards this end. We recall witnesses to Christ before his birth and people's aspirations today which Christ can fulfil.

In order for something divine to be cradled and born in us, we seek, during Advent, to be as Mary was before the birth of Christ – believing, waiting, praying, inviting the Holy Spirit to work within us.

From the fourth century the world-wide church celebrated Advent for forty days before Christmas. The Western church later shortened this to begin on the fourth Sunday before Christmas. The Eastern Orthodox Church, and some who keep the Celtic tradition in the West, maintain the original forty days. A 'Celtic Advent' is therefore November 15 – December 24.

An Advent wreath may be displayed. It contains a large white candle in its centre. This represents Christ, Light of the World, and is lit on Christmas Day. Four (or in the Celtic tradition, six) purple candles surround it. One is lit in the first week of Advent, two in the second week, and so on.

Advent Candle Lightings

The following candle lightings may be used instead of or as part of any of the Advent prayer patterns.

Week one – the candle of the people's longings

One candle is lit

We light the candle of longing, the candle of solidarity with the yearnings of the people and with the hopes of our forebears in faith.

If we walk by the divine light we shall not go astray, either to the right or to the left.

We shall always keep on the straight way, chanting with the conquering Psalmist:

'O my God, light up my darkness, for through you I shall be delivered.'

Columbanus

Creator of light,

Enter our darkness.

Saviour, who is the Light

Enter our darkness.

Spirit, bringer of light,

Enter our darkness.

Bible Reading

Isaiah 9:2

We have lit the candle of longing for Christ, the Light of the world.

Where people long for an end to injustice,
Shine into their hearts.

... examples may be given

Where people long for conflict to cease,
Shine into their hearts.

... examples may be given

Where people long to improve inhuman working conditions,
Shine into their hearts.

... examples may be given

Where people long to restore the scarred places of earth,
Shine into their hearts.

... examples may be given

Where people long for dignity in human relationships to be
restored

Shine into their hearts.

... examples may be given

Eternal Light, shine into our hearts.

Eternal Goodness, deliver us from evil.

Eternal Power, strengthen us.

Eternal Pity, have mercy upon us.

Eternal Wisdom, scatter the darkness of our ignorance.

Alcuin

Week 2 – The candle of the prophets’ urgings

Two candles are lit

We light the second candle of Advent: the candle of prophets calling for justice, struggling for right to replace wrong, for dignity to replace oppression; the candle of prophets calling for waste places to be renewed, pointing to light emerging from the darkness.

The Lord will bring to light
the things now hidden in darkness
and will disclose the purposes of the heart.

1 Corinthians 4:5

Father, who sends the light, Jesus, who is the light,
Spirit, who radiates the light,
we bring to you those in darkness.

Tend your sick ones.

Come to them, O Christ.

Rest your weary ones.

Come to them, O Christ.

Bless your dying ones.

Come to them, O Christ.

Soothe your suffering ones.

Come to them, O Christ.

Pity your afflicted ones.

Come to them, O Christ.

Shield your joyous ones.

Come to them, O Christ.

All for love’s sake.

After a prayer of St Augustine

Send out your light and your truth.
Let them lead us to your homecoming among us.
Amen.

Week 3 – The candle of the Preparer

Three candles are lit

We light the third candle of Advent:
the candle of the Preparer,
clearing away human resistance to God,
humbling the monuments to human pride,
giving voice to those who have no voice;
a sign of those who point the way to Christ,
who overturn false ways,
who live by the values of God.

These point to the Light of Christ:
a light that no darkness can quench.

As the prophet foresaw:
The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.
The light has shined on those who lived in a place of great
darkness. You have increased their joy.

Isaiah 9:2-3a

To turn away from you, Lord, is to turn to darkness.
In our darkness, come to us.

To turn away from you, Lord is to lose our way
In our lostness, come to us.

In the dark, anger at injustice and neglect rises up.
In our anger, come to us.

In the dark, longings for love and birth arise.
In our longings, come to us.

Send us, O Lord, the light of your truth.

Burn away evil desire.

Dispel from our path the darkness of sin and ignorance.

Amen.

Week 4 – The candle of the God-bearer

Four candles are lit

We light the fourth candle of Advent:
the candle of Mary who bears the Divine Glory, the candle of
purity, the candle of all midwives of faith who bring the
Divine to birth.

The angel comes to greet the God-bearing virgin.

Blessed be the coming Lord.

Envisioning the Child as the Lord embodied, the angel was
rapt in wonder.

Blessed be the coming Lord.

You, O virgin, are the throne of the King.

Blessed be the coming Lord.

Through you the Joy of the world shall shine.

Blessed be the coming Lord.

To you through whom the Creator is to be born, creation will
be reborn.

Blessed be the coming Lord.

Lord, out of the silent darkness at the beginning of time, you
created light.

**We watch for the light that will gleam through the waiting
earth.**

Blessed be the coming Lord.

God is light, in whom there is no darkness at all.

1 John 1:5

**Blessed be God who has called us out of darkness into his
glorious light.**

First Advent Morning Prayer

Opening

In the wasteland may the Glory shine.

In the land of the lost may the King make his home.

Singing or a candle lighting

Psalm

Psalm 40:1-10, 16-17, 50, 70, 75, 76, 94, 139:1-6 or 139:19-24.

Forgiveness

All-knowing God,

poets and parents-in-God picture and pattern your ways;

forgive us for following idols and illusions.

All-seeing God,

prophets shine like candles in the night;

forgive us for staying in the dark.

All-holy God,

forerunners like John clear obstacles from your path;

forgive us for blocking your way.

All-giving God,

the Virgin Mary offered her all as the bearer of your life;

forgive us for holding ourselves back.

May God forgive us for past sins and free us to make way for God.

Let us attend, the Word of God comes to us.

Illumine our hearts, O Lord, implant in us a desire for your truth; may all that is false within us flee.

Old Testament reading

Isaiah 11:1-9, 25:6-10, 29:17-24, 35, 40:1-11, 43:14-end or 45:18-23

Pause, singing or the following:

A Wilderness Song of Joy to come

Parched land shall laugh and bloom and sing of God's glory.

The lame shall leap like young deer.

Waters shall gush out and streams shall flow in the deserts.

The people God restores will have everlasting joy.

Joy to the world.

Glory to the God who comes.

Echoes verses from Isaiah 35

New Testament reading

Matthew 24:36-44, 25:1-13, Mark 1:1-8, Luke 1:67-79, Romans 8:18-25, 13:11-14 or 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11.

This is the Word of Christ.

Praise to the coming King.

I wait for the Lord, and in God's Word I put my trust.

Saviour of the world, come to us.

I wait for the Lord, more than those who watch for the morning.

Saviour of the world, come to us.

O people, hope in the Lord!
For with the Lord there is steadfast love and full redemption.
Saviour of the world, come to us.

In our darkness there is no darkness with you.
With you, the deepest dark is as clear as the day.
Saviour of the world, come to us.

There may be singing, activity or teaching.

Intercessions

Any of the following prayers may be said.

By our thoughtfulness towards others,
by our care in little things,
by our upholding of the oppressed,
Help us to prepare a way for you

By our mindful actions,
by our cherishing of crops and kitchens,
by our respect for creation.
Help us to prepare a way for you.

Free prayer or from December 17

Wisdom, Breath of the Most High, Bough
of creation, permeating all that lives with the birth
pangs of suffering love, come and teach us your ways.
Maranatha, come, redeeming Lord.

Head of the family of Israel. You revealed
yourself to Moses in the fire of the burning bush
and gave him laws to guide his people; come and

dispel our confusion.

Maranatha, come, redeeming Lord.

Descendant of Jesse, King David's father,
you are a sign to the nations. The world's rulers
will give way to you, the world's people will
summon your aid; come and free us from oppression.

Maranatha, come, redeeming Lord.

Heir of King David, the Majesty of every people, the key to
their destiny.

You open doors that none can shut;

you close doors that none can open.

Come and lead us to our destiny.

Maranatha, come, redeeming Lord.

There may be silence, the Lord's Prayer or singing.

Especially suitable for Week Four:

In the messy and uncertain birth pangs of the new age you are
bringing, purify our desires and restrain us from false agendas
that, like Elizabeth and Mary, we may be the right persons, in
the right places at the right time.

Closing

The King of life appear to us;

the Son of life shed light on us;

the Spirit of life flow into us;

the Holy Three encompass us.

Second Advent Morning Prayer

Opening

A godless society becomes barren.

We wait amid the birth pangs of a new age,
open, receptive for you to accomplish your purpose.

Chant

Awake, awake, my children, I come to you again.

Awake, awake, my children, I come, your God, to reign.

Psalm

Psalm 12, 42, 44, 80, 111, 113 or 144.

Forgiveness

For these things we grieve:

A heart without gratitude

Lips that cause wounds

Hands that grasp.

Silence or sharing of other things for which we grieve

Old Testament readings

Numbers 24:17, Isaiah 48:12-17, Zephaniah 3:9-11 Zechariah 49:1-9, Malachi 3:1-5, 4:1-3 or Baruch 5.

We wait

With the people of Abraham, Moses and Miriam, longing to
be led to a place of promise

We wait.

With Amos and Hosea, Micah, Huldah and all the prophets

Believing that you are a God of justice
We wait.

With Rahab, Isaiah and John the Baptist, preparing a way for
you
We wait.

With Sarah and Hanna, Elizabeth and Mary bringing to birth
godly life
We wait.

New Testament readings

Matthew 3:1-12, 11:2-11, Mark 8:34-38, Romans 1:1-7, 1
Corinthians 1:3-9, Hebrews 10:11-15 or 2 Peter 3:8-14

Reflection or singing.

Intercessions

Calm us to wait for the gift of Christ.

Cleanse us to prepare the way for Christ.

Teach us to contemplate the wonder of Christ.

Anoint us to bear the life of Christ.

Raise up those who will clear away human resistance to God,

**Raise up those who will humble monuments to human
pride.**

Raise up those who will give voice to those who have no
voice,

**Raise up those who will overturn false ways and establish
the values of God.**

Free prayer

Closing

Christ the Sun of Righteousness scatter the darkness from our path
and make us ready for your coming.

First Advent Midday Prayer

Opening

Christ, Light of the world,
meet us in our place of darkness.

Christ, Light of the world,
meet us in our place of longing.

Christ, Light of the world,
meet us in our place of working.

An Advent candle-lighting or light one candle saying:

I light this candle, as a sign of the King who comes to rule.

Jesus, our health, rule in our bodies.

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

Jesus, our worth, rule in our work.

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

Jesus, our love, rule in our households.

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

Jesus, our life, rule in our living and dying.

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

Old Testament reading

Isaiah 56:1-2 or Malachi 3:1-3

Among the hungry,
among the homeless,
among the friendless,
come to make things new.

Among the powerful,
among the spoilt,

among the crooked,
come to make things new.

In halls of fame,
in corridors of power,
in forgotten places,
come to make things new.

With piercing eyes,
with tender touch,
with cleansing love,
come to make things new.

Bible reading

Joel 2:22, Acts 1:11 or 15:16.

I will restore to you the years that the locusts have eaten away
God of surprises, restore to us what has been eaten away.
Bring into being what is yet to be.

Any, in silence or aloud: Restore to us . . .

God of surprises,
Restore to us what has been eaten away.
Bring into being what is yet to be.

Closing

You call your people,
you gather those who have strayed,
you, the One who is coming.
Gather us to you in the middle of the day
and keep us faithful until your appearing.
May we be a hand to the weak,

**an anchor in the storm
and a light in the dark.**

Second Advent Midday Prayer

Opening

The earth is becoming a wasteland.

Breath of the Most High, come and renew it.

Humanity is becoming a battleground.

Child of Peace, come and unite it.

Society is becoming a playground.

Key of Destiny, open doors to our true path.

The world is becoming a no-man's land.

God-with-us, come and make your home here.

Habbakuk 3:17-18

Or

All these things are but the beginnings of the birth pangs of the intolerable anguish.

Matthew 24:8

Or

John 16:20-22

We pray for anguished people, places, times . . .

In times of anguish,

May we travel in the paths that the righteous have trod,
like Mary, mother of grace, mother of Christ.

Mary, tossed and turned,
yet guarded by angels.

Mary of courage,
and of Advent hope.

Closing

All-wise God, sourcing and permeating creation,
source and permeate us.

Civilising God, who revealed laws that brought good order
out of cruel anarchy,
civilise us.

Redeeming God, who through your leaders rescued your
people from hell and destruction,
rescue us.

God of Destiny, the Key that unlocked the greatness of great
David's kingdom,
unlock the greatness of our lives and our land.

Morning Star, who dispersed the gloom of your oppressed
people,
cheer our spirits and put sin and neglect to flight.

Emmanuel, God-with-us, who came to live in a lost and
lonely world,
make your home with us today.

First Advent Evening Prayer

On special occasions this may be preceded by a candlelit vigil of silence, or drum beats that build up a sense of anticipation.

Opening

Heaven, shed your dew
clouds, rain down salvation.
Earth, bring forth the Saviour.

There may be singing.

Psalm

Psalm 9, 52, 65, 85, 89:46-52, 94:1-15 or 102:1-16.

Lord of creation, King of the last judgement, immortal, holy
and mighty, you sit with the book of life and death open
before you.

All mortals pass before you, one by one, like sheep.

In your book of life all our deeds are written.

You see our hearts, you know our every thought.

There may be silence or Kyrie Eleison and a declaration of forgiveness.

Old Testament reading

2 Samuel 7:1-18a, Isaiah 7:10-14, 44:1-8, 61:1-7, Jeremiah
43:17-18, Micah 5:1-4a or Zephaniah 3:14-18a

Praise the One who comes.

Praise the One who came.

**Praise the One who calls us now to greet the
highest Name.**

New Testament reading

Luke 1:46-55, 1 Corinthians 3:10-15, 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11, 5:23-end, Revelation 2:8-17, 15:1-4 or 22:12-17.

Intercessions

Christ, Light of the world,
meet us in our place of darkness,
journey with us
to your new dawning.

Where times are dark,
where wrong parades as right,
where faith grows dim,
we pray for light.

*Reflection or singing. After each response there may be
silence or a spoken prayer.*

Desire of every nation, we bring to you those who are empty
and who long to find meaning.

Come to them, Lord Jesus.

Desire of every nation, we bring to you those who are
overlooked and who long to know their worth.

Come to them, Lord Jesus.

Desire of every nation, we bring to you those who are
exploring, but who do not know what they seek.

Come to them, Lord Jesus.

Lord, you keep us waiting for signs of hope;
you keep us looking for ways in which you come.

The pain of the world, the anguish of the people cry out to you.

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

We pray for blighted areas; make them bloom . . . *examples may be mentioned.*

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

We pray for those who are shut out from your Presence . . . *examples may be mentioned.*

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

We pray for our homes; make them places of peace and light . . . *examples may be mentioned.*

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

We pray for those who govern; may peace and justice mark their rule . . . *examples may be mentioned.*

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

We pray for our places of learning; make them sources of truth and wholeness . . . *examples may be mentioned.*

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

We pray for those who are dying;
may perpetual light shine upon them . . . *examples may be mentioned.*

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

Closing

God be with us on our journey towards Christmas.
Help us to go deeper into what is real,
until we are brought to the wonder of your birth

and know your incarnate love afresh.

Second Advent Evening Prayer

Opening

Come, God of justice.

Come, Prince of Peace.

Come, Saviour of the earth.

We will make a way for you to come among us

By simplicity that clears away what obscures you

By purity that cleanses what offends you.

Psalm

Psalm 12, 42, 44, 80, 119:166-176, 140 or 144.

We bless you, Lord God of Israel, coming to ransom your people.

Raising up saving power

in the family of your servant David,

as you said by the mouth of your prophets

in days of old.

You set us free from oppression, free from the hands of our foes.

This is your bond of love with our forebears, your covenant binding for ever.

Your oath to our father Abraham, assuring us that, freed from fear, delivered from all oppression, we will serve you in goodness and love to the end of our days.

This child will be called your prophet,

he will walk in your presence

and prepare the way for you to come,

announcing your people's salvation

with pardon for all their sins.

Through the love in the heart of our God the Rising Sun will come to us, shining on those in the dark who lie in the shadow of death, and guiding our steps into peace.

Luke 1:68-79

Old Testament reading

Isaiah 9:8-17, 9:18-10:4, 10:12-21, 11:10-end, 13:10-end, 55:6-11 or Zechariah 13:7-end.

May the yearnings we have for you be fulfilled in Christ
May the yearnings you have for us
Be fulfilled as we come to him.

New Testament reading

Luke 20:27-40, 21: 25-36, John 11:17-27, 1 Corinthians 3:10-15, 3:16-end, 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12 or 2:13-16.

Intercessions

May the purity that shone through Mary, the bearer of the Divine Glory, shine through us.

Raise up midwives of faith who bring the Divine to birth.

Come, Morning Star, bright Sun of Justice, bring light to all who are in the darkness of ignorance or self-will.

Maranatha, come, redeeming Lord.

Come, Cornerstone of the new world to be built.

You formed us of the one earth, you make opposing peoples one - save us from destruction.

Maranatha, come, redeeming Lord.

Singing or free prayer

Closing

Emmanuel, God with us, Wonderful Counsellor-
you understand all people,
you are the Hope of all nations:

Come to live among us.

First Advent Night Prayer

Especially suitable in the northern hemisphere

Opening

We wait for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning.

Silence, confession, or meditative singing.

Psalm

Psalm 4, 17:1-8, 116:1-8, 139:7-12, Isaiah 45:2-8, 55:6-11, or Psalm 119:9-18 (fourth week)

We wait in the darkness, expectantly, longingly.

Come, O God Most High.

In the darkness we can see the splendour of the universe – blankets of stars, the solitary glowings of the planets.

Come, O God Most High.

In the darkness of despair and distress we watch for a sign of hope from the Light of lights.

Come, O God Most High.

In the darkness of the womb mortals are nurtured and the Christ-child was made ready for the journey into light.

Come, O God Most High.

In the darkness the wise three found the star that led them to you.

Come, O God Most High.

In the darkness of dreams you spoke to Joseph and the wise ones and you still speak to us.

Come, O God Most High.

Christ is the light that comes into the world.

A light that no darkness will quench.

There may be singing.

New Testament reading

Jesus said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life'.

John 8:12

or Matthew 4:12-16 or Luke 12:1-3,

Reflection

Son of the prophets, on our longings,
let your light shine.

Son of Mary, on our littleness,
let your light shine.

Son of Eternity, on our lying down,
let your light shine.

May the Light shine also on those we love and on those in darkest times

We name them now in silence or aloud . . .

Closing

For the darkness of night enfolding the day's labour,
we bless you, dear God.

For the sweetness of sleep restoring the tired frame,
we bless you, dear God.

Call forth this night bearers of your presence,
that we may we rest in the undying flame of your love
and wake to the light of your dawning.

Second Advent Night Prayer

Especially suitable for the southern hemisphere

Opening

Fire our imaginations this night with the sweep of your Advent. Catch us up in the cause of your kingdom that is near to breaking through.

Prophets point towards it.

Holy births portend it .

Stars steer us to it.

Bible verse

Hosea 10:12, Matthew 24:44 or John 5:25-29.

Reflection

When hope grows dim and life turns sour

Come from the desert and walk towards us.

When words become shouts and ears become deaf

Come from the streets and walk towards us.

When the land becomes tired and delight dries up

Come from the water springs and walk towards us.

When justice is ignored and power is abused

Come from God's heart and walk towards us.

Come to these we now name . . .

Silence or singing

Closing prayer

We lie down with the Christ of compassion

That tomorrow he may touch the world.

We lie down with the Power known through weakness

That tomorrow he may lift the world.

We lie down with the Hope in our hearts

That tomorrow he may live among us.

The Nativity or Christmas

In the Celtic Christian tradition Christmas is known as the Nativity. In common with the rest of the universal Church in the West, 25 December was chosen as the official date when Jesus' birth would be celebrated. The actual date of Jesus' birth is not known. Orthodox churches in Celtic lands who use the new, revised Julian Calendar now also celebrate the Nativity on 25 December; other Orthodox churches celebrate it on 6 January. Christmas worship begins on Christmas Eve, 24 December, and continues for twelve days, from 25 December until Epiphany (6 January in the Western Church).

A topical prayer for reflection is provided for each of the twelve days of Christmas – see the final section.

Prayers for use at a Vigil, before a Crib

or as an alternative to any of the daily prayer patterns through the twelve days of Christmas.

A candle may be lit in front of a crib.

Pause after each response

Opening

Jesus, you are the glory of eternity shining now among us,
the tenderness of God reaching to us now.

God who is with us, we adore you.

Jesus, you are the pattern of goodness, the healing Person, the
fulfilment of the highest human hopes.

God who is with us, we adore you.

Jesus, you are the champion of the weak, the counsellor of the
despairing, the brother of us all.

God who is with us, we adore you.

Jesus, you are the splendour of the Father, the child of Mary,
our Bridge between heaven and earth.

God who is with us, we adore you.

Jesus, you are the source of life, the goal of the universe, God
who is all in all.

God who is with us, we adore you.

Jesus, you are the heart of the human family, Prince of peace,
joy of angels.

God who is with us, we adore you.

*There may be extended silence singing of O come let us
adore Him or chanting*

As we look into the face of the babe of Bethlehem, the face of Defenceless love, in your mercy look upon your troubled world. Fear and violence, homelessness and pollution, grief and anxiety stalk it. Move the hearts of governments and peoples to use your gifts of wealth and skill to build your kingdom of love, where we shall live free from cruelty, neglect and fear; free to look into the face of every person with welcome.

Silent or free prayer

You are among us, Lord, as you were in the homeless babe in the stable.

As we come face to face with eternal Goodness, may the human spirit be renewed.

May ill tides ebb away and tides of trust flow in
Until Christ is our joy each day and for ever.

A Christmas Candle-lighting

an alternative or addition to any of the daily prayer patterns

Opening

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not overcome it.

John 1:1-5

Jesus, born of Mary

Your presence shines among us now

Jesus, proclaimed by angels

Your presence shines among us now

Jesus, worshipped by shepherds

Your presence shines among us now

Jesus, adored by wise men

Your presence shines among us now

We have lit

The candle of hope and the candle of life

The candle of truth and the candle of grace

The candle of God with us.

Eternal Light, shine into our hearts.

Eternal Goodness, deliver us from evil.

Eternal Power, strengthen us.

Eternal Pity, have mercy upon us.

Eternal Wisdom, scatter the darkness of our ignorance.

Alcuin

Son of the Dawn, Sun of the planets;
Son of the elements, Sun of the earth
Son of Mary of the mind of God
Son of God, firstborn of all creation.

Silent or sung adoration or Scripture reading

Christ, splendour of the Father's glory,
sustaining all the worlds by your Word of power,
renew your presence in our lives.

Christ, child of Mary, rich in wisdom,
Prince of Peace, God with us,
renew your presence in our homes.

Christ, begotten of the Father before time,
born at Bethlehem in time,
renew your presence in your Church.

Christ, truly God, truly human,
fulfilling the desires of the peoples,
renew your presence in the world.

Any

Renew your presence in . . .

Closing

You were born in a manger of love
Shine in our hearts from above.

Christmas Morning Prayer

Opening

The earth gave you a cave,
the skies gave you a star,
the angels gave you a song,
and we give you our love.

There may be singing.

Christ, born of the loveliest Mary,
you are with us at this time of joy.

**Christ, Uncreated God,
You are with us evermore.**

Psalm

Psalm 96, 97, 98, 105:1-11. 110, 115, or 117.

Forgiveness

If a Confession is desired words such as the following may be used.

Jesus, God's Gift of Love,
forgive the hurts we have inflicted.

Jesus, God's Goodness,
Forgive us the truth we have accumulated

Jesus, God's human face,
forgive the humanity we have failed to reflect.

Old Testament reading

Genesis 49:1, 8-10, Exodus 13:12-23, 1 Chronicles 16:23-34,
Jeremiah 31:15-17 (December 28) Isaiah 9:2-7, 52:7-10, 62:1-
5 or Genesis 17:1-12 (January 1)

**Glory and honour to you, our God,
for filling Mary with the life Divine.
Glory and honour to you, our God,
for sharing your life with us on earth.**

New Testament reading

Luke 1:68-76, Romans 8:1-4, Matthew 2:13-18 (December
28), Romans 8:28-33, Galatians 4:1-7, Luke 2:1-14 (January
1) Philippians 2:1-13 or Hebrews 10:1-10.

Thanksgiving

The soles of his feet have reached the earth;

the soles of the Son of Glory.

All the world gives homage to him;

the sun on the housetops shines for him.

The voice of the winds with the song of the streets;

announce to us that Christ is born.

The reflective prayer of the day or singing

Intercessions

Babe of heaven, you had to travel far from your home;

strengthen us on our pilgrimage of trust on earth.

Defenceless Love, your birth shows us the wonder of being
human;

help us to live fully human lives for you.

King of glory, you come among the poor with justice and
peace;

help us to serve others as you serve us.

*There may be free prayer after each of the following petitions,
followed by the response*

May every mother and child be cherished as Mary cherished
you . . .

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

May those who seek shelter not have the door shut in their
face as you did . . .

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

May little Bethlehems grow up in back yards throughout the
world . . .

Lord, in your mercy .

Hear our prayer.

May . . .

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Reflective prayer or singing.

Closing

Be with us, Lord, throughout this day,

Keep us

in the faith of Mary

in the trust of Joseph

in the simplicity of the shepherds.

in the joy of the angels.

Christmas Midday Prayer

Opening

Marvellous exchange!

The Creator takes our flesh!

Truly human, yet all gift.

Lord, what you give us is your being.

Your Being is your Goodness.

Your Goodness is your Love.

Meister Eckhardt

Scripture verses for reflection

Job 23:10, Luke 2:14, 2:19, Mark 3:35, Matthew 5:3, 5:5,

John 1:14, Galatians 4:4-6 or 1 John 5:12.

Be still for the glory of the Lord is present with us now

Silence or singing

Jesus, you are
the Holy Babe,
the Shepherd of your flock,
the Healing Person,
Pattern of goodness,
Brother of the poor,
Champion of justice,
Emmanuel, God-with-us.

**Jesus, you are
the Glory of eternity shining now among us,
Prince of Peace,
Wonderful Counsellor,
Joy of angels,
Friend of all.**

Jesus, born in a stable,

Among the homeless make your home.

Jesus, born of a peasant girl,

Among the needy make your home.

Jesus, searched for by wise seekers,

Among the seekers make your home.

Jesus, reared at a carpenter's bench,

Among the workers make your home.

Any

Jesus, among . . .

make your home.

Jesus, here with us now

make your home.

Free prayer or singing

Holy God,

Your birth made possible the holy family;

make families whole and holy today.

You risked all to be one of us

May we risk much to be one with you.

Closing

The Eternal Glory shine upon us

The Son of Mary beside us

The life-giving Spirit within us.

Christmas Evening Prayer

When peaceful silence lay over all, and night had run half of her swift course, your all-powerful Word, O Lord, leaped down from heaven, from the royal throne.

**May the cares of the past grow dim,
may the skies and our hearts grow clear
until the Son of God comes to meet us
striding on this earth.**

Psalm

Psalm 67, 96:1-9, 99:1-5, 100, 113, 117 or 150

Shepherds were drawn to you through what they heard.

Magi were drawn to you through what they saw.

Old temple prophets were drawn to you through what they touched.

Reveal yourself to us through sound and sight and touch.

Old Testament reading

Isaiah 49:14-25, 52:1-5, 60:1-9, 60:10-22, 61:1-11, 66:1-14
or 66:15-25

When the ride is bumpy and the world passes us by,
you are God with us.

When we are edged aside and doors are shut in our face,
you are God with us.

When others are out to get us and our home is not secure,
you are God with us.

When our lives are but a flicker in dark and threatening days
you are God with us.

Anyone

When . . .

You are God with us.

New Testament reading

Matthew 1:18-25, 1 Timothy 3:14-16, Colossians 1:11-20,
Mark 10:13-16 (December 28), Colossians 1:24- 2:7, Acts
3:1-16 (January 1) Hebrews 1:1-4 or Revelation 21:9-14.

Son of the star, Son of the dawn,
Son of the heavens, Son of the earth,
Son of Mary, Son of God,
is dwelling now among us.

Alleluia!

Silence, the reflective prayer of the day or singing.

Intercessions

We thank you for the holy family which began with Mary,
Joseph and Jesus and which now spans the world. May the
poor and the humble of the world find their way into this
family. Pour your grace upon us that your family likeness
may deepen in us.

Jesus, in you we see God's face smiling upon us – strong and
kind.

Jesus, in you, may we find
gentleness as the answer to violence;
tenderness as the answer to ill-will;
truth as the answer to lies;
hope as the answer to despair.

Free prayer or the Prayer of the Day with reflection

Closing

May the long-reaching gladness of Christmas
stretch far down the days before us, surrounding
us with the goodness of Christ, dwelling with us for ever.
The love that Mary gave her Son,
may we give to the world.

Christmas Night Prayer

Opening

Now is the season of the great Nativity.

Glow to him wood and tree;

glow to him mount and sea;

glow to him land and plain;

glow to him, people, and let him reign.

Jesus, proclaimed by angels

light us up.

Jesus, worshipped by shepherds

light us up.

Jesus, adored by wise people

light us up.

Jesus, God who is with us

light us up.

Night stars gleam o'er mountains high,

God almighty journeys nigh.

The soles of his feet have touched the earth,

the soles of the Son of glory.

There may be this or another song.

Glory to you, our God this night,

for all that's dawning on our sight.

Glory to you, dear Mary's Son

who scatters far our dark and gloom.

O Babe of Heaven, defenceless Love,

you left for us your home above.

You come to take us in your hand.

To make the world a holy land.

Tune – Tallis' Canon

Old Testament reading

Psalm 110:1-4, 126:1-3 or Isaiah 11:1-5

Marvellous exchange! The Creator takes flesh!

Truly human, God is now with us.

Alleluia!

In silence or aloud, blessings are recalled.

New Testament reading

Luke 1:41-53, Acts 4:8-12, Romans 2:17-end, Colossians 1:15-19a or 1 John 4:7-12.

Child of glory, Child of Mary,

born in a stable, King of all.

Your greatness holds the universe.

Hold also

those who are sleeping rough,

those who feel shut out of society,

those who are cold and hungry,

and these we name before you now . . .

May the light of Bethlehem shine tonight on these we have named

Closing

Love's furnace was hidden in a little room,

homemaker God, come to our homes this night.

As it was in the stillness of the morning,

so may it be in the silence of the night.

As it was in the hidden vitality of the womb,
so may it be in the hidden life of our sleep.
In the fellowship of Mary and Joseph, in the joy of
the shepherds and the angels and the Lord,
we shall lie down in peace.

A Prayer and reflection for each of the Twelve Days of Christmas

First Day: Stephen

Today is the first day after the birth of Christ.

Today shepherds leave their flocks and make time to wonder at the birth of God's Son.

Today we leave our routines and wonder at this sacred birth.

Yesterday our King left heaven, put on the robe of flesh, and brought earth the gift of love.

Today a soldier leaves his body of earth and goes to heaven out of love for the King.

Today is the day of Stephen, the first of the martyrs for Christ.

Today is the first day of Christmas, when we shall give our all.

Second Day: John

Today is the second day after the birth of Christ.

Your loved disciple taught us that you became a human being that we might become children of God.

Lord, make us your family.

Your loved disciple took your mother to himself.

Lord, make us your family.

Third day: slaughter of Bethlehem infants

By being born you made every birth sacred, yet tyrants resist this truth. King Herod, seeking to kill all rivals, ordered Bethlehem's infant boys to be killed. Today we remember that you remain God with us.

In you truth is stronger than falsehood, light is stronger than darkness, love is stronger than hatred, and life is stronger than death.

Fourth day: The Holy Family

Today we remember the little family of Mary, Joseph and Jesus which in love embraced the larger family of animals, angels and neighbours.

Their forebears sprang from first human stock and were God-guided folk. This family carried in its heart that vast family of all who love Jesus as their brother.

Fifth day after the birth of Christ: those who nurture Christ.

May we be as Mary to those in whom Christ is being born.

May we be as Joseph, to serve and guard what God is doing.

Sixth day: New Year's Eve

Today is the sixth day after the birth of Christ,

God who took flesh from the blood of generations.
As we leave behind one year and prepare to live another,
**give us forgiveness towards all who have hurt us,
discernment to see your leading,
the will to step onto the springboard that another year
offers.**

Seventh day, 1 January: New Year's Day, the Naming of Christ, Basil of Caesarea

Morning: Today is the seventh day after the birth of Christ, when Jesus was given his name in the temple and we usher in a new year.

Evening: Eternal God, as your servant Basil proclaimed how by your incarnation you gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, gather all that we are and do this coming year into the divine glory, that it may shine in us now and through the ages.

Eighth day, 2 January Seraphim of Sarov

Today is the eighth day after the birth of Christ.

**Out of the silence of eternity your Word brought
life to the world.**

Out of the silence of the forest your servant Seraphim spoke words that brought life to a people, and your divine warmth was incarnate in the frozen snows of Russia.

**Out of the stillness of our devotion may your Word bring
life to us.**

Ninth day: Nine gifts of the Spirit

Like nine ladies dancing may these nine gifts of the Spirit bring the aliveness of Jesus to us today:
Wisdom, Knowledge, Faith, Healing, Miracles, Prophecy, Discernment, Speech, Understanding.

Tenth day: ten commandments

May we leap into the Ten Commandments of God until they become part of our rhythm of life.

Eleventh day: eleven faithful apostles

Like children following the piper, may we remain faithful to Jesus as did eleven of his apostles.

Twelfth day: becoming complete

As it was only when the complete twelve tribes and twelve apostles were in place that the next phase of your plan could proceed, so complete in us what is needed for a fresh revealing of yourself in our world.

Epiphany or Theophany of Christ

This season celebrates the showing forth of Christ's presence to the world. It is known as Epiphany in the Western Church and Theophany in the Eastern Church. It begins twelve days after Christmas – 6 January in the Western Church. It ends on the day before Lent.

Its themes include:

The Light spreads - the wise men take knowledge of the infant Christ back to their countries (especially Week One)
Christ at his baptism is immersed into the human life-stream (especially Week Two)

The light spreads to Jesus' first disciples; the transformation of everyday life and creation, symbolised by the changing of water into wine (especially Week Three)

The Light unifies the whole created world (oikumene) with Christ – the ecumenical Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (January 18-25)

Epiphany Morning Prayer

Opening

Arise, shine for Christ's rays of glory spread across the earth.

**The Sun of suns is rising,
rulers and peoples shall be drawn to the light.**

There may be singing

We welcome the light that dances in the rising sun.

We welcome the light that dawns in the Son of God.

We welcome the light that gleams through the growing earth.

We welcome the light that you kindle in our souls.

Glow to him stars and seas

glow to him children of earth

Glow to him church aflame.

Psalm

Psalm 29, 36:5-10 (2nd week) 72:1-19, 89:1-17, 93, 98, 100, 113, or 149.

Old Testament reading

Isaiah 9:1-11, 60:1-6, 60:11-12, 62:1-12, 63:1-14, 64:4-12, 65:17-25, 66:1-14 or Ezekiel 37:15-28.

New Testament reading

For the first day of the week, Matthew 2:1-12 (week 1), Matthew 3:13-17 (week 2), John 2:1-11 (week 3), Colossians 1:15-23 (week 4), for other days of the week, Matthew 20:29-end, Luke 5:12-16, John 1:29-34, Acts 1:1-9, Ephesians 3:1-

11, 1 John 1 4:7-21 or 5:1-12. Further readings from The Acts of the Apostles are suitable.

Reflection

Praise

Either

As gold is purified in fire, purify us that we may be royal priests to you

We offer ourselves to you as gold.

As rising incense speaks of your Presence, may our hearts rise to you in adoration.

We offer ourselves to you as incense.

As myrrh spreads the fragrance of holy embalmment, may we die to ourselves that others may live through Christ.

We offer ourselves to you as myrrh.

Or

The Immortal who bowed the heavens bows his head before a mortal.

Glory!

The Uncreated enters the stream of created life.

Glory!

God becomes one with us, and we are made one with God.

Glory!

Our lost innocence is restored and the world is charged with the grandeur of God.

Glory!

Father love cascades over the Son; the Spirit pours upon him; God in Trinity is revealed.

Glory! Glory, ever and everywhere!

Or

You transform water into sparkling wine.
You transform drab chores into vibrant joy.

Glory to you, Father, glory to you.

Glory to you, Saviour, glory to you.

Glory to you, Spirit, glory to you.

Or

In Christ there is no longer Jew and foreigner,
there is no longer slave or free,
there is no longer male or female,
all are one in Jesus Christ.

Intercessions

Free or guided prayer or either of the following

O Saviour of the human race,
O true physician of every disease,
O heart-pitier and assister of all misery,
O fount of true purity and knowledge,
May our world see your glory

O star-like sun,
O guiding light,
O home of the planets,
O fiery-maned and marvellous one,
May our world see your glory

O holy scholar of holy strength,
O overflowing, loving, silent one,
O generous and thunderous giver of gifts,
O rock-like warrior of a hundred hosts,

May our world see your glory

Echoes a prayer attributed to St. Ciaran of Clonmacnois

Pour into the empty cups of the world,
the beauty and blessings of Christ . . .

Examples may be given or free prayer.

Closing

The Lord bless you and keep you;

The Lord make His face shine upon you
and be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you
and give you peace.

Epiphany Midday Prayer

Opening

The eyes of the blind shall be opened

Isaiah 35:5

They shall see the glory of the Lord

Isaiah 35:2

Open our eyes to your presence shining here among us.

There may be singing

Bible reading

A reading about eyes being opened to God's presence such as: Exodus 33:7-11, Numbers 22:31-35, Isaiah 6:1-3, Luke 2:28-32, Luke 34:13-35 or John 9:1-7.

Either (1)

You revealed yourself to shepherds through their hearing, to magi through their seeing and to temple worshippers through their touching

reveal yourself to us through sight and sound and touch.

You revealed yourself through a gleam from above, an immersion in deep waters and a life-changing wedding event.

give us epiphany moments - star-like, drenching or transforming.

Jesus,

truly God, truly human.

Your greatness holds the universe,

your goodness beckons us,

your wisdom searches us,

your generosity enriches us,

your strength spurs us,

your mercy frees us.

Silent reflection

Or (2)

O Holy Light
Burn out our impurities
Reveal the truth.
Light up our way.

Silent reflection

or (3)

As Christ enters the stream of created life,
we are immersed in the stream of divine life.
As Christ comes up out of the water,
the world is charged with the glory of God.
Saviour, immerse us in the waters of your Presence;
the waters that cleanse,
the waters that heal,
the waters that renew your life in us.
And immerse in your Presence our lives, our lands,
our world.

Silence or singing.

New Testament reading

1 Corinthians 10:1-4, 2 Corinthians 4:5-6, 1 Peter 2:9 or 1
John 1:5-7,

As the sun rides high at noon, reveal yourself to seekers that
they may become your disciples

... (regions and groups may be mentioned)

Where there is fear
may there be trust.
Where there is greed
may there be care
Where there is darkness
May there be light.

Silence, singing or the Lord's Prayer.

Closing

May the glory and grace of God shine through us
Mary's Son beside us,
the Spirit deep within us.

Epiphany Evening Prayer

Opening

A star leads the wise three to the infant King of all.

Alleluia.

In the waters of baptism Jesus is revealed as Christ.

Alleluia.

In the water made wine Christ revealed a new creation.

Alleluia.

Let us worship the Lord whose Glory streams towards us.

A Gloria or other song

Psalm

Psalm 96, 97, 98, 99, 110, 122 or 133,

Old Testament reading

1 Chronicles 29:10b-14b, Isaiah 55:1-11, 60:1-3, Isaiah 61:1-9, 62:6-end, 63:3 or Jeremiah 31:7-14

Let us affirm our faith:

**Christ was revealed in human form,
shown to be right by the Spirit,
worshipped by angels,
proclaimed among the nations,
believed in throughout the world,
taken up into heaven.**

A very early Creed – 1 Timothy 3:18

New Testament reading

John 1:29-34, 2:1-11, Acts 28:16-end, 2 Corinthians 4:5,6, Titus 2:11-14 or 1 John 1:1-9.

Christ, who makes all things new,
transform the frailty of our nature with the riches of your
grace
and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly
glory.

Intercessions

*Refrain to be said or sung (Celtic Hymnbook 131). This may
be repeated after each intercession*

May our prayers rise like incense and our hands like an
evening sacrifice.

Either

Christ, Splendour of the Father's glory,
sustaining the worlds by your Word of power,
renew your Presence in our world.

Christ, begotten of the Father before time,
born at Bethlehem in time,
renew your Presence in our lives.

Christ, our bright Morning Star,
when this world's darkness is past,
bring us to your eternal light.

Or

Open up the gates
that the king of glory may come in.
Who is the king of glory?
The Lord Almighty, he is the king of glory.

From Psalm 24

You who are hidebound and defensive,

open up the gates; let in the King of glory.

You who harbour hatred and plan acts of violence,

open up the gates; let in the King of glory.

You who pursue selfish goals and thoughtless ways,

open up the gates; let in the King of glory.

You who . . .

open up the gates; let in the King of glory.

*Or silent, free or prepared prayer or the following -
intercessions may follow any of the headings below.*

Christ, Light of the World, may your light stream into the five
continents;

Africa, America, Asia, Australasia, Europe . . .

May your light stream into seekers, people of all faiths and of
none . . .

May your light stream into places of neglect, crime and
conflict . . .

May your light stream into centres of commerce, industry and
government . . .

May your light stream into our communities, homes and
hearts . . .

There may be singing.

Closing

From the rising of the sun to its going down,

God's holy name be praised.

Epiphany Night Prayer

Opening

Either

Arise, shine, for the glory of the Lord has been revealed
Arise, shine, for the glory of the Lord is with us in this place.

Or

The earth has been made holy by your birth.
The stars of heaven have proclaimed your glory.
Light now gleams in us this night.

There may be singing.

Psalm

Psalm 8, 19:1-4, 96:1-9 or Isaiah 60:1-3.

Glory to God.

Glory to God, creating.

Glory to God, redeeming.

Glory to God, lighting up the world.

In the coming of the wise three
you were revealed as king.

In your entering into the baptismal waters
you were revealed as Christ.

In your changing of water into wine
you revealed a new creation.

We give thanks for signs of your Presence in the world . . . *Signs of Christ's presence are recalled in silence or aloud.*

Let us pray for the light to shine on people and places
we now name in silence or aloud...

As Jesus' parents dedicated him in the temple, his glory was
revealed to Simeon the old who said:. My eyes have seen
your salvation, a light for all peoples and glory for this
people.

Luke 2:30-32

Transform our poverty into riches.
Transform our darkness into light.

Singing such as Faithful Vigil ended

New Testament reading

I saw a new heaven and a new earth and the holy city coming
out of heaven like a bride. A voice proclaimed: now God will
live with his people. The city needs no sun or moon to light it
for its light is the glory of God and in that light the peoples of
the earth shall find their way.

Verses from Revelation 21

Divine Eye-opener, open our eyes to see the glory in the
ordinary and the power of fulfilment.

Closing

No more shall we languish in darkness or dread
for you shall be our everlasting light.

May we be

Lit by the glory of God

Drawn by the light of God

Warmed by the fire of God

This night and for ever.

The Festival of Light: Imbolc/Candlemas

For use at any time, especially on 1 February, Saint Brigid's Day (in the northern hemisphere) or 1 August (in the southern hemisphere). In the early Christian centuries in Celtic lands February 1 marks Imbolc (pronounced i-mol-g) the first day of Spring, which is about half way between the winter solstice and the spring equinox.

Churches often celebrate this as Candlemas on 2 February, to mark forty days after Christ's birth, when he was dedicated in the temple and revealed as Light of the World. This day also invites us to take a last look back to the joys of Christmas, and a first look towards the coming times of Lent and the Cross.

One large candle is already lit to represent Jesus, Light of the World.

Opening

Today we thank God for the light that returns to our view after the dark days of winter (*or* that has lit us up during the bright days of summer). Gratitude for the sun, pulsing light through seeds in earth, trunks of trees, warming caves and corridors. Let it awaken us to the True and Everlasting Sun of all suns.

Five persons in turn light a small candle from the Christ candle and say:

First We thank you, Source of created light, that you sent your Son to shine among us with eternal light.

Second In our darkness we light a candle of hope.

Third In our ignorance we light a candle of truth.

Fourth In our pain we light a candle of love.

Fifth In our wonder we light a candle of praise.

All candle-lighters say:

**May all our lights together become one flame that warms
the world with Christ.**

Prayer in Northern Hemisphere

As the season of darkness recedes,
may the incoming light be to us the true Light
in whose presence no unworthy thought,
no deed of shame, may stubbornly remain.

In Southern Hemisphere:

May the light within
sustain us in the darker time ahead,
and be kindled in a thousand hearts.

**Praised be you, my Lord, with all your creatures
Especially Sir Brother Sun
Who is the day, and through whom you give us light.
He is beautiful and radiant, with great splendour
And bears a likeness of you, Most High One.**

After St. Francis of Assisi

Let us pray for the light to shine on people and places
we now name in silence or aloud . . .

Singing or silence

At Candlemas we recall the prayer of Simeon over the infant Christ in the temple. We take a last look back to Christmas and now turn our gaze towards the Cross.

New Testament reading

Luke 2:22-40

Silence. Sing Faithful vigil ended or another song and pray together:

Mighty God, Uncreated Sun, Source of Everlasting Light, pour your light into our hearts. By these kindling flames dispel the darkness of our souls, that we may light up the world.

Closing

May the blessing of light be on you, light without and light within. May the blessed sunlight shine on you like a great fire, so that stranger and friend may come and warm themselves at it. And may light shine out of your two eyes like a candle set in the window of a house, bidding the wanderer come in out of the storm.

Lent

Lent consists of the forty days before Easter, excluding Sundays when celebration of Christ's resurrection continues.

Some churches name the first day Ash Wednesday, because ashes symbolise our mortality and the need for repentance. Others emphasise water and the process of spiritual transformation, symbolised by readings of Christ's transfiguration (the day before Ash Wednesday, or for Roman Catholics, the second week of Lent), his baptism by immersion in a river and the Spirit sending him to be tested for forty days in the desert. Thus we make time to confront inner demons (our Shadow) in order to be fit for purpose.

We need time, space, simplicity in our lives – enough bareness to discern the outline of who we are. Lent is a time for clarity, as when the bare boughs of winter show us the shape of the tree in austere beauty. Let us clear away the clutter of our lives, in order to see the underlying pattern. Let us follow in the steps of our Saviour that by sharing his pain we may also come to celebrate the joy of resurrection.

The Way of Life calls us to learn from the ascetic desert fathers and mothers, asceticism meaning training or practice. It is said we need to practice something thirty times before it becomes a habit. Lent is a suitable time to practice new habits.

The following introduction may be said on the first or any day of Lent.

In these forty days you lead us into a desert of reflection in which we withdraw from getting and spending and desiring,

and, through fasting from the frenzied feeding of false desires, meditation on your Word, and acts of service you open our eyes to your presence in the world, free us to share your generous love and be again your pilgrim people.

Ash Wednesday

If appropriate, as a sign of penitence, the sign of the cross is made with ashes on the foreheads of those who wish, followed by this prayer:

You form us from the dust of the universe:
may these ashes be a sign of our penitence,
a symbol of our mortality, and a reminder that it is
by your grace alone that we receive eternal life.

As each is signed this prayer is said:

Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall
return. Repent and turn with all your heart to Christ.

First Lent Morning Prayer

Opening

O God, you meet us not in the places that we control but in the deep heart's core.

**Let us return to God who has mercy,
To God who richly forgives .**

We will wait for the Lord more than those who watch for the dawn.

Psalm

Psalm 1, 25, 51:1-17, 78:1-8, 130, 131 or 139:1-18.

Forgiveness

We have fallen short of what you desire, O God:

Wipe clean our sins and save us.

You who saved Noah from the waves of the Flood,

Wipe clean our sins and save us.

You who saved your people from an oppressor's hand,

Wipe clean our sins and save us.

You who saved Jonah from the deepest abyss,

Wipe clean our sins and save us.

Silence, a declaration of forgiveness or a chant such as 'Lord, have mercy'.

Old Testament reading

Exodus 34:1-10, Leviticus 19:1-18, Deuteronomy 26:1-15,
Isaiah 55:6-11, Amos 5:6-15, Hosea 8:11-14 or 10:1, 2

A lament is sung or read such as the following

When seas become sterile

And innocence dies
When nature can't sing
And the Son of God cries
We turn again to you
Who brings all that lives to birth
We turn again to you
Until you resurrect the earth

Silence or singing

New Testament reading

Luke 7:40-50, 12:1-12, 12:13-21, 12:22-34, 12:35-40,
12:41-48, 12:49-end or 15:11-31

Intercessions

O Holy Fire,
O Holy Grace.

By your birth,
bring us life.

By your overcoming of troubled spirits,
make us strong.

By your integrity,
make us true.

By your fortitude in trials,
keep us firm.

By your self-giving in death,
make us generous.

By your mission to call unquiet spirits to rest in you,
raise us to eternal life.

God of all seasons,
in your pattern of things
there is a time for keeping
and a time for losing,
a time for building up
and a time for pulling down.
In this holy season of Lent
as we journey with our Lord to the Cross,
help us to discern in our lives
what we must lay down
and what we must take up,
what we must end
and what we must begin.

The Book of Common Order of the Church of Scotland

Silence, free intercession or singing

Closing

May the God of strength be with us,
holding us in strong-fingered hands.

**May we be a sacrament of strength
to those whose hands we hold.**

journeying with Christ from desert to cross to glory.

Second Lent Morning Prayer

Opening

Seek the Lord while he may be found

Call upon him while he is near.

Let the wicked forsake their ways

And the unrighteous their thoughts.

Let them return to the Lord that he may have mercy upon them,

To our God who will richly pardon.

Isaiah 55:5-7

Come, let us return to God

who has torn us and will heal us.

Bind up our wounds and raise us up, O God.

After two days you will revive us

and on the third day will raise us up

that we may live in your presence.

We will strive to know you, Lord,

your appearing is as sure as the sunrise.

You will come to us like the showers,

like the spring rains that water the earth.

Bind up our wounds and raise us up, O God.

O, my people, how shall I deal with you?

Your love for me is like the morning dew

that goes early away.

That is why I have sent prophets

to cut through what is false

and have exposed to you my light.

You desire integrity, not empty rituals.

Bind up our wounds and raise us up, O God.

Echoes Hosea 6:1-6

Psalms

14, 15, 23, 25:1-12, 31:1-5, 36 or 39.

The times may change, loved landmarks go

Hopes may flee and heroes die

But I will seek you, Lord.

I will seek you, Lord.

Old Testament reading

Deuteronomy 30:15-end, 31:14-23, Isaiah 58:1-9a, 58:9b-end,
Jeremiah 5:1-19, 5:30-end or 6:9-21.

Saving God

By your incarnation and birth in poverty,

set us free.

By your prayers and self-discipline,

set us free.

By your tender works of mercy,

set us free.

By your struggle for truth and justice,

set us free.

By your nobility in persecution,

set us free.

By your self-giving even in death,

set us free.

New Testament reading

Romans 8:12-25, Galatians 3:1-14, 5:2-15, 6:1-10, 2 Timothy
2:1-7, 1 Peter 4:1-6 or 5:5-11.

Intercessions

When we consume too much

Lead to us to find our contentment in you alone.

When love of money distorts our habits
Inspire us to give generously and with joy.

When our temper undermines others' well-being
Grant us the grace of acceptance.

When self-pity makes us small-minded and complaining
Lift us into the practice of praise.

When lust seeks cheap substitutes for love
Bring us into the intimacy of deep communion with you.

When slackness leads to slipshod ways
Wake us to a life of mindful dedication.

When boasting brings discord and displaces God
Lead us from a false to a God-centered life

When pride leads us to belittle others
Lead us into the humility of silence.

Silent reflection before or after each prayer

We pray for places of denial in our own or others' lives ...

We pray for hard places that resist you ...

We pray for hells on earth

Closing

What shall be our Lenten prayer?

Holiness on the head,

**reverence in the heart,
and Christ's touch through the hands –
this be our Lenten prayer.**

First Lent Midday Prayer

Opening

We draw aside in the middle of the day
to purge our desires and seek your face, O Christ.

Psalm

Psalm 119:1-8, 119:9-16, 119:17-24, 119:25-32,
119:33-40, 119:41-48 or 119:129-138

O God, create in us a clean heart,
restore in us a true spirit,
cast us not away from your presence.
Renew in us the joy of salvation,
endow us with a generous spirit.
Then we will teach your paths to those who have lost their
way
and they will return to you
and they will return to you

Silence or music

Christ, you are the refined molten metal of our human forge.

**Purge our desires,
strengthen our resolve,
sharpen our minds,
shape our wills.**

In our time of need and in the middle of the day
Let us wait for you to work in us.

Silence.

Bible reading

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17, Isaiah 30:2, Matthew 5:6, Matthew 5:7 or 5:10

Pause for reflection

Intercessions may be offered on the following themes, preceded and followed by saying or chanting of the Trisagion:

**Holy God, Holy Mighty,
Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.**

We pray for mercy on ourselves . . .

Holy God . . .

We pray for mercy on the world . . .

Holy God . . .

We pray for mercy on these we name . . .

Holy God . . .

There may be singing or music.

Let us bless the Lord.

**Working and praying
may we walk in the way of the Cross
each hour of this day.**

Second Lent Midday Prayer

Opening

In the heat of the day we journey with Moses and those who gave guidelines from you.

School us to learn your ways.

Amid distractions we journey with Elijah and prophets who teach us to listen to your voice.

School us to discern your purpose.

Moses and Elijah strengthened Jesus:

Strengthen us to accomplish your will.

Psalm

Psalm 119:1-8, 9-16, 17-24, 25-32, 33-40, 41-48, 40-56 or 106-112

Let us pluck out by the roots Adam's sinful greed
in Eden that proved deadly to the world.

Let us touch the Tree of the Cross
that pours out immortality on the world
like a new river from Paradise
through which all things will be made alive.

School us in the simplicity in which you are revealed.

School us in the purity which reveals you in our heart's longing.

School us in the obedience which reveals you in one another.

New Testament reading

Galatians 5:13-15, Ephesians 4:17-32, 6:10-18, 1 Timothy 4:6-10, 2 Timothy 2:1-7 or James 1:19-27.

God Who is, why do we waste our lives pretending to be what we are not?

Strip from us pharisaic tendencies –

The love of false show,

Pretence which demeans and misuses others.

May we journey with you to the Cross, sharing your integrity.

Help us to be true to you, to others, to creation.

May our ‘yes’ means ‘yes’ and our ‘no’ mean ‘no.’

Transfigure us, O God.

Intercessions

We pray for a society that is in thrall to products and which has forgotten how to be:

Silence, free prayer, music or singing

Too long have I worried about so many things
and yet, my Lord, so few are needed.

May I live more simply – like the bread.

May I see more clearly – like the water.

May I be more selfless – like the Christ.

From Russia

Closing

Christ, Athlete of the Desert,

as we journey with you

train us to combat demons of comfort,

deceit and power,

to be always alert, using our energies

for ultimate good.

First Lent Evening Prayer

Opening

Holy God, you call us to throw off whatever clouds your will.

We will struggle with Christ against wrong.

We will share with Christ his trials.

We will embrace with him the suffering of the world.

Psalm

Psalm 25, 26, 27, 32, 34, 52 or 76.

There may be singing.

Forgiveness

Father Creator, we have raped and spoiled your world,

Forgive us.

Jesus Saviour, we have ignored your teachings and warnings,

Forgive us.

Spirit Sustainer, we have tried to live without you,

Forgive us.

For every sin we have ever thought or done,

For every thing we have sought outside your love,

For every wasted moment,

Forgive us.

For greedy habits and mindless ways

For prejudice, pride and every ill intent towards another,

For every failure of love towards your creation,

Forgive us

*Silence, music of lament or sharing of sorrow for sins that
spoil God's world.*

We will leave behind prejudice and meanness of spirit
We will play our part in your kingdom of love.

Old Testament reading

Exodus 17:1-7, 20:1-17, Jeremiah 2:1-13, 5:1-9, 5:20-25,
Jonah 3 or Micah 2:1-11.

With Moses and Paul, learning from you long years in the
desert

We wait.

With Elijah and John the Baptist, bringing an axe to a rotten
tree

We wait.

With the desert fathers and mothers overcoming inner demons

We wait.

With people of our land . . . *(examples may be given)* facing
their Shadow and struggling against falsehood

We wait.

With Jesus, who made it his habit to commune in deserted
places, and because he asks us to

We wait.

New Testament reading

Luke 14:25-33, 15:1-7, 15:11-32, 17:1-4, 18:9-14, James 4:1-
10 or 2 Peter 2:4-10.

Reflection or singing.

Intercessions

My Lord and my God,

take from me all that keeps me from you.

My Lord and my God,

give to me all that brings me nearer to you.

My Lord and my God,

take me away from myself and give me completely to you.

*Brother Klaus - Nicholas of Flue, d.1487. Switzerland's
patron saint – a layman, farmer, parent and hermit.*

*Particular needs may be mentioned after each of the
following petitions.*

Christ, battered and bowed, into your hands we place the
broken and wounded . . .

Christ, victim of misrepresentation and abuse of power, into
your hands we place the victims of violence and false
accusation . . .

Christ, who had nowhere to lay your head, into your hands we
place the refugees and the hungry . . .

Christ of the scars, into your hands we place these we now
name . . .

Closing

**May the Christ who walks with wounded feet,
walk with us on the road.**

**May the Christ who serves with wounded hands,
stretch out our hands to serve.**

**May the Christ who loves with a wounded heart,
open our hearts to love.**

First Lent Night Prayer

Opening

Tonight we seek your face and forsake our empty hours.
Tonight we seek you above all things.

**Lord, let our memory provide no shelter
for grievance against another.**

**Lord, let our heart provide no harbour
for hatred of another.**

**Lord, let our tongue be no accomplice
in the judgement of a brother.**

Northumbrian Office HarperCollins

Mindful of the looming searchlight of your Cross
**Strip from us what is not of you,
Until our hearts are pure.**

Psalms

Verses from Psalm 6, 38, 42, 51, 90, 102 or 119:145-152

The following or other words may be said:

**Loving Saviour, show yourself to us
that knowing you we may love you as warmly in return,
may love you alone, desire you alone,
contemplate you alone by day and night
and keep you always in our thoughts.
May affection for you pervade our hearts.
May attachment to you take possession of us all.
May love of you fill all our senses.
May we know no other love except you who are eternal.**

A love so great that the many waters of land and sea will fail to quench it.

Columbanus

Scripture reading

Isaiah 55:6-8, Matthew 16:21-26, 18:1-5 or 1 Peter 5:6-11.

Silence or singing.

Have mercy this night on a surfeited world
which, through grasping, can't be grasped by you.
We grieve with you for your children
who have been dispossessed, enslaved, abused.
Have mercy on these, on us and on those for whom we pray . .
.

*Silent reflection or sing the following (tune: Amazing Grace)
or another hymn.*

O Saviour God, forgive our sins
as now we seek your face.
We look to you, we leave behind
what blinds us to your grace.

Through many journeys you have been
your children's strength above.
Tonight we ask that nought we do
will spurn your ceaseless love.

We lay ourselves before you, Lord,
we rest in love divine.
We sleep in hope of glory years
of being for ever thine.

Closing

You have framed the warp of our souls;
at last we will rest in you.

We give thanks for the gift of sleep;
but also for the gift of struggle.

Awake, may we watch with you;
asleep, may we rest in peace.

Second Lent Evening Prayer

Opening

Look and see that I am God who once, for my people, rained down food and brought water from the rock in the desert.

Psalm

Psalm 5, 25, 26, 28, 34, 43 or 119:153-168,

I have been wounded, I have been beaten
by those who indulged their unworthy passions.

**Let us hear you when you call,
and trust you as our God.**

Know and see that I am God.

I search hearts, burn up sins,
protect the powerless and care for the needy.

**Let us hear you when you call,
and trust you as our God.**

Echoes the Great Canon of St Andrew of Crete, 740

Old Testament reading

Exodus 1:1-14, 1:22-2:10, 2:11-22, 2:22-3:20, 4:1-23, 5:1-6:1
or 6:2-13

Christ, who was born in an outbuilding;
you were with us in our birth.

Christ, who was thirty years at the carpenter's bench;
you are with us in our work.

You were driven to the sands by the searching Spirit;
strip from us what is not of you.

You were alone, without comfort or food;
help us to rely on you alone.

Though tested by the Evil One you clung to no falsehood;
break in us the hold of power and pride.

You followed to the end the way of the cross;
strengthen us to remain true to you to the end.

New Testament reading

Luke 12:35-40, 13:22-30, 14:25-33, 16:19-31, 17:7-10, 18:9-14 or 22:24-30.

This Lent strip from us waste and whining, gloss and gloating, pride and pretending. O God, take from us cynicism, domination and idle chatter.

We give you reverence with our whole being.

We give you love with our whole heart.

We give you our all, O God of all gods.

What we have prayed for ourselves we pray also for the world

Silent or spoken intercession

Closing prayer

May our souls dwell in truth and our hearts be free of guile,

May our souls be one with you, Victor of all ages.

Second Lent Night Prayer

Opening

Strip from us, O God, the clutter of this day.

As our dark night draws near, we place into your hands the things that cause us anger.

**Nothing can harm us, nothing alarm us
In you is our peace.**

Chant

Good God, you have created humankind to be immortal and an image of your own eternity; yet often we forget the glory of our heritage and wander from the path which leads to goodness. Look with mercy upon our frailties and forgive our shortcomings, that we may be filled with light, and reflect the strength of your love.

St. Andrew of Crete

New Testament reading

Luke 21:34, John 5:19 or John 13:34-35.

Reflection

We lay down this night vain glory and restless ways

**We lay down this night judging hearts and complaining
spirits**

We lay down this night envy and all ill-will.

Be alert, be on the watch! Your enemy, the Devil, roams round like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. Be firm in your faith and resist him, because you know that your

fellow believers in all the world are going through the same kind of sufferings.

1 Peter 5:8,9.

Into your hands we place these your children . . .

Grant us a night free from worry
a night free from untrusting thoughts
That awake we may watch with Christ
And asleep we may rest in peace.

Passion-tide and Holy Week - in the steps of the Suffering Christ

Holy Week is the week preceding Easter Day. Some branches of the church designate both this and the preceding week, from the fifth Sunday in Lent, as Passion-tide. During this period Christians throughout the world seek to follow in the steps of Christ through the last, momentous week or two of his earth-bound life.

The theme of Palm Sunday is recognition by the crowds of Jesus' unique destiny. The theme of Monday is the cleansing of the temple and of ourselves. The theme of Tuesday is his teaching about the meaning of his mission. The theme of Wednesday is the stature of waiting and the beauty of service. The theme of Thursday is Jesus' last farewell supper, his foreboding and betrayal. The theme of Friday is the trial, the beating, the crucifixion and the shudders of creation. The theme of Saturday is the mourners' grief and the vigil by Jesus' tomb.

Passiontide Morning Prayer

Opening

May we walk this day in the way of the Cross

Giving our all, whatever the loss.

Children sing your praises,

but we have gone our own way.

A donkey gladly bears your weight,

but we have gone our own way.

A thief will cry to you for mercy,

but we have gone our own way.

Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy.

The following may be said or chanted before and after the psalm.

**Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,
have mercy on me, a sinner.**

Celtic Hymnbook

Psalm

Psalm 18:1-6, 20, 21, 23, 51:1-13, 73, 121 (in Holy Week),
69:6-18 (Palm Sunday), 130 (Monday), 56 (Tuesday), 40
(Wednesday), 116:11-18 (Thursday)

Old Testament reading

Exodus 7:8-13, 8:1-15, 8:20-32, 9:1-7, 9:8-12, 9:13-26, or
9:27-35 (in Holy Week), Zechariah 9:9-12 (Palm Sunday),
Isaiah 50:4-10 (Monday), Isaiah 42:1-9 (Tuesday),
Lamentations 1:1-12 (Wednesday), Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14
(Thursday)

O God, when the ride is bumpy
and the world passes us by,
**you pour out your life for us,
right to the very end.**

When we are edged aside
and doors are shut in our face,
**you pour out your life for us,
right to the very end.**

When others are out to get us
and our home is not secure,
you pour out your life for us,

right to the very end.

When our lives are but a flicker
in the darkness that encroaches,
**you pour out your life for us,
right to the very end.**

New Testament reading

Mark 12:1-12, John 12:23-23, Romans 5:12-19, Galatians 6:11-18, Ephesians 2:11-18, Hebrews 2:5-13 or 1 John 5:6-12. Luke 19:28-40 (Palm Sunday), Luke 19:41-48 (Monday), Luke 20:9-19 (Tuesday), Matthew 26:1-15 (Wednesday), John 13:1-17, 31b-35 (Thursday)

The leaders turned on you,
the crowds turned from you.

**But the children sang to you
and even the stones would have praised you.**

You alone have the words of eternal life;
to whom else could we go?

**The children, the stones, and we, too,
will praise you.**

Intercessions

As his greatest trial drew near, Jesus looked upon the city and wept over it, because it did not recognise its salvation.

Open our eyes, that we may weep with you.

After each petition prayers may be offered or there may be silence.

We weep with you for the blindness of pride that corrodes the dignity of human life.

Open our eyes, that we may weep with you. . . .

We weep with you for the mad rush to consume that tramples down the earth and its children . . .

Open our eyes, that we may weep with you. . . .

We weep with you for the lust to control that imprisons the soul and fragments community . . .

Open our eyes, that we may weep with you. . . .

Free prayer, silence, or singing.

Closing

Father, in the life of Jesus you have shown us the way.

Give us his spirit of self-discipline; lead us more deeply into the way of the cross.

Before his hands were stretched out on the cross, they were stretched out in love to children, women, and men.

May your way of the cross be our way, that we, too, may stretch out our hands in love to all.

Passion-tide and Holy Week Midday Prayer

Opening

There may be chant or song.

Lord, today you teach us.
Your words hold the truth about us and this world.
Yet even as you speak, some slip away from you
to impose their agendas on the world.

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

Lord, some remain faithful to you.
We, too, would be faithful, even when times are
bleak and hope grows dim.

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

Lord, you warn us: Unless you take up your cross
and follow me, you cannot be my disciple.

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

Lord, you promise us: Unless a grain of wheat
falls into the ground and dies, it cannot bear fruit,

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

Psalm

Psalm 119:137-152, 129 or a poem

New Testament reading

Romans 15:1-8, Matthew 5:1-12 or Galatians 6:2

Silent or spoken reflection.

**Jesus, master carpenter of Nazareth,
who through wood and nails did win our full salvation,
wield well your tools in this, your workshop,
that we who come to you rough hewn
may here be fashioned to a truer beauty by your hand.**

In the middle of the day we offer to you ourselves,
our work and all who are in our hearts.

Free prayer, music or song.

When you were crucified, O Word,
you offered your body and blood on behalf of all:
your body to refashion us,
your blood to wash us.
**You gave up your spirit, O Christ,
to bring us to your Father.**

From St Andrew of Crete

Saviour of the world, by your Cross and precious death you
have redeemed us;

save us and help us, we humbly beseech you, O Lord.

Closing prayer

May we carry your cross in our hearts through this day.

Your cross be in our eyes and in our looking.

Your cross be in our mouths and in our speaking.

Your cross be in our hands and in our working.

Your cross be in our minds and in our thinking.

Your cross be in our end, and in our departing.

Passion-tide and Holy Week Evening Prayer

Opening

The One who created us comes willingly to suffer for us;
let us spread our resolves before him like the branches of a tree.

The Almighty comes to us as one gentle and lowly of heart;
let us put on clothes of humility and praise.

The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak;
let us watch and wait with him.

Chanting, music, silence or candle-lighting.

Psalm

Psalm 28, 34:1-10, 107:1-22, 114, 123, 141, 142, 118:15-27 (Palm Sunday), 26 (Monday), 35:11-16 (Tuesday), 102:1-11 (Wednesday), 43 (Thursday).

Forgiveness

The following chant may be said or sung.

**Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,
have mercy upon me, a sinner.**

Old Testament reading

Exodus 24:3-8, 1 Samuel 2:1-10, Jeremiah 20:10-13, 22:1-5, 23:9-22, 24, or 25:5-15. Isaiah 5:1-7 (Palm Sunday), Lamentations 3:19-33 (Monday), Isaiah 42:1-7 (Tuesday), Jeremiah 7:21-28 (Wednesday), Exodus 11 (Thursday).

Jesus, Saviour of the world, come to us in your mercy.

We look to you to save and help us.

By your Cross and your life laid down, you set your people free.

We look to you to save and help us.

When they were ready to perish, you saved your disciples.

We look to you to save and help us.

In the greatness of your mercy, free us from our chains.

Forgive the sins of all your people.

Make yourself known as our Saviour and mighty deliverer.

Save us and help us that we may praise you.

Come now and dwell with us, Lord Christ Jesus.

Hear our prayer and be with us always.

And when you come in your glory,

may we be one with you and share the life of your kingdom.

New Testament reading

Matthew 20:17-end, Hebrews 11:17-22, 11:32-12:2, 12:3-13, 12:14-end, 13:1-16, 13:7-end (in Holy week), Mark 11:1-11 (Palm Sunday), Luke 22:1-38 (Monday), Mark 11:27-13:2 (Tuesday), Mark 14:1-11 (Wednesday), John 13:1-14 (Thursday).

Jesus said, 'Can you be baptised with the baptism I must be baptised with?'

Lord, we seek to feel your sadness, we seek to share your tears.

Jesus wept over the city and cried, ‘Come to me all you who have burdens.’

We come to you, Lord. To whom else can we go?

Teaching, activity, silence or singing.

Intercessions

O Christ you saw a widow give what she had;

help us to give our money with love.

You taught us to work like those who tend vines;

help us to tend the planet with love.

You taught that the poor are your brothers and sisters;

help us to serve the poor with love.

Through your weakness,

teach us the grace of acceptance.

In your betrayal,

teach us the grace of forgiveness.

Through your defenceless love,

teach us the grace of self-giving.

Free prayer or singing

Closing

**May the Christ who walks with wounded feet,
walk with us on the road.**

**May the Christ who serves with wounded hands,
stretch out our hands to serve.**

**May the Christ who loves with a wounded heart,
open our hearts to love.**

Passion-tide and Holy Week Night Prayer

Opening

Our desire is to do your will, O God,
our desire is to do your will.

**Our frames are tired and our souls are bowed,
yet still we desire your will.**

**Our strength and our friends may fall away,
yet still we cry out to you.**

Psalm

Psalm 3, 10:1-11 or a poem

Silence or music.

You are our Saviour and Lord,
in our stumbling be our Shield,
in our tiredness be our Rest,
in our darkness be our Light.

The following or other words of Jesus

Jesus said, 'You who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather you to me as a mother hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing.'

Luke 13:34

Christ forsaken;
have mercy on all who are forsaken.
Christ afraid;

have mercy on all who are afraid.
Christ betrayed;
have mercy on all who are betrayed.

We pray for your dear ones and ours, whom you
long to gather to you . . . *(names may be mentioned).*

There may be singing.

We place our soul and body
under your guiding this night, O Christ.
O Son of the journey through darkness,
may your cross this night be our shield.

Closing

We make the sign of the cross of Christ *(make sign)*,
O Christ of the dying and of deathless love.
Your cross be between us and all things fearful.
Your cross be between us and all things coming darkly
towards us.
Your cross be our sure way from earth to heaven.

Prayers and Readings for Thursday of Holy Week

Opening

Today Jesus shares his last Passover Supper with his friends. Today he washes their feet and calls them to love as he loves, even to lay down their lives. Today he is betrayed by his friend, and wracked by the weight of impending gloom. Today he prays that we will unite ourselves around him.

Psalm

Psalm 4:7-12, 39, 77:1-12, 103:6-18 or 116:12-18

The Jesus Prayer may be repeated ten, twenty or fifty times:

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy upon me, a sinner.

Old Testament

Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14 or Jeremiah 31:31-34

Today the shadow of greed fell upon the ungodly Judas and he handed over you, the just judge of all, to unjust judges intent on their own ends.

See how love of money destroys what is good. See how, because of money, the betrayer hangs himself and the Creator is led captive to the slaughter.

**Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

New Testament

Mark 14:12-26, 1 Corinthians 11:23-32 or John 13:1-15.

Silence

Jesus says to his friends: My heart is breaking with grief, stay with me, watch with me and pray with me.

Lord, we will stay with you, we will watch with you, we will pray with you.

Anguish and dismay came over Jesus. He fell prostrate to the ground, and he prayed: My heart is breaking with grief, stay with me, watch with me and pray with me.

Lord, we will stay with you, we will watch with you, we will pray with you.

Later Jesus said: Now my hour has come. The Son of humankind is betrayed into the hands of sinful people. My heart is breaking with grief, stay with me, watch with me and pray with me.

Lord, we will stay with you, we will watch with you, we will pray with you.

Evening or Night

The angel passed over the homes of the God-followers.

The fleeing people passed over the sea.

In their extremity you reached down to them, Lord.

Blessed be the God of eternal covenant.

The Christ walked the land doing works of mercy.

The tyrants dragged him to the gate of death.

In his extremity he called out to you and you heard him.

Blessed be the God of eternal covenant.

O Christ, help us to become one with you.

In your weakness, teach us the grace of acceptance.

In your betrayal, teach us the grace of forgiveness.

In your trials, teach us the grace of trust.

In your defenceless love, teach us the grace of self-giving.

Blessed be the God of eternal covenant.

Night Vigil

Tonight our hearts are heavy.

Our Christ has given love exquisitely. In his tiredness he has washed the tired feet of his friends.

In his generosity he has given bread to his betrayer.

In his prophetic provision he has, with bread and wine, bequeathed a sacrament that makes him always present to us.

In his prayers he has placed the church of every time and place into the Divine heart.

In his bitter anguish in the garden he has fought with demons and with doubt.

He has been led away captive, to be mocked and tried.

He will not sleep this night and he calls us to watch and pray.

He said, I give you a new command: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. No one has greater love than to lay down their lives for another.

Jesus, we love you. We will lay down our lives for one another.

Psalm

Psalm 91

A chant or mantra:

Stay here with me. Remain here with me.
Watching and praying. Watching a praying.

Closing

Father, look upon your family, for whom our Lord
Jesus Christ was willing to undergo betrayal and
torture. Forgive our unfaithfulness.

Cure us of our sins.

Restore our unity.

Strengthen us to walk the way of the cross until we come to
the place of resurrection.

Prayers and Readings for Good Friday

A supplement for personal or home devotion and for Friday vigils.

A wooden cross may be placed in view of everyone.

Bible Readings

Isaiah 53:10-12, Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-9 or John 18:12-19:37

The Imagined Reproaches of the Eternal Son of God spoken to the People of the World from the Cross

Response, said or sung to the tune 'Glory be to Jesus' by Thomas Ken:

Lord, have mercy on us, cleanse us from our sins.

Lord, have mercy on us, turn our hearts again.

My people, what wrong have I done to you?

I made you in my likeness, yet you have marred my image, degraded body and soul.

I have revealed my ways to you

But you have hardened your hearts and gone your own ways.

I made my children of one blood to live in families rejoicing in one another, but you have embittered the races and divided the peoples.

My people, what wrong have I done to you?

What good have I not done for you?

Answer me.

Response

My people, what wrong have I done to you?
I am your Creator, I entrusted the world to you,
yet you have polluted its air and created the means to destroy
it.

I have entrusted the land to you, yet you have violated its
laws and misused my creatures.

My people, what wrong have I done to you?

What good have I not done to you?

Answer me.

Response

My people, I freed you from slavery; yet you handed me over
to death and jeered at me.

I opened the sea before you: you opened my side with a
spear!

My people, what wrong have I done to you?

What good have I not done for you?

Answer me.

Response

I fed you in the desert, guided you with cloud by day and
night, yet you led me to Pilate!

I gave you from the rock living waters of salvation; you gave
me bitter drink, you quenched my thirst with vinegar!

My people, what wrong have I done to you?

What good have I not done for you?

Answer me.

Response

I made you royal peoples;

Yet you crowned me with the crown of thorns!
I gave you endless possibility to become great by my
boundless power; Yet you hanged me on the gallows of the
cross!

My people, what wrong have I done to you?

What good have I not done for you?

Answer me.

Response

I gave you my teachings, but you have eschewed integrity,
I have come to you in this your land, yet you, too, have
betrayed my sacrifice and spurned my love!

Response

Prayers

Hail! life-giving cross,
when all creation saw you,
all things' Maker and Creator,
hang naked on the cross,
it was changed by fear and wailed.
The sun's light failed and the earth quaked.
The rocks were rent
and temple's veil was rent in two.
The dead were raised from their tombs,
and the powers of heaven cried out in
astonishment:
How amazing this is!
The Judge is judged,
he wills to suffer death,
to heal and renew the world.

From an Orthodox Great Vespers

Closing

O King of the Friday,
whose limbs were stretched on the cross,
O Lord who did suffer
the bruises, the wounds, the loss.
We stretch ourselves beneath the shield of your might;
some fruit from the tree of your passion
fall on us this night!

Ancient Irish Prayer, anon.

Prayers and Readings for Easter Eve - Saturday in Holy Week

For personal or group use when there is not a church liturgy.

In Celtic Christian tradition it is important to stay with the body of a deceased person, to be with them as they pass over from one mode of existence to another; to focus intently on memories and to offer symbols of devotion such as anointing oils. This applies supremely to the remembrance of Christ's death. Therefore normal activities should be reduced as much as possible on this day, and spaces made to do these things.

This is also the day when Christ visited the world of the dead in order to release spirits still in chains.

The visual focus of this day might be two branches of a tree stripped of its leaves, shaped as a cross, or an icon of Christ descending into the world of the dead.

Tokens of devotion might include flowers, incense and candles.

In the evening it is common to gather for a vigil in darkness or dimmed light. During this there may be biblical readings of dark moments in human history that were followed by promise of God's covenant; these may be interspersed by silence, singing, prayers, poems and storytelling. The following biblical passages may be read or told as stories: Genesis 1:1-5, 26-end, Genesis 7:1-5, 10-18, 9:8-13, Genesis 22:1, 2, 9-13, 15-18, Exodus 14:15-15:1a, Ezekiel 37:1-14. In

some churches baptism vows are renewed as part of an Easter Vigil.

Personal Bible readings

Psalm 53, 60:1-5, 90, 141

Job 14:1-14, 19:24-27

Matthew 27:57-66, 1 Peter 3:18-22, Revelation 22:4-5.

Prayers

Today a grave holds him

who holds creation in his hand.

A gravestone covers him

who covers the heavens with glory.

Life sleeps. Hell trembles.

The human race waits with bated breath.

We have been buried with Christ through baptism.

In faith we will journey with him into dark and unknown places.

He who holds all things together

was lifted up on the cross

and all creation lamented.

The sun hid its rays.

The stars withheld their light.

The earth shook in fear.

The seas fled and the rocks were split.

Tombs were opened.

The bodies of holy people were raised.

The nether world groaned.

The authorities spread a false report
about Christ's resurrection.

All creation waits with bated breath.

**We have been buried with Christ through baptism.
In faith we will journey with him into dark and unknown
places.**

Different readers may be used where appropriate:

1. We bless Joseph who came to the Governor by night and asked for the Life of all to be laid in his garden of graves.
2. We bless you for Mary, who saw her son hanging on the tree. Her heart was pierced with a sword, as the prophet Simeon had foretold.
3. We bless you for the women, who went to the grave to watch, to weep and offer fragrant spices of devotion.
4. We too, will watch and weep and offer our devotion.
5. Let us recall what was said about the One whom we mourn: No one ever loved as he loved. Someone might lay down their life for a person who did them good: but he laid down his life for those who did him only harm.
6. No one spoke as he spoke. He spoke with authority. He knew what was within people.
7. We observed him, he was full of grace and truth. We were drawn to him because he alone had the words of eternal life.
8. He was the voice of the poor, of the dispossessed, who cried, 'Come to me, all you who are loaded with heavy burdens.'

9. He cried over our city, 'How often I would have gathered you to me as a hen gathers her chicks, but you would not heed me. Now it is too late.'

We mourn a life of such goodness, cut down in its flower.

We mourn for a people who forfeited the flowering of their destiny.

We mourn for a planet which rejected its Maker.

We mourn for ourselves who languish alone.

Christ, you go forth on your journey.

The mortal shall be clothed with the immortal.

The perishable shall be clothed with the imperishable.

All flesh shall see it.

The spirits of the dead shall be raised.

We shall all be changed.

Christ, go forth on your journey.

This is the night when you saved our forebears from their slavery and led them dry-shod through the sea.

This is the night when Christ broke the chains of sin and death and rose triumphant from the grave.

This is the night when Christians everywhere, washed clean of sin and freed from all that degrades them, are restored to grace.

O Christ, you go through the grave and the gates of death,
open to us the gate of glory.

If there is a silent vigil throughout the night, worshippers may gather around a bier with four large candlestands in dimmed

light with a large bowl of incense in front of it. People are invited to restock it throughout the night as needed.

People place cards, flowers, scents or artefacts on or around the bier.

Some traditions celebrate the passing over of Christ from the darkness of death to the light of resurrection as the climax of a vigil. People may gather around a fire outdoors. A large Easter candle which represents the risen Christ may be lit at the fire. The people sing chants or songs as they return to the place of worship.

Easter

Easter celebrates Christ's resurrection from the dead and is the church's greatest festival. It continues for fifty days after Easter Sunday. The prayer patterns for Sunday may be used, those for Ascension-tide may be used for any of the last ten days. Here, in addition, we provide a suggestion for meditation, an Easter candle lighting, and an Easter Dawn service.

For meditation: meditate each day on Jesus revealing himself in one situation; for example, a dawn, after empty toil, a welcoming home, a scar, creation.

An Easter Candle-lighting

A candle is lit.

Jesus Christ is the Light of world;
a light that no darkness can quench.

The long reign of sin has ended.
A new age has dawned.
A broken world is being renewed.
And we are once again made whole.
Alleluia!

Risen Christ, you turned Mary's tears into joy:
turn our tears into joy.
Risen Christ, you turned the travellers' despair into hope:
turn our despair into hope.
Risen Christ, you turned the disciples' fears into boldness;
turn our fears into boldness.

Risen Christ, you turned Thomas' unbelief into trust:
turn our unbelief into trust.

Risen Christ, you turned an empty catch into fullness:
turn our empty routines into fullness.

An Easter Day Sunrise Service

The service takes place in the open air and begins shortly before sunrise. People gather in silence, facing east whence the sun will rise, where an Easter garden with empty tomb or a cross may be placed.

As the women who first witnessed Jesus' resurrection brought spices early in the morning to adorn his body in the garden tomb, so may we bring hearts of devotion. Some may wish to place a palm cross or a flower before the cross. Let us listen to the sounds of nature. May the birds' chorus be for us a welcome to Christ, whom the Bible calls the Morning Star, and whom the Celtic Church called the Bough of Creation. Because this act of worship is in this spirit, it is sometimes felt inappropriate to have any accoutrements in worship other than the pure voice.

Opening

Sleeper, awake, rise from the dead.
Light will shine upon you, Jesus Christ.
Alleluia!

There may be singing.

Bible Reading

Luke 24:1-12 or John 20:11-18

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!
Exult, all creation around God's throne:

Jesus Christ, High King of heaven, is risen!
Sound the trumpet of salvation!

Alleluia!

Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendour,
radiant in the brightness of your King!
Christ has conquered death! Glory fills you!
Darkness vanishes for ever!

Alleluia!

Rejoice, O church! Exult in glory! The risen
Saviour shines upon you! May this place
resound with joy, echoing the mighty song of all
God's people!

Alleluia!

There may be singing.

Bible reading

Matthew 28:2-6

1. Living Lord, come to us in your risen power and make us glad with your presence.
2. Risen Lord, as Mary Magdalen met you by the garden tomb on the morning of your resurrection, so may we meet you today and every day. Speak to us as you spoke to her. Reveal yourself to us as our living Master. Renew our hope, kindle our joy, and inspire us to share the good news with others.

There may be singing, brief words of encouragement or teaching.

3. Christ was killed and rose again at the time of the Jewish Passover festival in order to fulfil its meaning: a crossing over. The ancient Jews crossed over from a life of slavery to the land of promise; Jesus crossed over from death to life. We cross over from the slavery and death of sin to the freedom and life of Christ. That is the meaning of our baptism. Let us who are baptised make an act of unity with the crucified and risen Christ, so that this becomes the pattern of our lives.

4. So let us celebrate, but not with food that grows stale and decays, but with the food of eternal life.

Christ once raised from the dead dies no more:

death has no more power over him.

He died to the self-willed human life;

rising, he lives to God for ever.

Now we too will be dead to sin

and alive to God through Christ our Lord.

Christ has been raised up from the dead:

the first-fruit of those who 'sleep'.

For as by a human death sets in,

by a human comes resurrection of the dead.

For as in Adam all die:

so in Christ shall all be made alive.

We welcome the sun that lights up day:

we welcome the True Sun who dispels the shades of sin.

The sun rises daily only because you command it;

its splendour will not last, created things all perish

Christ the true Sun nothing can destroy;

the Splendour of God, he shall reign for ever!

In the light of the risen Christ, all is transformed.
Now we may look back over the past, we may look in upon
our ourselves and we may look out upon the world, and see
all in a fresh light. We see people with the ‘resurrection eyes’
of our Lord Jesus.
Let us have a time of prayer.

*There may be silence, free prayer, or prepared thanksgivings
followed by intercessions. This may conclude with everyone
saying the Lord’s Prayer together. Further singing may
follow.*

Closing

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Listen to the word from God: ‘Go quickly and tell the others
“He is raised from the dead and is going before you.”’

May we walk in the light of your presence.

The risen Christ said: ‘My peace I give you.’

Let us give one another a sign of this gift and go in the peace
of Christ.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

*All may give one another a sign of peace.
Breakfast and the making of Easter decorations may follow.*

Ascension

This begins on the Thursday ten days before Pentecost Sunday. It marks the last of the forty days the physically resurrected Christ spent on earth, his farewell and his final commission.

As Christians have reflected upon this event, they have realised its significance for the whole human race. Christ, as the representative of the human race, has taken humanity into the heart of God.

Jesus called his followers to spend the days following his physical disappearance waiting on God, in order to receive the Holy Spirit, or Power, which God would send them.

Ascension Morning Prayer

Opening

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Christ has ascended!

Our High King – He shall reign for ever.

There may be singing.

Psalm

Psalm 92, 104, 110, 117, 139, 147:1-12, 148, 149 or 150

Trumpets of the earth proclaim,
Christ who once in earth had lain,
goes in triumph now to reign.

Alleluia!

He sits with God upon his throne,
the Father's glory is his own,
he the eternal, radiant Son.

Alleluia!

All human life with him is raised,
the weakest ones by heaven are praised,
now high and low on him have gazed.

Alleluia!

Old Testament reading

Deuteronomy 13:1-13, 30, 33, 1 Kings 19:1-16, 2 Kings 2:1-15, Daniel 7:9-14, Isaiah 52:7-end, Ezekiel 1:4-5, 26-end, or 26:24-28.

High King,
you are crowned with glory.

Victor in the race,
you call us to follow you.

High Priest,
you understand our every need.

Eternal Giver,
you shower your gifts on every soul.

Head of the church,
you wish no one to be separate from your Body.

Sender,

you promise us your Holy Spirit.

New Testament reading

Luke 24:50-53, Acts 1:1-11, Matthew 28:16-20, Hebrews 2:9-end, 1 Peter 2:4-10, 1 John 4:1-6, 5 or Revelation 5.

Christ Jesus, though you were in the form of God you did not cling to equality with God. You emptied yourself, taking the form of a servant; you were born in human likeness. Being found in human form you humbled yourself and became obedient, even to death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted you and given you a name above every other name.

That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. For ever and ever. Amen.

Philippians 2:6-11

Intercessions

Glorious Son of the Universe, a cloud hid you from sight yet your mortal humanity has been raised to life in God.

We pray for those whose life is clouded:
raise them to life in you.

For those clouded by fear:
raise them to life in you.

For those clouded by worry:
raise them to life in you.

For those clouded by hostility:
raise them to life in you.

May tiny infants in the womb be raised to life in you;
may the handicapped and ailing be raised to life in you;
may bronzed and brave adventurers be raised to life in you;
may thinkers and researchers be raised to life in you;
may the battle-scarred and weary be raised to life in you.
may the whole human family be raised to life in you.

*Silence, free prayer or singing such as A Hymn of Glory Let
us Sing by the monk Bede who died on Ascension Day*

Closing

May the King of glory fill you with joy, make you
expectant, keep you in unity, and bring you the
Power from on high.

Alleluia

Ascension Midday Prayer

Opening

Jesus, you embraced our humanity and took it into the heart of God.

Alleluia!

You clothe human life in unfading dignity.

Alleluia!

We will revere you in all we do,
discern you wherever we are
and love you in each person we meet.

Alleluia!

New Testament reading

He who descended into the world below also ascended far above the heavens in order that he might fill all things and give gifts to his people . . .

that we might come to maturity, to our full stature in Christ.

Ephesians 4:10, 11

Or

Ephesians 1:20-21 or 2:6.

You came down,

to lift us up.

You descended to earth,

that earth might ascend to heaven.

You descended to the dead,

that the dead might rise to life.

In the heat of the day,

lift us up.

In our fretting cares,

lift us up.

In our tiredness,

lift us up.

In difficulty and disappointment,

lift us up.

In . . .

lift us up.

Lift us Lord,

out of darkness into light,

out of despair into hope.

Lift us, Lord,

out of sadness into joy,

out of failure into trust.

Lift us, Lord,

out of anger into forgiveness,

out of pride into freedom.

There may be singing.

Psalm

Psalm 8, 47, 93, 121, 103:1-5 or 104:1-4.

There may be silence.

Ascended King, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

There may be free prayer as follows:

Your kingdom come in . . . *(Places or persons may be named.)*

**Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory
the splendour and the majesty.**

Everything in heaven and earth is yours.

**All things come from you, and of your own do
we give you.**

Closing

**May the Eternal Glory shine upon us,
may the Son of Mary stay beside us,
may the life-giving Spirit work within us,
now and always. Amen.**

Ascension Evening Prayer

Opening

Christ departs, but Love's fragrance ever lingers.

Death is conquered; fear has lost its power.

A human heart now lives in God;

the fullness we long for we shall now receive.

There may be singing.

Psalm

Psalm 8, 18:1-27, 24, 80, 93, 97 or 98.

King of Glory:

ennoble us.

King of Grace:

cherish us.

King of Life:

renew us.

King of Promise:

surprise us.

Old Testament reading

Numbers 21:4-9, 22:1-15, 23:13-end, 1 Samuel 16:1-13a, 2 Kings 2:1-13, Isaiah 52:7-12 or 61.

You left our sight with prints of love

Pour blessings on us from above

You promised us the Counsellor

To grace and guide us evermore.

Promised Spirit,

come as the dew in the night,

**come as the rain on dry land,
come as the fire in hours of cold,
come to renew in us your image of love.**

New Testament reading

Matthew 28:16-20, Luke 8:1-15, 26-39, 40-end, John 7:37-39,
14:1-3, Acts 1:1-11, Hebrews 4:14-16 or Revelation 19:1-8.

Intercessions

Ascended Lord, you call those who follow you to a time of waiting, that they may be able to receive the gifts you delight to shower on your church, and to receive the empowering Spirit.

Take from us obstinate ways.

Give us receptive hearts.

Make us fertile ground.

Silence or music.

Lord, before you left this earth, you urged your friends to immerse all peoples in your life. We pray for parched and hungry people;

immerse them in your life.

We pray for torn and exiled people;

immerse them in your life.

We pray for lonely and unloved people;

immerse them in your life.

We pray for unjust and oppressive people;

immerse them in your life.

We pray for ...

Immerse them in your life.

There may be free prayer and singing.

Closing

Ascended Lord, you have made us living stones of the temple you are to build.

Send us out to be used in your hands.

Ascension Night Prayer

Opening

Ancient legend says that before Christ left the earth he told his disciples: I have no hands but yours, I have no eyes but yours, I have no lips but yours, I have no feet but yours.

As we go to rest we offer ourselves to you, Lord;
**may our hands be your hands,
may our eyes be your eyes,
may our lips be your lips,
may our feet be your feet.**

Psalm

Psalm 113 or 99.

There may be silence or singing.

The One who was crowned with thorns is crowned with glory now.

The One who descended to the depths now lifts us to himself.

We pray for the down-trodden and destitute.

Lord, lift them up.

We pray for the deserted and despairing.

Lord, lift them up.

We pray for our loved ones.

Lord, lift them up.

We pray for ...

Lord, lift them up.

New Testament reading

John 16:28, Ephesians 4:7-13, Hebrews 10:12-14 or 1 Peter 3:18-22.

Prepare us to receive the Spirit of Christ;
the Spirit of wisdom, strength and joy.

Silence, singing or music.

Great God, as the haze rises from mountain tops, raise our
souls from the granite of death
before we go to sleep.

As we lay down our clothes, may we lay down our struggles
before we go to sleep.

Take from us our anguish and our empty pride
before we go to sleep.

Give us grace, give us joy
before we go to sleep.

Closing

The glory of the God of life glow within you even when
clouds hide God from your sight.
In valleys of discontent, in birth pangs and death pains the
glory of the God of life glow always within you.

Pentecost - Walking in the Spirit

Pentecost begins fifty days after Jesus' resurrection and celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit. Its duration varies according to different traditions. Some branches of the church observe it for only one week until Trinity Sunday. In Celtic tradition the forty days after Pentecost are the 'third Lent', perhaps chosen because it enabled Christians in Celtic lands to seek out God in the open air. Some Christians dedicate these forty days to 'walking in the Spirit'. The Prayer Patterns for Wednesdays and Pentecost may be interspersed with the following.

Pentecost Morning Prayer

Opening

Creator Spirit, come,
fresh as the morning dew.

**Inflaming Spirit, come,
kindle our hearts anew.**

There may be singing.

Psalm

Psalm 23, 24, 36:5-9, 103:1-13, 104:24-34, 139:13-18 or 145.

I will gather you from the nations,
I will sprinkle pure water upon you and cleanse you from all
that defiles,

**I will put a new spirit within you and you shall be my
people.**

A new heart I will give you,
I will remove your heart of stone and give you a heart of
flesh,

**I will put a new spirit within you and you shall be my
people.**

You shall be my people and I shall be your God.

**Glory to the Source, Creator, Redeemer and ever-flowing
Spirit.**

Verses from the Book of Ezekiel

Old Testament reading

Genesis 1:1-5, Exodus 31:1-11, Numbers 11:21-30, 2

Chronicles 3: 22-end, Ezekiel 37:1-14, Jeremiah 31:31-34 or
Joel 2:28-29.

Spirit of the quiet earth,
Spirit breathing hope to birth.
**Spirit, kindle flame that darts,
Spirit, waken song in hearts.**

Spirit blowing through creation,
inspiring deeds for proclamation.
**Spirit, kindle flame that darts,
Spirit, waken song in hearts.**

Spirit tearing down our walls,
be the One who speaks and calls.
**Spirit, kindle flame that darts,
Spirit, waken song in hearts.**

New Testament reading

John 7:37-39, 16:4b-15, Acts 2:1-11, 4:23-31, 19:1-7, 1
Corinthians 12:1-11 or 14:1-12.

Flame of love,
light us up.

Flame of truth,
light us up.

Flame of seeing,
light us up.

There may be singing.

O Spirit, be free in us,
let us not bind you through fear of where your disturbing
power will lead.
Burst through this brittle shell, shake us to the foundations,
strip us to the core which is our essence and your love.

God of the call, God of the journey, you have anointed your
servants from the Day of Pentecost until now. Anoint us as
you will for the ministries you will. Here we wait, alert and
open, praying that you will come to us . . .

Silence, laying on of hands or singing in the Spirit.

Intercessions

Strength-giver,
may your fibre grow in us.

Fortifier,
may your praises swell in us.

In-dweller,
may your presence dwell in us.

Free prayer

The Uncomfortable Blessing

May the Spirit bless you with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths and superficial relationships, so that you will live deep in your heart.

May the Spirit bless you with anger at injustice and oppression, and exploitation of people and the earth, so that you will work for justice and peace.

May the Spirit bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer, so that you will reach out your hand to comfort them.

And may the Spirit bless you with foolishness to think that you can make a difference in the world, so that you will do all the things which others say cannot be done.

Pentecost Midday Prayer

Opening

Come from the four winds, mighty Spirit of God, and revive your weary people.

In our labour,
be our Refreshment.

In our distress,
be our Comfort.

In our adversity,
be our Strength.

Psalm

Psalm 46 or Isaiah 40:23-31.

For your Spirit permeating every atom of creation,
we praise you with wonder in our being.
For your creativity planted deep in every soul,
we praise you with wonder in our being.

In the beginning, O God,
your Spirit swept over the chaos of the cosmos
like a wild wind
and creation was born.
In the deep and unsettled waters of our lives
and our lands today,
let there be new birthings of your Spirit.

New Testament reading

John 7:37-39 or Ephesians 4:29-30.

Spirit of the living God, anoint our creativity, ideas and energy, so that even the smallest tasks may bring you honour.

When I am confused,

guide me.

When I am weary,

energise me.

When I am burned out,

restore me.

Release in us the power of your Spirit
that our souls may be free to roam.

May we,

soar high like the eagle,

glow like the fire,

flow like a river.

Silent or free prayer and singing.

Closing

Great Spirit, Wild Goose of the Almighty,

be our eye in the dark places,

be our flight in the trapped places,

be our host in the wild places,

be our brood in the barren places,

be our formation in the lost places.

Filled with your Spirit we shall journey on.

Pentecost Evening Prayer

Opening

You led your people by a cloud;

lead us by your Spirit now.

You lit your people by a fire;

light us by your Spirit now.

There may be singing.

Psalm

Psalm 98, 104:25-end, 127, 135, 136, 138 or 150,

Spirit of God, the wonder of communion is yours.

And we are filled.

There may be silence.

Old Testament reading

Exodus 31:1-11, 33:7-11, 36:32-38, 1 Samuel 10:1-7, 16:1-13, Job 33:1-6 or Daniel 4:1-9.

The following may be said before the psalm or here.

O King of the Tree of life,

the blossoms on the branches are your people,

the singing birds are your angels,

the whispering breeze is your Spirit.

O King of the Tree of Life,

may the blossoms bring forth sweetest fruit,

may the birds sing out the highest praise,

may your Spirit cover all with her gentle breath.

New Testament reading

Matthew 3:7-11, John 20:19-23, Acts 2:36-39, Romans 8:9-11, 8:22-27, 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 or Galatians 5:16-26.

Come, like fire
and kindle love in our hearts.

Come, like wind
and breathe life into our bodies.

Come, like water,
and immerse us our souls.

Come, like earth,
and sustain our being.

There may be a Creed, teaching, sharing, and singing.

Intercessions

God whose breath gives energy for struggle,
open our ears
that we may hear the weeping of the world,
open our mouths
that we may be a voice for the voiceless;
open our eyes that we may discern your ways;
open our hearts that we may bring faith to life.

Holy Spirit, complete through us the work begun by Jesus.
Invigorate our work,
subdue our pride,
raise us to wonder.

Holy Spirit, shower your gifts upon your people:
gifts of wisdom and understanding;
gifts of healing and practical help;

**gifts of speech and heartfelt tears;
gifts of love which bind us together in peace.**

Free or silent prayer or singing

Closing

As the water in the stream makes its journey to the sea, so
may we flow with the Spirit until our lives become complete.

Pentecost Night Prayer

Night lights are lit.

Opening

When Pentecost came the disciples were together and there came what looked like tongues of flame. These separated and rested on the head of each one individually.

Acts 2:1, 3

Come, flame of love.

Come, flame of truth.

Come, flame of joy.

Psalm

Psalm 16, 63:1-8, 139:1-12 or Isaiah 11:2.

As the sun sets,

renew the face of the earth.

Where there are tired and broken people,

renew the face of the earth.

Where night-life breeds disillusion,

renew the face of the earth.

Where those we care for dwell,

whom we name before you now,

renew the face of the earth.

... Names may be mentioned

As we wait on you now,

renew the face of the earth.

In silence people kneel or sit with hands open to receive

On occasions there may be laying on of hands or singing in the Spirit.

Closing

The Spirit rest upon your brow,
keep you safe in every hour.
When you wake with work to do,
Holy Spirit, see you through.

Trinity

God is a Mystery whom mortals can never fully fathom. However, Christians believe that enough has been revealed for us to know that the essence of God is relationship – a communion of three flowing Loves. Humans are designed to reflect the Trinity from whom flows unity in diversity, true community and a society rooted in good relationships.

God is Being with a longing. A response erupts from within God of sacrificial, embodied giving. The two remain one essence through their Breath or Spirit. A traditional formulary of this Mystery is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Some mystics suggest that God has not only given us a way of life, God is a way. Jesus said ‘I Am (Yahweh) the Way’ (John 14:6). As we walk with God we reflect the three-fold rhythms of being, birth and breath. The following experimental prayer patterns include three-fold affirmations. These may also be used while walking, working and lying down.

Many branches of the church observe Trinity Sunday on the Sunday following Pentecost, but there is wide variation in the naming or duration of a ‘Trinity Season’. In the Celtic tradition the Trinity is not simply allotted a season in the Church’s year but is recognised as the very fabric of its life and worship at all times. These prayer patterns may therefore be used at any time, especially from the Sunday after Pentecost until the Angel Season that begins on 29 September.

Trinity Morning Prayer

Opening

In the presence of the One who births
In the presence of the One who is born
In the presence of the One who breathes through all
Today may we be one.

There may be singing.

We arise today in a mighty strength;
the God who is One,
the God who is Three,
creating all through love.

We arise today
in the might of the Father,
in the strength of the Son,
in the gentleness of the Spirit,
affirming all through love.

Psalm

Psalm 5, 8, 29, 86:8-13, 90, 113 or 126.

We bless you for the sun:
its source of fire,
its beams of light,
its rays of warmth.

We bless you for the water:
when it is ice,
when it is steam,
when it is flowing free.

We bless you for the human being:
the being who thinks,
the being who acts,
the being who feels.

We bless you for the Triune God:
the Triune who is,
the Triune who takes flesh,
the Triune who gives life to all.

Music or silence.

Old Testament reading

Genesis 1:26,27, 18:1-14, Exodus 3:1-14, Isaiah 48:12-17,
55:6-11, Daniel 3:19-25 or Amos 9:5-7.

Power of powers,
we worship you.
Light of lights,
we worship you.
Life of lives,
we worship you.
Source of life,
we turn to you.
Saviour of life,
we turn to you.
Sustainer of life,
we turn to you.

Love before time,
we adore you.
Love in darkest time,

we adore you.

Love in this time,

we adore you.

New Testament reading

Mark 1:9-13, 12:35-37, Luke 1:39-45, 1:67-79, John 16:5-15,
2 Corinthians 13:11-end or Ephesians 3:14-end.

Glory to the Father,

glory to the Son,

glory to the Spirit,

Ever Three-in-One.

There may be teaching, sharing, silence, singing.

Intercessions

Eternal God and Father,

you create us by your power

and redeem us by your love:

guide and strengthen us by your Spirit,

that we may give ourselves in love and service

to one another and to you,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Traditional, anon

Father, you bring worlds to birth,

you bring us to birth and you affirm us.

We bring to you unaffirmed places in ourselves

and unaffirmed people in the world . . .

Pause, or people or aspects of ourselves may be mentioned.

Father, affirm them.

Father, affirm them.

Saviour, you reach our brokenness
and make us whole,
you reach those who are alienated
and bring them home.

We pray for broken and alienated people . . .

Pause, or people or aspects of ourselves may be mentioned.

Saviour, restore them
Saviour, restore them.

Spirit, you permeate all creation
and renew the springs of life,
we pray for drained and wearied people . . .

Pause, or people or aspects of ourselves may be mentioned.

Spirit, renew them.
Spirit, renew them.

There may be free prayer, the Lord's Prayer or singing.

Closing.

Into the Sacred Three we immerse you,
into their power and peace we place you,
may their breath be yours to live,
may their love be yours to give.
Into the Sacred Three we immerse you.

Trinity Midday Prayer

Opening

Love birthing,

we honour you.

Love bridging,

we adore you.

Love binding,

we embrace you.

Old Testament reading

God said:

Let us make human beings in our likeness.

Genesis 1:26

Thank you for the little trinities that reflect to us your nature:

For lovemaking, conceiving and nurturing;

**for young and old, male and female, making sport, music
and community.**

We pray for them . . .

Prayer, reflection or music.

God beyond,

glory to you.

God within,

glory to you.

God between,

glory to you.

Each shade and light

Each day and night

Each touch and each sight

Give us the Spirit of the Three of Love.

In our journeying this day,
keep us, Father, in your way.
In our play and in our work,
guide us, Saviour, by your word.
In our thoughts and in our talk,
may we, Spirit, with you walk.
In our friendships let us be,
in the Blessed Trinity.

Free prayer or singing

Closing

The Father reaches out in Love,
Inviting us to dance.
The Son connects with us in Love,
Drawing us into the dance.
The Spirit enfolds us in Love,
Teaching us how to dance.
So let us abandon ourselves
to the joy of the dance
with the Trinity of Love.
In joy we will dance with the Trinity of love.

Trinity Evening Prayer

Opening

God who is One

you create us in diversity.

God who is Three,

you draw us into unity.

With the Triune of Love

We are one.

There may be singing.

Psalm

Psalm 85, 90, 113, 115, 146, 147 or 150.

For my shield this day I call:

a mighty power, the Holy Trinity.

**Faith in the Three, trust in the One,
creating all through love.**

In faith I trust in the Father of all:

he's my refuge, a very strong tower.

For my shield this day I call:

Christ's power in his coming,

Christ's power in his dying,

Christ's power in his rising.

For my shield this day I call:

the mighty Spirit who breathes through all.

**Faith in the Three, trust in the One,
making all through love.**

Old Testament reading

Isaiah 59:15b-21, Jeremiah 6:16-21, 31:31-35, Ezekiel 1:4-10, Proverbs 1:9-5, Habakkuk 2:12-14 or Zechariah 2:10-end.

The Three who are over our head,
the Three who are under our tread,
the Three who are over us here,
the Three who are over us there,
the Three who in heaven do dwell,
the Three in the great ocean swell,
pervading Three, O be with us,
pervading Three, O be with us.

New Testament reading

Matthew 28:16-end, Mark 1:1-11, John 10:7-18, 17:1-11,
Romans 4:13-end, 1 Corinthians 12:12-20 or Colossians 2:6-10.

Let us walk in the way of God:

God yearning

God yielding

God yeasting the world.

Let us walk in the way of God:

God grounding

God giving

God gracing the world.

Let us walk in the way of God:

God flowing

God enfleshing

God filling the world.

A Creed or silence.

Intercessions

Triune God, you call us to reflect your unity in diversity.
We pray for places where community has been destroyed . . .

examples may be named

May the oneness of the Three give birth to new unity.

May the love of the Three give birth to new community.

Reflection or singing.

Closing

Holy Three

Your love draws us

Your arms wrap us

Your voice calls us

**Sacred Three our Friendship be
encircling us eternally.**

Trinity Night Prayer

Opening

Three unlit candles are set in place.

Peace of the Maker, peace of the Son
Peace of the Spirit, the Triune one.

First I light this candle in the name of the Creator who birthed the world and breathed life into me.

This or another chant may be sung after each candle-lighting

**Gloria, gloria, gloria,
in excelsis Deo.**

Second I light this candle in the name of the Saviour who entered the world and stretched out his hand to me.

Third I light this candle in the name of the Spirit who pervades the world and fills me.

We have lit three lights for the Trinity of love;

**God above us,
God beside us,
God beneath us.**

Father, cherish me,
Son, cherish me,
Spirit, cherish me,
Three all-kindly.

God, make me holy,

Christ, make me holy,
Spirit, make me holy,
Three all-holy.

Three, aid my hope,
Three, aid my love,
Three, aid my eye,
Three all-knowing.

As I enter into sleep,
keep my soul, O Father, keep.
As I enter into rest,
renew my frame, O Saviour blest.
When I wake with work to do,
Holy Spirit, see me through.
Holy Three, my shield, my wall,
be my rest, my joy, my all.

Our dear ones bless, O God, wherever they are,
especially . . .

Silence or singing.

Day has ended,
Father, guard us sleeping.
Night has come,
Saviour, guard us sleeping.
Our minds need calm,
Spirit, guard us sleeping.

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

Closing

May the blessing of the Son
help us do what must be done.

May the Spirit stroke our brow
as weary down to sleep we go.

May the Father mark our rest
empower us for tomorrow's test.

**May the Trinity rekindle
the fading flame of our life's candle.**

Echoes Ramon Beeching, Pocket Celtic Prayers

Transfiguration

For use at any time, especially the Sunday before Lent (Anglicans), the second Sunday of Lent (Roman Catholics), and on the Feast of the Transfiguration of Christ before his death, 6 August. That is also the date the world's first atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima in 1945. So prayers for the transfiguration of scarred creation are also included.

O Tender Light of the Holy and Heavenly Trinity,
open our eyes and we shall see your glory,
open our minds and we shall know your ways,
open our lives and we shall show your presence,
open our lips and we shall tell your praise.

Singing

A candle or incense may be lit.

Old Testament reading

2 Kings 2:1-12 or 2 Chronicles 5:11-14.

Almighty God, Creator,
greyness has enveloped our world;
as we lift our hearts to you,
may your glory make things clear.

Almighty God, Creator,
you seem absent from your world;
light up for us your presence
in all we meet and touch.

Almighty God, Creator, veiled by cloud and storm;

**shine through our trivial tasks,
make them signals of your love.**

Echoes a prayer of George McLeod

New Testament reading

Mark 9:2-9 or Luke 9:28-36.

Silence or music.

Morning

We remember that you set your face to go where duty called.

We set our faces towards your purpose for us.

Midday

Lord, come and put a glory in our work today.

Come and put a shine on the noontime fray.

**May the Glory come now from the heavens high,
the Glory come to us; the Glory come nigh.**

Lead us

From confusion to our true calling

From illusion to reality

From violence to transformation.

Evening

We remember that on this day the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima; we pray for those who died and those who are still in pain.

We remember Moses and Elijah, witnesses of life triumphant over death and we pray for the faithful departed.

Intercessions

Either

Jesus, you took your friends to be alongside you.

Be close to us this day/night.

Father, you strengthened your son for his coming trial

Strengthen us this day/night

Spirit, your glory transfigured them in the cloud

Transfigure us this day/night.

Saviour, you led the disciples down to a suffering world

Lead us to transform a suffering world.

Or

Your kingdom come on earth, as it is in heaven.

Transfigure this earth.

May flowers bloom on it.

Transfigure this earth.

May peace reign on it.

Transfigure this earth.

May people and creatures be friends on it.

Transfigure this earth.

May our bodies be changed into bodies of resurrection.

Transfigure this earth.

Make us aware, dear God,
of the eye that beholds us,
the hand that holds us,
the heart that loves us,
the Presence that transforms us.

Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new.
Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches
of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives

make known your heavenly glory through Jesus
Christ our Lord.

*Following each petition there may be a pause or anyone may
name examples of suffering in the world.*

We pray that into blighted places you will bring
communities of light . . .

We pray that into disheartened believers
you will reveal the Resurrection . . .

We pray that into those disfigured by nuclear blast
you will bring healing . . .

We pray that into a groaning creation you will
bring redemption . . .

Closing

Transfiguring One

Love in us

Care through us

Cry in us

Laugh through us

As echoes of eternity.

Closing Night Prayer

As the sun sets on this world,
bathe us in unfading glory and bring us to the
gates of heaven.

Creation Season Prayers

Creation season is emerging as an international and ecumenical season throughout September which may include special days such as:

1st Sunday in Creation – Forest Sunday

2nd Sunday in Creation – Land Sunday

3rd Sunday in Creation – Wilderness/Outback Sunday

4th Sunday in Creation – River or Sea Sunday

October 5, St. Francis of Assisi Day – Blessing of Animals Sunday

Some dedicate a day to plants or the cosmos.

See www.seasonofcreation.com

The following sections have suitable material:

Mondays and Creation Celebrations

Natural Seasons

Healing of Wounded Places and Groups

Creation Season Arising Prayers

We arise today

In the flowing of waves and the stability of rock.

We arise today

In the energies of earth and the glories of heaven.

We arise today in the wisdom of the One who brought to birth the giant plains, the water and the first beings.

We arise today in the brightness of the One who created the blazing sun, the shining stars and the twinkle in our eyes.

We arise today in the Eternal Flow of Life who seeps through land, and limb and love.

CA&H Australia

Creation Season Intercessions

We hold before you creation, stamped with the marks of the Trinity, yet groaning. You who have entered into the deepest layers of the cosmic process, embracing its suffering, help us to receive you into our own deepest wound and become the first fruits of a new creation.

Creation Season or Summer Earth Blessing

This may be held in the open air. Three representatives each bring a small bag of earth.

Opening

The earth belongs to God and everything in it.

Let the people give God praise and all creation sing.

There may be singing.

Let us bless God for our Mother Earth. She is very humble. She is always there, always available; she lets seeds multiply and she nourishes us. On her we make our home.

1. How precious is the soil that God has made. It is rich and fertile; a single seed planted in it will bring forth a hundred seeds.

2. How beautiful is the soil that God has made. Frail seeds blown by gentle winds become garlands of colour flowering in crevice and cranny.

3. How mysterious is the soil that God has made. Its deeps bring forth minerals with which we bring buildings, energy and ornament to our lives.

4. How fruitful is the soil that God has made. It brings forth crops of wheat and wood, of fruits and nuts, of roots and berries.

5. How hospitable is the soil that God has made. Can the sheep and cows eat grass without the soil? Even the birds who soar above the highest mountain must return to earth to find food. The earth provides a bed for the ocean, and a floor for humankind.

6. How like a mother is the soil that God has made. It contains us and feeds us, it warms us and holds us.

God our Provider, bless our earth and bless us your people who live by it.

Echoes a North American Indian ritual

Psalm 148 may be read.

Praise for the plants

The leader has a list of local plants. Some participants may be asked to bring a plant, or to add further examples. The leader invites everyone to raise a hand towards the sky. Those who wish to may name a plant:

For . . . *name the plant*

we bless you, generous Giver.

Great King of the universe, thank you for these plants given to us by your earth, and for all the blessings of life you shower upon us. In your goodness let the soil bring forth abundance and renew the joy of your children on earth.

There may be singing or creative activity.

Old Testament reading

Leviticus 25:1-12 or Isaiah 24:1-13.

The leader invites those who have brought bags of earth to pour the earth from them in to an earthen pot. The leader lays his/her hand on the earth.

Nurturing God, bless this soil, the soil on which we live and work and make community. In your mercy may it bring forth goodness to nourish and renew the whole community who shares it.

You made the earth and through the long ages planted it with every kind of plant, made animals to crawl and to run upon it, birds to fly over it, and fish to swim around it.

Music may be played to express the variety and abundance of this teeming life.

When all was prepared, you formed humankind from the soil. You breathed your life into them. Teach us never to forget that we are mortal creatures; from earth we come, to earth we

go. We need to be redeemed through the Saviour who restored unity between earth and heaven.

In the name of the One who came from heaven yet was born of earth, let us each bless the earth.

The leader invites each person, in a moment of recollection, to become tuned to their surroundings, to choose a spot or a living thing, and to lay a hand of blessing upon it, praying silently.

New Testament reading

Matthew 21:33-41 or Matthew 6:25-30

There may be teaching or group work.

Intercessions

We offer you the earth and the vegetables that grow from it,
for all creation is yours and we want to be enriching it.

We offer you the earth and the minerals that lie beneath it,
for all creation is yours and we want to be enriching it.

We offer you the earth and the birds and beasts that move over it,
for all creation is yours and we want to be enriching it.

We offer you ourselves who make our home upon the earth,
for all creation is yours and we want to be enriching it.

Closing

The blessing of dew be upon you to refresh you after parched days, washing your spirit and making it like new.

The blessing of the earth be upon you, soft under your feet,
soft under you as you lie down, tired at the end of the day;
and may it lie easy upon you when at last you lie out under it.

Angel Season and Michaelmas

At any time, especially 29 September–24 October (most non European Orthodox churches focus on angels throughout the year).

Angels or spirits are perceived by most peoples of the world as non-material created beings. Sacred Scripture portrays God as presiding over an assembly of gods or spirits. It identifies nine orders of angels. Fallen angels are depicted as devils or demons. Some Scripture scholars understand the phrase ‘principalities and powers’ to include the group dynamics of a place or institution in the collective unconscious and/or territorial spirits.

The Founding Guardian, Ray Simpson, sensed God say during a New Year midnight encounter at Lindisfarne: ‘I want my people to re-connect with my presence in the unseen world of the angels...’.

Martin Luther’s Morning Prayer which he wrote for families to say each day concludes with the words

‘Let Thy holy angel be with me, that the Wicked Foe may have no power over me.’

29 September Michael, the leader of angels and of the forces of good over evil, is celebrated with all the angels by most western churches.

2 October The Roman Catholic and other churches celebrate guardian angels. (Acts 12:15, Revelation 8:3ff, Matthew 18:10.)

24 October The appearance of Michael in 704 at what is now Le Mont Michel. Also on this day Roman Catholic and other churches celebrate Raphael, the angel of healing (Tobit 12:12, 15). See also a tradition that Raphael heals the earth referred to in the non-biblical book of Enoch 10:7.

8 November Greek and Romanian Orthodox honor the archangels.

24 March Gabriel, the angel who announces good news (Daniel 8:15-19, 9:20-23, Luke 1:8-20, Luke 1:26-38).

8 May The appearance of Michael on Mount Garganus between 492–96 is celebrated in the Roman Catholic Church on this day.

In Celtic lands Michaelmas is a season which marks the end of the harvest and, in some institutions, the final term of the year.

Morning Prayer

Opening

At creation's birth the angels sang;

Let all the world now share their joy.

At your Son's birth they gave glory to you;

You are enthroned on your people's praise.

As day follows night they follow your will;

May they chase away dark and all shadow of sin.

Singing such as:

Come into God's presence singing,

Jesus is Lord, Jesus is Lord, Jesus is Lord.

Angels circle Jesus singing,

Jesus is Lord, Jesus is Lord, Jesus is Lord.

Seraphim ablaze come singing,

Jesus is Lord, Jesus is Lord, Jesus is Lord.

Principalities come singing,

Jesus is Lord, Jesus is Lord, Jesus is Lord.

Thrones and Virtues add your voices,

Jesus is Lord, Jesus is Lord, Jesus is Lord.

Tune: The Celtic Hymn Book, no. 196

Psalm

Psalm 148

Amid dark powers,

we magnify the greatness of heaven.

Amid foul deeds,

we magnify the greatness of heaven.

Amid fearful thoughts,

we magnify the greatness of heaven.

Amid a blighted land,
we magnify the greatness of heaven.
In our time of need,
we magnify the greatness of heaven.
We praise you, Lord of heaven and earth,
glorious God, we proclaim your worth.

Old Testament reading

Daniel 10:1-11 or Tobit 12:6-end.

The angels delight to do your will;
forgive us for defying it.
The angels move freely unhindered by sin;
forgive us for the holdbacks caused by our sin.
The angels uphold the children of God;
forgive us for discouraging the givers of love.

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy

New Testament reading

Jude 1-9, 24 -25.

Silent meditation or singing.

Intercessions

Lord, may Michael, angel-force leader, protect our homes, schools and streets. Be with us in the twists and turns of our journey. Guide us away from the false and towards the true path.

God deliver us from the powers of evil that have entrenched themselves in the structures of our society.

Deliver us
from racial and religious prejudice . . .
from exploitation and greed . . .
from the taking of human life . . .
from sexual and workplace abuse . . .
from acts of terror and crime . . .

Any may say

Deliver us from . . . *evils may be named.*

Deliver us from every kind of evil
and lead us not into temptation,
**for yours is the kingdom, the power and the
glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

There may be singing.

Closing

We arise today in the love of cherubim
In the flaming of seraphim,
In the obedience of angels
And in the serving of archangels
In hope of resurrection and reward.

We arise today through the strength of heaven.

God's shield to protect us, God's host to save us.

From snares of devils, from temptations of vices, from
everyone who wishes us ill.

We summon these powers between us and every merciless
power that may oppose our body and soul.

Against false prophets and dark forces

Against false teaching and all that corrupts and destroys.

**We arise today through the strength of heaven, God's host
to protect and shield us.**

Echoes St. Patrick's Breastplate

The shield of Christ and the angels be over us
to guard us from our back and our front,
from our head to our feet,

**so that an island shall we be in the sea,
a hill shall we be on the land,
a well shall we be in the desert,
a light shall we be in the dark.**

Midday Prayer

Opening

Let us hear the angels call us to prayer, to be still, to listen, to receive the divine word into our being.

Psalm

Psalm 103:19-22.

The angels are God's servants sent to sing God's praise;
we too will praise you with all our being.

Singing or music.

Either

New Testament reading

Matthew 4:9-11.

The angels brought strength of love to Jesus in his time of need.

**Holy ones, messengers of love,
strengthen us in our time of need;
protect us, console us, uplift us.**

We pray for others in their time of need

**Holy ones, messengers of love,
Strengthen them in their time of need
protect them, console them, uplift them.**

Any may mention names aloud or in silence . . .

Holy ones, messengers of love,
Strengthen them in their time of need

protect them, console them, uplift them.

Or

New Testament reading

Matthew 18:8-10.

We become aware in the rush of the day that we mortals have an angel to our left and to our right. Have mercy on little ones abused;

may tender angels draw them to your presence.

Have mercy on those in black trial;

may healing angels lift them into your presence.

Have mercy on souls at death's door;

may holy angels escort them to your presence.

Have mercy on we who remain;

may smiling angels radiate to us your presence.

There may be singing or music.

Closing

Send to us the Protecting Three,

The Watchful Angel, the Angel of Peace and the Angel of Health

To accompany us on our journey.

We will go with the goodness of God

the gentleness of Christ

the grace of the Spirit -

the gladness of the angels beside us.

Evening Prayer

Opening

We are weary and forlorn;
lead us to the land of the angels,
there to linger in the courts of Christ
and taste the joys of heaven.

Singing or music.

Psalm

Psalm 34:1-7.

Great and all-forgiving God,
may angels lift our crushing load.
When bruising conflicts drag us down,
may angels lift us to your throne.
When tempted not to run with you,
may angels pace and see us through.
When fading eyes seek heaven's height,
may angels lift us into light.

Old Testament reading

Genesis 28:10-17.

Silence, music or singing.

New Testament reading

John 1:43-51.

Love of God, foster in us a child-like trust so great that we,
like the cherubim, stay close to you for ever.

**Fire of God, kindle in us a love for you so great that we,
like the seraphim, blaze before you for ever.**

Silence or singing, such as the following

**Holy, holy, holy,
all the angels praise you,
flaming seraphs kindling fire
that makes us all adore.
Holy, holy, holy,
bowing down before you,
giving you worship, now and evermore.**

Tune: Nicea

Intercessions

May holy Gabriel bring hope to those who search,
may holy Raphael bring healing to those who hurt,
may holy Michael bring heaven to those who fall.

Mighty God, may our prayers rise like incense: may Michael,
the one who is like you, protect your high places.

**May the mountains of human pride and greed be
dethroned, and may those who reflect your likeness be
placed in the centres of power, that God-guided nations
may emerge in our time.**

Examples may be mentioned . . .

Closing

The love and affection of the angels go with us,
the love and affection of heaven,
**to guard us, to cherish us,
to bless us with God for ever.**

Night Prayer

Opening

Let us lay aside the cares of the day that we, like the angels, who neither fret nor fear, may offer true worship, and rest in the Lord.

A silence follows for reflection on the past day.

Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.

Have mercy on us, O God, for our sins.
May these and the things of this day which have displeased you
now fall away from us.

The light of the angels be ours.
The joy of the angels be ours.
The peace of the angels be ours.

Singing

Psalm

Psalm 91:1-12 *with the response after every two verses:*
God's angels guard you in all your ways.

Old Testament reading

2 Kings 6:8-17, Daniel 10:4-end or Tobit 12:6-end.

I lie in my bed
As I would lie in the grave,

Thine arm beneath my neck,
Thou Son of Mary victorious.

Angels shall watch me
And I lying in slumber,
And angels shall guard me

In the sleep of the grave.
Uriel shall be at my feet,
Ariel shall be at my back,
Gabriel shall be at my head,
And Raphael shall be at my side.
Michael shall be with my soul,

The strong shield of my love!
And the Physician Son of Mary
Shall put the salve to mine eye,
The Physician Son of Mary
Shall put the salve to mine eye!

Carmina Gadelica

Luke 1:8-15 or Revelation 21:9-12.

1. May the guardian angel of my right hand
attend to me this night;
rescue me from thoughts that drag me down,
clothe me in your bright garments, for I am naked,
comfort me, for I am weak.

2. Guard me in the tossings and turnings
and save me from harm this night.
Encompass me from evil till death.

3. May the leader of the angel forces

shield your people with power of light,
spread this shield over sea and land
and protect us from the grudge
of ill-wishers this night.

May your angels guard us as the apple of your eye.

May the protecting peace of the angels be upon those we love.
Their protecting peace be upon . . .

*Anyone may repeat this prayer for a particular person or
light a candle with the words 'And angels watch over . .
(name).*

May angels hover around our beds
**To watch over our dreams
and guard our sleep. Amen.**

Closing

May the seven angels of the Holy Spirit
and the two guardian angels
**shield us this and every night,
till light and dawn shall come.**

Remembrance of Saints, Forebears, and War Dead

Most peoples remember their dead. Those who are in heaven (referred to by many branches of the church as saints) known and unknown, are remembered by parts of Western Christianity on November 1, and on the first Sunday after Pentecost in Eastern Christianity. In many branches of the western church the season of remembering begins with All Saints' Eve (31 October), All Saints' Day (1 November) and All Souls' Day (2 November).

In early British and Irish calendars 1 November marked Samhain, the winter season which began their new year.

Many First Nation peoples celebrate their forebears and especially faithful elders. While the teachings of Jesus rightly freed people from the worship or fear of ancestors, there is increasing recognition that awareness of our forebears, and respect for each human life, however well or badly it was lived, makes for our wholeness. Remembrance of forebears is appropriate at any time during this season, especially on 31 October or 2 November.

Lutherans (like other Protestant traditions) do not celebrate official saints, but observe a general commemoration of the dead on the first Sunday in November. In translating this material phrases such as 'the cloud of witnesses' (Hebrews 12:1) and 'role models of Christ' may replace the term 'saints'

Many peoples commemorate those who died in significant wars. They recall the loss, the pain or the heroism of the fallen. ‘We seek healed lands...’ (Waymark Ten): We therefore avoid glorification of war and militarisation of history. We recall that war is the price we pay for the selfishness of nations and link remembrance with repentance. We also remember those who have died in the fight against disease, ignorance, poverty, depravity and injustice.

Some significant dates when war dead are commemorated are: 11 November: this marks the armistice that ended World War One. The UK now celebrates this, and the ending of World War Two, on the nearest Sunday, and calls it Remembrance Sunday. In the USA it is observed on 11 November as Veterans’ Day. In Australia, New Zealand and some South Pacific islands, 25 April is a public holiday to celebrate Anzac Day, which honours the bravery and sacrifice of members of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) and of all those who served their country. In Asia such remembrances tend to be more variable. Russia remembers its dead on 23 February and May 9. In Celtic lands we suggest this season lasts from October 31 to the Sunday after November 11.

Halloween – All Saints (All Hallows) Eve

Light a candle or a circle of candles if indoors, or a fire surrounded by a circle of stones if outdoors.

Opening

Leaves fall.

Dark nears.

Fears assail.

God of the saints, surrounded in light, we journey with you through the years.

Psalm

Psalm 1, 11, 16 or 18:1-3

Creator of the nights and days

Bestow on us this night's holy graces.

Guard our bodies from disease

Guard our souls from despair.

From phantoms, fears and dark deeds

Good Lord deliver us.

As days of light recede

May treasures of dark draw near.

Old Testament

Isaiah 43:1-3a.

With Christ, to whom the spirits were subject,

we claim the victory of the Lord.

With the desert Christians, from whom the demons fled,

we claim the victory of the Lord.

With hermits who made wild places safe with prayer,

we claim the victory of the Lord.

With martyrs who vaulted over death,

we claim the victory of the Lord.

With Patrick who freed his land of serpent powers,

we claim the victory of the Lord.

With Brigid who turned grim strongholds into homes of peace,

we claim the victory of the Lord.

With Cuthbert, healer and conqueror of the dark places,

With . . .

we claim the victory of the Lord.

With the saints of this place,

we claim the victory of the Lord.

There may be singing.

New Testament reading

Matthew 5:1-10, Luke 10:17-24, Philippians 2:6-11, Hebrews 12:1-2, 22-24, 1 John 3:1-3, Revelation 7:9-17 or Revelation 21:1-8.

Silence

Intercessions

We place into your hands the season we leave behind and winter's patterns which you call us now to live.

We place into your hands the places that will be little used in the season of darkness and cold

or in the southern hemisphere

the places that will be overused in this season of physical activity

Night-lights may be lit inside objects such as a pumpkin or a rock.

May light shine in the bowels of the earth.
May light shine in the ghoul's of the air.

Each person may light and hold a candle.

May fears diminish and light increase in the people and places we now name . . .

Names of people and places may be spoken spontaneously or in prayers prepared earlier.

The shield of Christ be over them,
the shield of the angels guard them,
the shield of the saints hearten them,
the shield of life eternal.

Chant or song.

Closing

The God of life go with us
to protect us from ill,
to keep our hearts still,
to strengthen our will.

People may walk, with their candles, to a place that attracts dark memories or powers, or to a cemetery, to leave prayers or lights.

Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord,
and let light perpetual shine upon them.

*Emblems, faces or sayings of saints may be depicted for use
at a Halloween party or the following day.*

All Saints' Day

For use at any time, especially 1 November, 13 May or the week following Pentecost.

All Christians are called to be saints. In the Celtic tradition, and generally in the early church, a person who had inspired many others to live holy lives was affirmed as a saint at his or her funeral, and was commemorated on the anniversary of their birth into heaven, that is, on the day of their death. Protestants who reject the cult of saints nevertheless welcome as role models people whose witness to Christ still speaks to us.

Christians came to realise the value of celebrating from time to time the whole community of such people, including those about whom not enough is known to warrant a commemoration day of their own. St Ephrem of Syria (d. 373) encouraged this. By the time of St Chrysostom (d. 407) this celebration was assigned to the first Sunday after Pentecost, and the Eastern Orthodox Church retains this day still. In the West it was celebrated on 13 May but in the eighth century it was transferred to 1 November.

Opening

Morning

We arise,
**in the glorious company of the holy and risen ones,
in the prayers of the fathers and mothers,
in the truths of apostles.**

We arise,
**in the innocence of virgins,
in the victory of martyrs,
in the friendship of those in love with the King
of Life.**

Midday

Teach us, good Lord, to navigate the ceaseless flow of image and information with purity of heart, like the holy and risen ones.

Teach us to reconcile our memories in your love.

Teach us to look, not for a heaven that is passive but for a resurrection that brings you alive on earth.

Evening

We have come before the throne of God to share in the inheritance of the saints in light (Colossians 1:12).

In the darkness of this passing age your saints declare your presence and bring to us your glory.

Glory to God for ever.

Psalm

Psalm 1, 33:1-5 or 112:1-9.

Welcoming Light, loneliness and self-sufficiency have no place where your friends are entertained.

Forgive us for the places where we have shut them out.

There may be silence or an assurance of forgiveness.

Old Testament reading

Wisdom 5:14-16 or Jeremiah 31:31-34.

Either

We thank you that in your saints of yesterday and today we see the many-splendoured facets of human life flowing in their fullness. We thank you for those who give their all in the service of others, overcome heroic odds with nobility of spirit, are gracious in defeat and magnanimous in triumph, are content with the little things and show us how to truly love.

**Spurred on by them we offer you
our talents and our tasks,
our trials and our triumphs.**

or - the response (R) after each line is:

Who shine in the world and light up our way.

We give you thanks for our saints. (R)

We give you thanks for the midwives of the faith. (R)

We give you thanks for those who fought for equality of regard. (R)

We give you thanks for those who strove for the dignity of life and labour. (R)

We give you thanks for those who were true shepherds of their people. (R)

We give you thanks for . . . (R)

We give you thanks in union with those who sing the eternal song of victory:

all say or sing

**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord,
holy is the Lord God Almighty,
who was, and is, and is to come,**

holy, holy, holy is the Lord.

New Testament reading

Hebrews 12:1-2 or Revelation 7:9-12.

At this time of the saints of life,
**send the dew that makes faith grow strong,
establish in our beings the law of eternal love.**

At this time of the saints of power,
**quell the wrath of the squalls that break,
be with us in the eye of the storm,
your compass in our hearts.**

At this time of the saints of virtue,
**be with us in our tasks,
heaven's company sharing our work,
bringing us mercy and peace.**

Encourage those you call to run their race
with all their heart;

**keep us worthy of our calling,
that we may come with your saints
to glory everlasting.**

Great God of the saints,
we join our prayers with theirs.

Knit us together with those you have already called;
hasten the day when we shall be one.

As they shine,
may we shine.

As we walk in their steps,
may we join them in glory everlasting.

Closing

God of the waiting ones,

as the saints do in heaven,
may we do on earth:
**in using our gifts,
in caring for others,
in holy dying.**
Until we are one.
Amen.

Night Prayer

The shield of God be with us this night,
the glorious company of the holy and risen ones,
the prayers of the fathers and mothers,
the visions of prophets,
the deeds of steadfast believers.

**From dark powers that assail us,
from false words that ensnare us,
from fears that invade us,
the saints in heaven protect us.**

Christ, Son of the living God,
may your holy saints guard our sleep.
May they watch over us as we rest,
and hover around our beds.

**Let them reveal to us in our dreams,
visions of your glorious truth,
may no fears or worries delay
our willing, prompt repose.**

Bible Reading

Hebrews 12:1-2, 22-24, Matthew 5:1-10, 1 John 3:1-3 or
Philippians 2:5-15.

*There may be singing followed by music or by silence during
which anyone may give thanks for a saintly person whose
memory they value.*

May the saints and the Saviour watch over our loved ones this
night, especially . . . *anyone may mention names.*

May the saints and the Saviour
**protect them from the hostile powers, and put balm into
their sleep.**

We lie down this night with the Three of Love,
and they will lie down with us.

We lie down this night with the whole company of heaven,
and they will lie down with us.

God, the saints and the angels,
lying down with us.

Closing

With the saints in glory we make the sign of the cross of
Christ (*make sign*).

May your cross come between us and all things harmful;
**your cross light up for us the company of heaven this
night and for ever.**

All souls: A Service of Remembrance of Forebears and Loved Ones who have Died

For use at any time, especially on or near 2 November, All Souls' Day.

Opening Hymn

Opening words from one of these Psalms: 23, 42, 43, or 139.

Creator and lover of souls,
you uphold us in life and sustain us in death;
our God who cares for us all.

**For us you have raised from death a mighty Saviour
who, like a rising dawn, shines on those who
dwell in the shadow of death.**

We thank you for our loved ones whom we see no
longer and for all our forebears. Renew in us
gratitude for those from whom we come, for it
was you who gave them their being.

**Cancel out, Lord Jesus, what was not of you.
May the good they did live on and resonate among us.**

As the sun rises in the east so they arose out of
your love. In the dimness of memory this alone we
know, that as the sun goes to its rest in the west,
you call them to rest in you.

Pause, music or hymn

Old Testament reading

Lamentations 3:17-26, Wisdom 3:1-9 or Isaiah 25:6-9.

Lord, you now have set your servant free
to go in peace as you have promised.
For these eyes of mine have seen the Saviour
whom you have prepared for all the world to see.
A light to reveal you to the nations
and the glory of your people.
Lord, you now have set your servant free.

New Testament reading

Luke 14:15-24, John 6:39 or 1 Corinthians 15:42-49.

Teaching or hymn

*The names of those who have died are read out and a candle
is lit for each of them by a loved one. Requiem music may be
played or sung.*

Eternal God, our Comforter,
from you we come; to you we go.
Have mercy on those who have gone.
Give peace to us who remain.
All are yours, O Lord, you lover of souls.

Those with wisdom and those with wit,
those whose work enriched others
and those frustrated in their hopes,
those who showed courage in triumph or trial,
those who disappointed even themselves,

those who stand out in our memories
and forgotten souls remembered now
by you alone.

All are yours, O Lord, you lover of souls.

Closing

Since it was you, O Christ, who bought each soul
at the time it came into the world,
at the time it breathed its last breath,
may your peace be on your ingathering of souls.
Jesus Christ, Son of gentle Mary,
your peace be upon your own ingathering.

Amen

Remembrance of War Dead

If Community prayers are said at a time of national war remembrance any of the following may be incorporated:

Opening

Eternal God, thank you for the sacred gifts of life, choice, and possibility for good or ill which you have given your human family. Today we remember all who have died, and pray for all who are scarred by wars past and present.

Psalm

Psalm 85 or 100.

Today, in your presence, we remember:

Either

the waste of life, and wit and learning,
the love that was never shared,
the torture of body and mind,
those who died without understanding or valour,
those who have no grave to mark their sacrifice.

or

When the lights went out in two world wars and in many other conflicts,
when millions died in foul trenches or mass genocide, when six million died in gas chambers,
when many died from acts of terror or revenge . . .

Other tragedies may be mentioned.

Old Testament reading

2 Samuel 23:13-17, Isaiah 2:1-5, 25:1-9, 26:1-4, Micah 4:1-5
or Wisdom 3:1-9.

Guardian of all people, we remember and entrust to your
keeping the following who gave their lives . . . *Names are
read out.*

Let us confess the selfish demands, the neglect of others'
needs and the failure to build good relationships which are the
seed beds of war.

Lord, have mercy on us.

Christ, vanquisher of barriers, linking us across the shores of
treachery and time,
have mercy on us.

This world is home to one vast human family,
we sleep beneath one roof, the starry sky;
we warm ourselves before one hearth, the blazing sun.
Upon one floor of soil we stand, and breathe one air and
drink one water, and walk the night beneath one
luminescent moon.

The children of one God, we are brothers and sisters of
one blood and members in one worldwide family of God.

*From the Book of Remembrance, Cathedral of St Paul the
Apostle, Los Angeles*

New Testament reading

Luke 23:27-43, Romans 8:31-39, Ephesians 4:25-52 or
Revelation 21:1-7.

Intercessions

For those who endured captivity, torture or death

Holy Jesus, have mercy.

On those whose sleep is stolen by the ravages of memory.

Holy Jesus, have mercy.

Help us to end to injustices which become breeding grounds
of war, restore fellowship and build integrity between
nations.

We bless our former enemies:

Release the power of good in them

Lead us from fear to trust.

Lead us from despair to hope.

Lead us from hate to love.

Lead us from war to peace.

There may be singing.

Closing

Let us go in the spirit of Christ

to honour the dead,

to serve the living,

and to build the common good.

The Cloud of Witnesses - Special Days We Observe

Aidan, Hilda and Inspired Forebears of any land (or any saints day)

The primary identity of the international Community of Aidan and Hilda resides in its Way of Life. It is named after these two Christian witnesses, however, because together they are a universal sign of soul friends of different race, language and gender working together to bring Christ's ways to peoples and to enable indigenous expressions of faith and community.

Aidan stands for a gentle, non-hierarchical approach. Hilda inspires us to 'release the song in every human heart' as she did with the illiterate cowherd Caedmon.

They stood for justice, reached out to poor and rich, indigenous and occupying peoples - Celtic Britons and Irish Scots as well as the English newcomers.

Flame and Struggle

Aidan's name means Fire. He is depicted handing on the Gospel as a torch of flame. Fire is a universal element. It warms and purifies. Many First Nation peoples purposefully burn areas of land because it brings it alive again. Hilda's name means Struggle. She inspires us to struggle to overcome evil with good. God calls us to flame and struggle.

These prayer patterns are for use at any time.

Special Aidan and Hilda dates:

Aidan and Hilda Week 25–31 August.

On 25 August Hilda's remains were placed in a shrine at York; on 31 August Aidan died.

8 October

This is believed to be the day when some of Aidan's bones were taken from Lindisfarne and eventually to Innis Boffin, Ireland.

17 November St Hilda's Day (sometimes transferred to 19 November).

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Aidan

Aidan (died 651), is the people's saint who brought Christianity to the English-speaking people through love, not fear, in a way that took root in their hearts and transformed their ways. This Irish monk was sent by the monastery at Iona to establish the mission community and the first recorded school for English boys outside Kent, at Lindisfarne. He was bishop of all Northumbrians, whose catchment area embraced both England and Scotland as they are today, and included indigenous Cymric- (Welsh-) speaking Britons. Aidan is a model of a humble but prophetic Christian who lays down their life for another people and plants an indigenous faith community that is a 'colony of heaven'.

Readings about Aidan:

Ecclesiastical History of the English People by Bede Book 3 chapters 3, 5, 14, 15, 16, 17 or 23.

The St. Aidan Way of Mission; Celtic insights for a post-Christian world by Ray Simpson (BRF)

Waymarks for the Journey by Ray Simpson (Kevin Mayhew) daily readings from 1 – 19 December.

Aidan Morning Prayer

Opening

As the sun, at first unnoticed, rises and runs across the globe in glory, so you raise humble souls who spread your flame across the world.

We arise today in memory of Aidan, gentle flame of God.

Psalm

Psalm 19:1-10 or 111.

Called from the shores of distant Iona,
how beautiful are the feet of the one who brings good news of peace.

**With Abraham, desert hermits and holy martyrs
we go forward into the unknown.**

With gentle Aidan and all the apostles
we reach out in love.

With the prayers of the faithful and the angels
Free us, O God, to cross barriers for you, as you crossed barriers for us.

Spirit of God, make us open to others in listening,
generous to others in giving,
and sensitive to others in praying

**the Father behind us,
the Saviour beside us,
the Spirit leading us on.**

Old Testament reading

Isaiah 6:1-8 or 52:7-10.

What vision was in Aidan's heart on the long journey from western isle to eastern shore? What bridge did he fear to cross? What weakness filled him with doubt?

A candle or torch of flame is lit.

In Christ our strength is made complete in weakness.
We carry a torch of living flame – Christ, the Light of the world.

**The light of Christ is among us;
in the gentle touch,
in the listening ear,
in the patient toil,
in the concern for the poor,
in the challenging of wrong.**

New Testament reading

1 Thessalonians 2:3-8, Matthew 4:12-22, 10:1-15 or 28:16-20.

*A reading or homily about Aidan on Iona
or a song such as I, the Lord of land and sea.*

Intercessions

Lord, we of this day are children of confusion;

restore the vision of God to us.

The noise of the city deafens us to the still small voice;

restore the hearing of God to us.

The pace of modern living chokes us;

restore the alertness of God to us.

The pride of modern living imprisons us;

restore the liberty of God to us.

God of Aidan of simple dress,

give us the gift of simplicity.

God of Aidan of the gentle touch,

give us the gift of gentleness.

God of Aidan of the generous heart,

give us the gift of generosity.

God of Aidan of the friendly greeting,

give us the gift of meeting.

God of Aidan of the burning faith,

give us the gift of enflaming.

There may be free or silent prayer and singing.

Closing

From today and always,

may we

look upon each person we meet

with the eyes of Christ,

speak to each person we meet

with the words of Christ,

and go wherever we are led

with the flame of Christ.

Aidan Midday Prayer

Opening

Loving God, as Aidan came to Lindisfarne,
and made it a cradle of Christianity, so we welcome
you into this place.

There may be music or singing.

Psalm

Psalm 119:9-16 or other verses.

With loving kindness Aidan brought the milk of God's Word
and the milk of human kindness – a message of forgiveness
and hope.

With gentleness Aidan showed the people a new
way through their fears and out of the darkness -
a way of light through Christ.

**Help us to humbly think your thoughts, and speak words
that bring life to others.**

Aidan bought slaves their freedom, spoke truth to power, was
fair to all and frugal in his habits.

What does the Lord require of you?
To do justice, to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with our God.

Micah 6:8

May we speak truth to power
May compassion move in places of influence.
Where there is wrong, may we bring right.
Where there is despair, may we bring joy

Where there is darkness, may we bring light.

Through dedication, self-discipline and study,
Aidan showed his pupils a life of service and learning.
**We will strive for life-long learning in the service of
Christ's Way.**

The following may be said or sung:

**Here be the peace of those who do your sacred will;
here be the praise of God by night and day;
here be the place where strong ones
serve the weakest,
here be a sight of Christ's most gentle way.
Here be the strength of prophets
righting greed and wrong,
here be the green of land that's tilled with love;
here be the soil of holy lives maturing,
here be a people one with all the saints above.**

*Tune: Danny Boy, traditional Irish.
Celtic Hymnbook No,73 Ray Simpson*

Free prayer for the world today

Aidan made silent retreat
that he might advance for God.
In the middle of this day:
**restore our hearts to stillness,
expand our hearts to love.**

Silence

Closing

May we, like Aidan, be friends to neighbour and stranger;
and bring Christ's light anew.

Aidan Evening Prayer

Opening

We thank you for the life of Aidan, and for the heritage of faith which you invite us to share:

Open our eyes to your presence,

Open our ears to your call,

Open our hearts to your mercy,

May you be our All in all.

When Aidan came to a new people he put his trust in God and chanted many psalms:

Those who trust in God

are like a mountain that lasts for ever.

As the mountains surround Jerusalem

so you surround your people.

**The rule of wickedness shall not prevail
in the land you give to the godly.**

**Do good, O God, to those who are good,
to those whose hearts are true.**

From psalm 125

Aidan chose the tidal island of Lindisfarne as his monastic mission base: Christians and creatures joined in its rhythms of praise.

The following may be said, sung or listened to.

**Ebb tide, full tide, praise the Lord of land and sea;
barren rocks, darting birds,
praise God's holy name!**

Refrain: Glory to the High King, glory to his Son; glory to the Spirit, ever Three in One x 2

Poor folk, ruling folk, praise the Lord of land and sea;
pilgrimed sands, sea-shelled strands,
praise God's holy name! *Refrain*

Fierce lions, gentle lambs,
praise the Lord of land and sea;
noble women, mission priests,
praise God's holy name! *Refrain*

Chanting boys, slaves set free,
praise the Lord of land and sea;
old and young and all the land,
praise God's holy name! *Refrain*

Celtic Hymn Book, no. 43

Old Testament reading

Isaiah 61:1-3.

Aidan went out with faith-sharing teams to tell the people the good news of Christ. He listened to the people, gave money to the poor, and bought slaves their freedom. We are told that Aidan was 'above anger and greed'. Let us confess any seeds of anger and greed that still lie within us.

Silence

Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.
Christ have mercy.

New Testament reading

Luke 6:17-20, Romans 8:18-27 or 15:7-21.

There may be singing or this Lindisfarne Benedicite may be said:

O angels of the Lord, **bleſs the Lord**

O ſaints of Lindisfarne, **bleſs the Lord**

O followers of your Way through many generations, **bleſs the Lord**

O ſheep and lambs that frolic in the fields, **bleſs the Lord**

O fiſh and ſeals that glisten in the ſea, **bleſs the Lord**

O ſea birds that fill the air with their clamour, **bleſs the Lord**

O flowers that gem the earth with colour, **bleſs the Lord**

O purples and deeps and rocks ſhaped through countless ages,
bleſs the Lord

O winds and clouds, rain and ſun, **bleſs the Lord**

O ſcribes and artists and illumined Gospels, **bleſs the Lord**

O pilgrims and kindly folk of this place,
bleſs the Lord

To whom be praise and glory for ever.

Intercessions

While Aidan was on retreat on Farne Isle he ſaw an invading tyrant's forces about to deſtroy the king's headquarters by fire, and thus the Chriſtian miſſion alſo. He raiſed his hands to heaven and ſaid, 'Lord, ſee what evil he does.' The winds changed, the horſes panicked, and the troops fled. More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of. Let us intercede for victims of tyranny today.

See, Lord, what destruction is being wrought on your world . .
. examples may be given

Blow your winds,
may the destroyers change or retreat.

See, Lord, those abused at home, bullied at school,
and exploited at work . . . *examples may be given*

Blow your winds,
May the destroyers change or retreat.

See, Lord, the refugees, asylum seekers
and victims of war.

Blow your winds,
may the destroyers change or retreat.

Victims of tyranny may be named.

Aidan neglected nothing taught by your apostles.
**Remind us of your word, your will, your ways which we
have come to neglect.**

Aidan rejoiced when the rich gave their food to the poor.
**Teach us that there is enough for everyone's need, but not
for everyone's greed.**

Aidan used gifts of money to buy the freedom of slaves.
Heal the scars of slavery, and free those enslaved today.

Aidan knit together in a commonwealth of love once-hostile
peoples of four races.

Knit together in your love the peoples of our world.

Closing

Aidan brought the light of Christ
to brighten a dark land.

Help us to pass on that light
**to warm cold hearts,
to illumine ignorant minds,
to guide straying feet.**

Aidan Night Prayer

Opening

The day's toil is done.

The birds cease their songs.

We rest our frames.

As gentle rain falls on tender grass,
may your gentle Spirit now fall on us.

New Testament reading

Matthew 11:28-29 or Philippians 4:5-7 or 1 Peter 3:3-4.

Gentle Aidan served you with all his powers;

we will serve you with all our minds.

Aidan served others with all his love;

we will serve others with all our hearts.

every day and night of our lives.

A priest sent to escort on an arduous voyage the Princess who was to become Northumbria's queen, begged Aidan to pray for their safety.

I pray to you, O Lord. Do not let the waters engulf me or the depths swallow me up, or the pit of death close its mouth over me. Answer me, O Lord, out of the goodness of your love.

Psalm 69:13, 15, 16.

There may be a hymn of protection.

Aidan gave the escorts a flask of blessed oil. He prophesied: 'You will encounter storms, but remember to pour the oil on to the sea and it will become calm.' All this happened as he had foretold. The waves swept over them and death seemed

near, but when the priest poured the oil on the troubled waters, the sea became calm.

Divine Protector, pour your oil on the troubled waters of our lives.

We bring to you the troubles of this day

Calm us, and help us rest in you . . . any may name

examples

We bring to you the troubles in our places of work.

Calm us, and help us rest in you . . . any may name

examples

We bring to you the troubles in our relationships

Calm us, and help us rest in you . . . any may name

examples

We bring to you the troubles in our church

Calm us, and help us rest in you . . . any may name

examples

Lord, you call us to pour oil on troubled waters, pour generously upon those we name before you now.

Calm them, and help them rest in you . . . any may name

examples

There may be singing.

Closing

Aidan passed on the torch of faith:

**Kindle in us this night the flame of love
that will never die.**

Saint Hilda – Nurturing Callings

Hilda (died 680), was invited by Aidan to pioneer women's ministry among the English and became the first British woman to lead both men and women in a large community of prayer and mission - at Whitby. She maintained the spirituality she learned from Aidan's Irish Mission under two frameworks, the Irish and then the Roman after the 664 Synod of Whitby. She fostered callings among leaders and the illiterate cowherd Caedmon, who became the first poet and popular singer in English. Her wisdom drew people beyond the bounds of her own race. People of opposing viewpoints related to her as a merciful mother.

Readings about Hilda

Hilda of Whitby: a spirituality for now by Ray Simpson (BRF)

Waymarks for the Journey by Ray Simpson) (Kevin Mayhew)
Most readings from December 19-30.

Hilda Morning Prayer

Opening

Wisdom lights up the land,
she calls us to walk her ways.

Wisdom has built a house,
she calls us to learn her ways.

Wisdom is more precious than rubies,
we desire her above all things.

O God our vision, in our mother's womb
you formed us for your glory.
As your servant Hilda
shone like a jewel in the Church,
so we now delight
to claim her gifts of wisdom and nurturing.

*The following may be said or sung to the tune 'Ode to Joy' by
L. van Beethoven)*

**Come you faithful through God's gateway,
to the door of Wisdom's home.
Enter in with hearts receptive,
making faith and truth your own.
Never doubting, never ceasing,
to your Saviour homage give.
Come you people be upstanding,
ceaseless praises ever sing.**

Psalm

Psalm 33:1-5, 20, 21, 34:1-10 or 150

Blessed are you, God of the planet earth,
you have set our world
like a radiant jewel in the heavens
and filled it with activity, beauty, suffering, and hope.
**Blessed are you, God of each land,
for giving Hilda as a radiant jewel
to light up the darkness of the people.
Faithful in both achievement and adversity,
constant in disappointment,
wise mentor, generous host,
counsellor of rulers, friend of cowherds,
encourager of talents,
able teacher, noble in bearing,
unceasing in praise –
light up our lives and our lands today.**

Old Testament reading

Judges 5:1-12, Ruth 1:6-19a, 2 Kings 22:11-end, Proverbs
31:10-30 or a reading about Hilda.

Hilda was constant in faith throughout her life;
forgive us for the times we have been faithless.
Hilda fostered excellence in all that was done;
forgive us for being content with the second-rate.

New Testament reading

Matthew 25:1-13, Luke 8:1-3, 13:20-21, 15:8-10, 18:1-8 or
Philippians 4:2-9.

Blessed are you, Father and Mother of us all,
because you give us people to love and work to do.
**Blessed are you in all the people we have met,
in all the lessons we have learned,
in all that remains for us to do.**

There may be singing, silence or creative activity.

Intercessions

Each intercession may be used as a theme for free prayer.

We celebrate the ministry of Hilda and pray for a recovery of spiritual nurturing.

Raise up those who instil a confidence in Christ that frees people to leave childish attachments and face the world with love.

Raise up those who enable creativity to be born and talent to blossom.

Raise up those who kindle the desire for holy living and sustaining friendship.

Raise up those who accept that we are incomplete and bear one another's pain.

Raise up those who embrace and reconcile those with clashing views.

Raise up those who model for us ordered lives and lifelong learning.

Raise up those who inspire us in the practice of reflection and the habit of praise.

Raise up those who will nurture a nation and shape it for God.

There may be free prayer and singing.

Closing

Nourished by this celebration of a life inspired by you,

**generous be our hearts,
open be our hands,
justice be our benchmark,
thanksgiving be our call.**

Hilda Midday Prayer

Opening

Worn by the cares of the day,
we offer you our praise.

**Buffeted by trials,
we will not cease to return thanks to you.**

Singing or naming of blessings.

Psalm

Psalm 119:33-40 or 150.

Steep us in holy learning.

Keep us generous towards others, constant in praise, with
forgiveness in our hearts towards all.

Be wholehearted in your work, and do it for the Lord.

Ephesians 6:7, 8

Each person should use whatever gifts they have to serve
others.

1 Peter 4:10.

God of life,

help us to trade with the gifts you have given us,
bend our minds to holy learning
that we may escape the fretting moth of littleness
of mind that would wear out our souls.

Brace our wills to actions
that they may not be the spoils of weak desires.

Train our hearts and lips
to song which gives courage to the soul.

Being reproved, may we give thanks,

and having failed, may we determine to succeed.

Echoes A Homily of Hilda, anon.

Reflection

Be with us now, Lord, in the middle of the day.
As we thank you for Hilda
and her mentoring of a rising generation,
we offer you our skills
and pledge to build up others
for the common good.

**We give our gifts to you, Lord,
and everything we do.
We give our tongue to you, Lord,
and everything we say.
We give our love to you, Lord,
and everyone we serve.
We give our being to you, Lord,
and everything we are.**

Free prayer for people in and out of work.

Closing

Spirit of wisdom,
inspire us and all who work this day.
**May we work with all our strength,
love with all our heart,
study with all our mind,
and honour with all our desire.**

Hilda Evening Prayer

Opening

Now let us praise the Maker of Heaven,
the Crafter of the starry skies,
the Keeper of Eternity.

**Now let us praise the Birther of all,
the Guardian of the human race,
Holy Wisdom who binds the universe
in one free bond of love.**

There may be singing.

Psalm

Psalm 100, 103, 145:1-13, 146, 148 or 149.

Warm-winged Spirit, brooding over creation,
draw forth the divine beauty
in every person on earth;
**in women who feel degraded
and in men who abuse their role;
in children who are orphaned
and in the disabled who are frail.**

Old Testament reading

Proverbs 8:1-16, Isaiah 61:10 - 62:3, Wisdom 6:12-20
or a reading about Hilda

Let us declare our faith:

**In God there is no male or female,
no past, present and future,
no living and dead,**

**no black and white,
no failure and success.
In God there is only wisdom, light
and love to all, and in all and for all for ever.**

New Testament reading

Matthew 13:31-33, 27:50-56, John 19:25-27, Romans 16:1-7
or Ephesians 4:1-13

Silence or singing such as the following:

Blessed Hilda, holy mother,
friend of Aidan, Christ's own stalk;
born to honour - stripped of father,
finding faith, baptized at York;
shining as a radiant jewel,
lighting up our darkened walk.

Taught of God by Wearside river,
daring, learning, steeped in prayer;
you became a guide to many,
friend of people far and near;
drawing out the cowherd's talents,
held by earth and heav'n most dear.

Faithful host and reconciler,
staying true through shifting ties;
thankful in success and trial,
always fair and always wise;
meditator, motivator,
wisdom's gem, and heaven's prize.

Mother of a myriad children

Wisdom's ikon, paradigm -
Spill your seed into new peoples
Souls from every realm and clime
Songs releasing, poems making,
Pains embracing, with us shine.

Tune: Westminster Abbey

Intercessions

Any of the following may be read or used as themes for free prayer after each sentence.

As Hilda drew out the songs the cowherd dared not sing,
bring to flower in your people the seeds that dormant lie.

We pray for those who have none to encourage them,

bring the seeds of confidence in them to flower.

We pray for those who are trapped by their circumstances,

bring the seeds of freedom in them to flower.

We pray for those who find it difficult to learn,

bring the seeds of understanding in them to flower.

We pray for individuals and peoples with a victim mentality

bring the seeds of empowerment in them to flower.

We pray for those who are weak or nearing the end of their earthly journey,

bring the seeds of praise in them to flower.

There may be singing.

Closing

May we have the gift of simplicity,

that wisdom may grow in us unhindered by distractions.

May we have the gift of trust,

that we have no need to fight and wound.

May we have the gift of insight,

that both weak and strong may know we understand.

May we have the gift of fortitude,

that, always true, we may be oak trees in the land.

May we have the gift of joy,

**that in trials, triumphs, and death, we and the angels be
one.**

Hilda Night Prayer

Opening

Companion of our souls, we come home to you.

In the evening of life as in the morning, we give praise to you.

Psalm

Psalm 119:145-149.

After tending the community at Whitby for many years that devoted servant of Christ, Hilda, suffered the trial of a long bodily illness, in order that, like the apostle Paul, her strength might be made perfect in weakness. A burning fever tortured her continually for six years, yet she never ceased to give public thanks to God night and day and to instruct her flock.

Singing

Angels escorted Hilda to heaven.

**We give thanks for your saints
who shine, like Hild, in radiant brightness.**

May the saints and the angels light up our night

and urge us on to heavenly virtues;

the virtues of peace and love,

devotion to you and justice to all,

wise friendship and a constant life,

faithful work and constant praise.

Bible reading

Proverbs 9:1-6, Philippians 4:4-9 or Matthew 13:31-33.

Silence

Many called Hilda 'Mother' because of her grace and wise counsel:

**may her gifts of wisdom and inspiration
be reflected in the believers of our age.**

Her strength was made complete in weakness;

**may the strength of those in trial be made complete in
weakness.**

Rejoicing in the fellowship of Hilda, we commend ourselves
and our dear ones to your safe keeping.

We remember especially . . . *loved and needy ones may be
named.*

Silence, singing, or sharing.

In local legend, when the sea birds fly over Whitby abbey
they dip their wings to acknowledge Hilda's presence that
lingers still.

**Teach us to live nobly, die gratefully and relish heaven's
glorious rewards.**

Closing

Attended by angels and the company of Hilda
and of heaven, in quiet we lay down our heads.

Father, Mother of us all,

your name be hallowed this night.

Earth mover, Pain bearer, Giver of life,

in joy we lie down to sleep.

The Cloud of Witnesses

For any Saint or Holy Person

Roman Catholic, Orthodox and Reformed Churches honour the biblical injunctions to remember how God led forebears and to sustain awareness of ‘the great cloud of witnesses’ (Hebrews 12:1). First Nation and other peoples teach us to keep holy memory of forebears alive.

The Way of Life encourages us to remember the feast days and become familiar with saints of varied times and places, considering them as companions on our journeys of faith. In Celtic lands these include the following, in addition to Aidan and Hilda and Fathers of the Desert and the East:

Brigid (February 1), Caedmon (February 11) Columba (June 9), Cuthbert (March 20), David (March 1), Iltyd (November 6), Kevin (June 3), Ninian (September 16) Oswald (August 5) and Patrick (March 17). *Great Celtic Christians: alternative worship from the community of Aidan and Hilda* (Kevin Mayhew) provides prayer patterns for all of these.

Morning Prayer

Opening

We give thanks to Eternal God, sacred centre of the universe.

We give thanks for the cloud of witnesses who encourage us on our journey

Today we remember . . . (*name/s*)

Psalm

Psalm 1, 15, 19, 112:1-9, 118:1-20 or 148.

Song, chant and/or the following

Glorious God

Abraham praised you, the founder of faith

May people who listen praise you

Jacob and Hilda praised you

May strugglers who overcome praise you

Moses and Miriam praised you

May pioneers of justice praise you

Deborah and David praised you

May prophets and leaders praise you

Mary and Elizabeth praised you

May mothers and soul friends praise you

Psalmists and apostles praised you

May writers and witnesses praise you

. . . (*the person remembered today*) praised you

May all creatures and all people give glory to you for ever.

Old Testament reading

The reading for the day or one of the following, Exodus 3:16-18, Deuteronomy 4:31-37, 32:2-12, 2 Chronicles 24:17-21

(for martyrs), Isaiah 51:1-3, Malachi 4, Wisdom 4:10-15, Judith 8:24-36 or 1 Maccabees 2:51-61.

We praise you O God (*See Index*)

The Song of Zechariah (Benedictus) (*See Index*) Or

New Testament Reading

The reading of the day or one of the following: Matthew 25:1-13, Luke 6:20-31, Romans 8:35-end, 1 Timothy 2:3-7, Philemon 1-7, 1 Peter 2:1-9 or Revelation 5:8-14.

Silence or a prayer for today's saint.

Intercessions

Thank you for your light that shone through.... (*the person remembered today*)

Let your light shine through us

In deeds of mercy and prayers of faith

In silent listening and holy learning

In thoughtful postings and work done with love.

Call us on to the endless adventure of your passionate life

Carry us past boundaries that diminish and divide

Hold the ancient wellsprings of living water to our lips

Until we stand tall as people of your birthright.

Blessing

God, whose light was reflected in the life of ... (*the person remembered today*), light up our lives and equip us for ever more fruitful service.

Midday Prayer

Opening

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to his people ‘Your God reigns’

Isaiah 52:7

As we thank you for your messenger . . . (*the person remembered today*) we proclaim with her/him ‘Our God reigns’.

Song or chant and/or the following

**You are worthy, our Lord and God,
To receive glory and honour and power.
For you have created all things,
And by your will they have their being.
You are worthy, O Lamb, for you were slain
And by your blood you have ransomed for God saints
from every tribe and language and nation.
You have made them to be a kingdom of priests serving
our God
And they will reign with you on earth.**

Revelation 4:11, 5:9b,10

**To the One who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be
honour and glory and power for ever and ever. Amen.**

Psalm

Psalm 117 or Wisdom 3:1-8.

Bible Reading

Matthew 8:5-13, Mark 10:42-45, John 15:1-8, 17:20-end,
Acts 7:1-8 or 1 Peter 2:1-9,

Spoken or silent reflection

Jesus said ‘Let your light so shine before others that they may
see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven’

Matthew 5:16

May the light that shone through your servant . . . *(the person
remembered today)*

Shine through us today.

Renew in us

The peace that is deeper than strife

The love that that is deeper than hate

the joy that is deeper than despair

The trust that is deeper than fear

O God of life, grant to us and to those
for whom we pray

The eye of God

And the purpose of God

The affection of God

And the deeds of God

. . . people are named silently or aloud

Blessing

May God shield you up and downhill,

May Christ aid you when life is flat

May Spirit fill you at every step

The love and affection of heaven be with you.

The love and affection of the saints

To guard and cherish you for ever.

May the King shield you in the valleys,

May Christ aid you on the mountains,

May Spirit bathe you on the slopes.

In hollow, on hill, on plain.

Mountain, valley and plain.

The glorious God of Mary . . . *(the person remembered today)*

and the cloud of witnesses spur you on in your working and speaking, in your thinking and befriending that a light you may be in the dark, an anchor in the storm, and a witness to life everlasting.

Evening Prayer

Living and eternal God, rule over us always to the end of time. All your saints bless you, whose word makes evening fall.

(after Jewish Berakah of the evening)

The righteous shall be held in everlasting remembrance.

Psalm 15, 77 or 145

Almighty God, you have knit together in one communion those who served you on earth whom we see no longer.

Today we thank you for . . .

Give us grace to grow in her/his virtues and share in her/his everlasting joy.

Old Testament readings

Isaiah 63:11-14 or Wisdom 3:1-8,

We thank you for what we can learn from the life of . . . *(the person remembered today)*

Story or sayings and/or

May we remember and learn from holy mothers.

O God for whom we long as a woman in labour longs for her delivery: give us courage to wait, strength to push, and discernment to know the right time, that we may bring into the world a life of joy.

(Echoes Australian Prayer Book)

Or

For every truth upheld
For every talent consecrated
For every love expended
For every reflection of heaven
For every laugh from a pure heart
For every ray of light that shines through a frail mortal
For each person who has born the heat and burden of the day
in the spirit of Christ
We thank you, God of glory.

A Song of God's anointed Hebrews 12:22-24a, 28-29.

New Testament readings

Matthew 5:1-12, 8:5-13, 2 Timothy 3:10-17, 1 Peter 2:1-9 or
Revelation 7:9-17

Reflection or a reading

Intercessions

Encouraged by the example of a friend of God we now dare
to pray:

Grant us simplicity

Grant us purity

Grant us the obedience of a humble heart

And to journey on with you.

Blessing

Beckoned on by the great company of heaven
Grace us to live each day in eternal life
until we come to that place where we shine together for ever.

Night Prayer

As the sun sets and the day fades
we are grateful for . . . (*the person remembered today*) and all
who have found their rest in you

We are grateful

Song, chant

Give thanks to the Risen Lord
Give thanks for the holy and risen ones

You are worthy, O Lamb, for you were slain, and by your
blood you ransomed for God saints from every tribe and
language and nation.

**You have made them a kingdom and priests serving our
God and they will reign with you on earth.**

Revelation 4:11, 5:9b, 10.

To the One who sits on the throne and to the Lamb
**be blessing and honour and glory and might for ever and
ever. Amen**

Bible reading

1 Corinthians 3:10-14 or Ephesians 2:19-22

*This may be followed by spoken or silent reflection on the
person remembered today*

**May the saints and the angels light up our night
and urge us on to heavenly virtues;
the virtues of peace and love,
devotion to you and justice to all,**

**wise friendship and a constant life,
faithful work and constant praise.**

Intercession

As you hold . . . (*the person remembered today*) in your
loving hands.

So we place into your hands those we now name . . .

Closing

May the saints and the Saviour watch over you.

When your life is hard and night steals your sleep

When stars shine bright and moon-sheen you keep

May each thought that wants its say

Clear the way for a brighter day

May the saints and the Saviour watch over you.

Community of Aidan and Hilda Prayers and Commitments

For use in any prayer pattern, at communal gatherings and at the making or renewal of vows.

Lord Jesus, simplicity and a deep love for people
shone out of your apostle, Aidan.

Grant that, like him, we may be gentle in our
loving and bold in our speaking;
and so inspire others to learn your ways,
and pass on the faith.

God of mercy towards all, you sent the gentle bishop Aidan to
proclaim the Gospel to English-speaking people and to model
your kingdom among them: help us to live as he taught, in
simplicity, humility and love of the poor.

As Aidan left his familiar ground to share his life and yours
with people of another race, language and religion
Set us free, O God,
to put ourselves in others' shoes,
to be open to others in listening,
to be sensitive to others in praying;
that we may see Christ
in the face of each person we meet,
and cross barriers for you
as you crossed barriers for us.

You made Hilda to shine like a jewel in the land.
Help us, like her, to:
encourage others to their callings,
reconcile those who are divided,
and praise you with our whole being.

Great God of compassion, who through Hilda's holiness and leadership blessed your Church with new life and unity, help us, like her, to surmount setbacks and build upon eternal foundations, through the Christ who lives and reigns for ever.

Almighty God, who gave to your servant Hilda the rich gifts of vision, love and wisdom: grant that we, inspired by her life and teaching, may walk as one family in the paths of love and obedience, and attain to the reward of the poor in spirit.

The Order of the Holy Paraclete, Whitby

You gave your servant Hilda grace to turn away from the privilege of her royal birth and to use her gifts in generous leadership. We thank you for the many who have given up comfort and privilege for the sake of the Gospel. We pray for all who by their lives challenge the values of our society and help others to choose the way of Christ.

Lord, help us to flame and struggle in the spirit of Aidan and Hilda. Ignite in us the divine flame that burns out impurities, blazes a trail and warms hearts. Spur us to struggle ceaselessly against selfish ways, unjust practices, and falsehood. Help us, as we flame and struggle together, to establish your way upon earth.

We pray for those who are soul friends to the followers of the Way. May they be true companions on the journey. Help them to be sensitive in listening, imaginative in prayer, and faithful in friendship. Nurture in them deepening insight into Scripture, human nature and our Way of Life and the ability to move on.

Help our guardians to be good keepers of the community's memory, spirit, vows, waymarks, and of the authenticity of its journey now, always yielded to the Trinity.

Grant, O God, that your Church may be true to its birthright. Kindle in us the adventure of obedience, the single eye, the humble and generous heart, which marked Aidan, Hilda and kindred saints across the world.

Renewal of Vows and Covenant

On or near November 17 (St. Hilda's Day) community members around the world renew their vows.

The renewal includes these words:

I give myself without reservation to God, the Three of Limitless Love.

I seek to know Christ better and make him better known, to live simply that others may simply live,
to fight the spiritual war and to follow the example of Aidan, Hilda and kindred saints.

The following prayers, based on the Ten Waymarks, are especially suitable for a person taking or renewing vows and for communal gatherings:

Day by day, dear Lord:
teach us from your Word and your world,
companion us on our pilgrimage of life,
free us to live in your rhythms,
spur us to powerful prayer,
strip from us all that clutters,
cherish through us your creation,
heal through us what is wounded,

blow us to scenes of dream or need,
weave together through us what has been torn apart,
reach out through us with your justice, truth
and love.

I will seek to wholeheartedly follow Jesus Christ

In strength of Trinity

In the spirit of Celtic and kindred Saints living

By Scripture's Guidance

In soul friend's confidence

In godly rhythms

In overcoming prayer

In simplicity of life

In stewardship of creation

In the healing of the world

In stream of God's Spirit

In solidarity with all

In sharing with others.

Intercessions for the Ten Waymarks

1. Life-Long Learning

Implant your Word in their heart, that they may move deeper into your love. Embed your Word in their mind, that they may think your thoughts. Increase her hunger to know you in the lives and the words of your people that they may grow in the wisdom of Christ.

Renew them in your Spirit with the gift of understanding.

2. Spiritual Journey

Deliver them, O Lord, from soul-limiting self-sufficiency. Open their hearts to those who you appoint as their companions on the way. Create in her heart a place of hospitality that she may share your joy with others, and receive their blessing in return. May they offer the joy of soul friendship to an orphaned and alienated world.

Renew them in your Spirit with the gift of a Soul Friend for the journey.

3. Rhythm

Lord, we are a people bent out of shape. The yoke of our self-appointed burdens chafes our shoulders and wounds our souls. We have filled our time with things that starve our hearts. Restore in them the balance of work, prayer and recreation, and the Sabbath rest that re-energises

Renew us in your Spirit with the blessing of creation's rhythm.

4. Intercessions

God of all the earth, manifest in them your love of the whole human family. Move their hearts with compassion that they might storm the gates of heaven, crying for mercy on a world lost in illusion, greed and war. Deliver them from praying their own agenda, that they may seek your best for all.

Renew us in your Spirit with the passion to intercede.

5. A simple lifestyle

Father, free them from the demand to build empires to their own glory. Remind them that the one who dies with the most possessions may die without you. Help them to exchange the costumes of worldly honour for the garments of humility.

Renew us in your Spirit in a lifestyle of Christ-like simplicity.

6. Care for Creation

God of creation, your Spirit brooded over the chaos and brought a universe to birth; you rejoiced at each day of creation, delighting in its goodness before the hosts of heaven. You breathed your life into all creatures and your Spirit into us, and so made a marriage of heaven and earth in us. May they treasure their kinship with all creation which finds its liberation with ours in Jesus Christ.

Renew us in your Spirit with tender care for all creation.

7. Healing fragmented people and communities

Triune God, Eternal Three, Eternal Unity, you created us to be integrated beings. Deliver us from the fragmentation we have brought upon your church and our-selves. Heal them that they may lay healing hands on a wounded world and those who are broken by the disorder of sin.

Renew us in your Spirit with the gift of wholeness and healing.

8. Openness to God's Spirit

Spirit of God you come to us as wild wind and gentle breeze, you speak in tongues of fire and as a still, small voice, you call us to venture out on the wide ocean of your love. May they be ever open to listening to your voice and obeying your call on their lives.

Renew us in your Spirit with openness and vulnerability.

9. Unity

Lord Jesus Christ, you prayed that we all might be one as you and the Father are one, give them a spirit that repents for the

divisions in your Church, fosters love and truth among your people, and lays down its life for the hurting parts of the human family.

Renew them in your Spirit with the love God-led unity.

10. Servant mission.

Lord Jesus, you sought us out in the ordinary places of our lives; you visited the respectable and disreputable to re-unite them to your Father; you confronted what was wrong. Remove their fear of walking into uncomfortable places, move them to reach out to those who have lost their way; strengthen them to confront the injustices of our times, and help them to light up for people the connections between their lives and your truth.

Renew them in your Spirit with a zeal for servant mission.

Empower us to walk in the steps of Aidan,
Hilda and kindred saints to welcome in the power of love.

Covenant

This weaves together Celtic elements with the Methodist covenant service established by John Wesley. It links the covenants God made with the earth through Noah, with a nation through Moses, and with all people through Abraham and Christ.

Today we renew our covenant with God, as our forebears in faith have done through the generations.

We bless you for your covenant with Noah.

Renew our relationship with the earth, and all that live by it.

We bless you for your covenant with Moses.

Renew our relationship with the human community on earth.

We bless you for your covenant with David.

Renew our relationship with the royal priesthood of the Body of Christ.

We bless you for your covenant with Jesus.

**Renew our relationship with the Defenceless
Love who draws the whole created world to himself.**

The story of Noah may be told (Genesis 6-9) or the following may be read, Jeremiah 31:31-34

Hebrews 12:18-29 or John 13:33-35

God our Lover,

**we confess that our worship is threadbare;
we neglect the means of your blessing;
we evade our responsibilities in the Body of
Christ; we are imperfect stewards of your gifts and
imperfect witnesses to Christ.**

Let each of us in silence make our own confession to God.

Silence. All stand.

Let us place ourselves under Christ.

This means that we are happy for him to give us our place and work, and that he himself is our reward. Christ has many tasks to be done; some are easy, others are difficult; some bring honour, others bring reproach. In some we may please Christ and please ourselves, in others we cannot please Christ except

by denying ourselves. Yet the power to do all these things is given us by Christ who gives us strength.

Therefore let us give ourselves afresh to him, trusting in his promises and relying on his help.

Lord, with joy we pledge our love of you.

We are no longer our own, but yours.

Put us to what you will,

place us with whom you will;

let us be put to work for you or put aside for you;

let us be full, let us be empty;

let us have all things, let us have nothing.

We freely and with all our heart

give you all things for you to use.

May we walk through the year ahead in unity

with you and our fellow Christians,

feeding upon your Word, honouring all people,

cherishing your creation, serving our neighbour,

responsive to the leading of your Spirit.

Amen.

Natural Seasons

These vary throughout the world. The *Celtic Wheel of the Year* comprises the first day of the four seasons, the two equinoxes and the two solstices. This section provides prayer patterns for each of these eight celebrations, with material that may be used at other times during a season. It adds prayer patterns for New Year's Eve, and for Full and New Moons. In the Southern Hemisphere the dates are advanced by six months.

Winter Solstice Night Prayer December 22 - Stillness
New Year's Eve Watch Night Service December 31 - New horizons
Imbolc (Spring) February 1 – New births
Spring Equinox - Momentum
Beltane - Flowering creativity
Summer Solstice – Peak energy
Lammas and Early Crops - Abundance
Autumn Equinox/Last Harvest – Thanksgiving
Samhain/Halloween – Sanctuary and Release
Night Prayer for New and Full Moons

Winter Morning Prayer

We arise today
in the simplicity of the bare earth,
in the strength of the fierce elements,
in the beauty of cold-clad land.
We arise today
in the deep formation of winter,
in the cleansing work of frost,
in the life of the One who was buried.

Psalm

Psalm 147:13-19 or 74:12-17.

Singing or silence

Old Testament reading

Job 37:2-13.

New Testament reading

Mark 4:25-27 or Acts 27:1-12.

Pause

Thank you for a roof over our head,
for firm earth under our tread,
for supplies to fill our hunger,
for friends to assuage our anger.

We thank you for wintry earth
Storehouse of memory
Gratitude's guardian
Promise of provision
Calling us to trust in you.

Singing or silence

Intercessions

Sustaining God, as this cold, dark season encroaches,

we place into your hands winter's patterns,
which you call us now to live.

Give to us the humility of the earth,
and the hope of heaven.

Stripped of inessentials may we stand,
rooted in you.

In the stillness of the earth begin your work in us,

in the anticipation of gathering strength,
sustain our well-being.

We pray these things also for others . . .

Silence, free prayer or creative activity

Closing

At the drawing in of the days,
may your contemplations bring you peace,
may the wintry hardness of God's strength

make you strong,
and the soft mists of God's presence
wrap you in their gentle folds.

Dunbarton Rock Community Church, Scotland

Winter Midday Prayer

In the chill of wintry wind,
in the depths of uncertain thoughts,
sing to us the story of the universe,
visit us as Saviour of our being.

Song or music

We bind to ourselves this day,
the strength of rock,
the silence of earth,
the sharpness of cold.

We bind to ourselves this day,
the longevity of stars,
the integrity of sky,
the sobering of dark.

Old Testament reading

Genesis 8:20-22.

Bless the Holy One (see Index)

New Testament reading

John 10:22-30.

Draw us into the womb of darkness,
into the wounds,
into the silence,
there to experience
the mysterious work of your hands.

Silence, free prayer, the Lord's Prayer or song.

Closing prayer

Hold us, O God of the cold, dark days,
secure in the knowledge that from its wintry
depths the earth brings forth a Saviour.

Winter Evening Prayer

Creating and Sustaining God,
as this cold, dark season encroaches,
give to us the stability of the deep earth
and the hope of heaven.

There may be singing.

Psalm 74:10-21.

Counsellor, quicken my soul's progress in this
winter season,
kindle in my heart fires of welcome and love;
in the presence of the Holy Trinity,
in the presence of the angels without envy,
in the presence of the saints without fear.

Old Testament reading

Job 37:1-13.

Thank you for leading us to the time of briefest light,
secure in the trust that you embrace the
encircling gloom.

Held by the dark which you encompass in your
arms,

content to rest in you like a baby in the womb.

Silence

New Testament reading

Acts 28:1-9.

There may be teaching, creative activity and singing.

Out of the womb of darkness leapt the Everlasting
Light.

We enter the womb of darkness,
knowing you are there.

We bring into it our despair, and the despair of the
world . . . *Any may mention examples of people in despair*

May they enter the womb of darkness,
knowing you are there.

There may be singing.

Closing

In our weakness winter reveals to us our true
strength;
strength to be broken, strength to be still.
In you, O God, let our true life begin.

Winter Night Prayer

Star Kindler and Weaver of wonder,
as winter stars light up the darkness of night,
reveal to us fresh sources of hope.

Psalm 134 or 139:1-12 or 'Come, bless the Lord'
(see Index) may be sung.

Candles may be lit.

When cold night draws near,
we draw near to you.
When dark thoughts loom large,
we draw near to you.
In our time of need,
we draw near to you.

Scripture reading

Wisdom 10:17: Wisdom gave to holy people the reward of their labours and became a shelter to them by day, and a starry flame through the night.

or

2 Timothy 1:6: I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you (N.I.V.)

or

1 John 2:7-14.

There may be silence, or sharing of other words from God.

The following verses may be read by two groups, e.g.

male and female, those sitting on left and right.

We place our souls and bodies
under your guiding this night, O Christ.
O Son of the journey through darkness,
may your cross this night be our shield.

We place our souls and bodies
under your glowing this night, O Spirit.
O gentle Companion and soul Guardian,
our hearts' eternal Warmth.

There may be singing.

You are our Saviour and Lord,
in our coldness be our Warmth,
in our tiredness be our Rest,
in our darkness be our Light.

Our dear ones bless, O God, wherever they are,
especially these we name before you now . . .

Be their Companion, their Healer and their Rest this night.

Closing

When our world is bare and cold
Let seeds sprout under earth
A star light up our night
A Child come to our hearth

Night Prayer for the Winter Solstice - Stillness

This is about 22 December in the northern hemisphere and 21 June in the southern hemisphere.

This may be used as a normal Night Prayer or as the framework for an outdoor celebration as follows. People gather round a fire in an open place after dark. Hot food, drink and music may be provided at a nearby building which may be decorated with local greenery such as holly or mistletoe.

Mistletoe is considered to be a sacred plant. Its white flower symbolises the energy of the sun. Another name for it is 'healwell'. Some may choose to stay up until the early hours, enjoying the sights and sounds of the night.

Opening

Come Creator of lights, pierce the darkness and light up the earth.

**Christ at the yearly turning,
Christ at every bend,
Christ at each beginning,
Christ at every end.
Christ in dark's deep shadows,
Christ in shades of death,
Christ in primeval history,
Christ in wintry earth.**

Psalm

Psalm 139:1-12.

There may be singing such as the following chant

**The Lord is my light, in whom I trust.
The Lord is my light, in whom I trust,
in whom I trust. (x2)**

Craftsperson of the Heavens, you have stretched out above us
a canopy of stars which are signs of hope renewed in darkest
times.

**Brightener of the night, open to us the treasures
of darkness – its deepest wisdom and its healing power.**

First The world is not dead,
it is sleeping.

Second Its life draws in,
it is keeping.

First The earth is gathering energy
for a new burst of life.

Second We breathe in the mystic air,
that we may breathe out care.

First Your presence supports us through the night,
so we can hail the coming source of Light.

Second Shine through the mists, the deadening heavy clod.
**Hail gladdening Light of God's pure glory poured,
Holiest of holies, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

There may be singing or silence.

New Testament reading

Do not be deceived. Every good gift comes from God, the Creator of the lights of the heavens. Darkness is not caused by any unreliability in God.

James 1:16-18

Lord of the seasons,

**on this day of briefest light, help us to be at
home with the treasures of the dark.**

*After a period of stillness anyone may mention examples of
treasures of the dark . . .*

As shadows lengthen,

help us to embrace the shadow side of life.

As the dark swallows up the light of sun,

Let inner light swallow up the dark of sin.

Circle your world, O Being of Light and Shade,

and circle those we love . . . *Names may be mentioned.*

Revelation 22:16.

Now begin the twelve long nights of yule.

One night soon will be born Jesus, Son of the King of Glory,
creation's Joy.

At the turning of the year help us to welcome the Dawn from
on high.

Glow to him wood and tree,

glow to him moon and sun,

glow to him earth and air.

Glow to him people at night

when earth's Glory comes to earth.

Closing

You will gleam to him moon and furthest star.

You will gleam to him hills and housetops afar.

Now, therefore we will sleep in peace,

and journey on in hope.

New Year's Eve Watch Night Service

December 31

Opening

A crib is prepared before the service. Three readers each have a figure of a wise king.

I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:
'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.'
And he replied: 'Go out into the darkness and put your hand
into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light
and safer than a known way.'

Minnie Louise Harkins (1875–1957)

**As tides recede we plant fresh steps on the sand;
as white flakes fall we print fresh marks on the snow;
as a new year dawns we plant fresh virtues in the land.**

Song

Let us learn from the wise kings of the long journey about
how our journey should be.

*Three readers place a king before the crib in turn, whilst
saying the following:*

First We offer our gold – our prosperity and possessions, our
power and prestige to you. We let go of the futile things we
clung to in the past.

Silent reflection

All sing

**O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to the perfect light.**

Second We offer our frankincense – our mind-sets and heritage, our talent and thought to you. We let go of the pride and prejudice of the past.

Silent reflection

All sing **O star of wonder . . .**

Third We offer our myrrh – our sadness and shadows, our little deaths and our final death to you. We let go of the fear and denial of the past.

Silent reflection

All sing **O star of wonder . . .**

New year resolutions die quickly unless, like the wise kings, we learn to listen to God. In the darkness of the night God led the wise kings to Christ; in the darkness of the night the Spirit warned them to depart another way to avoid the murderous King Herod; in the darkness of the night they journeyed to far lands.

A poem about the three kings, such as:

After the star, the dim day.
After the gifts, the empty hands.

And now we take our secret way
Back to far lands.

After the cave, the bleak plain.
After the joy, the weary ride.
But journey we, three new-made men
Side by side.

Came we by old paths by the sands.
Go we by new ones this new day,
Homewards to rule our lives and lands
By another way.

Author unknown

New Testament reading

Joseph, also, listened to God:

Matthew 2:13-15.

What does God say to us in the night about what we should leave behind? About what we are to build up in the ways of the fresh light that has dawned upon us? About being travellers – pilgrims for the Love of God? About how this place may be a Bethlehem, a place where Christ is cradled for different groups, generations, peoples?

Silence or quiet music during which each person is given three pieces of paper or card with these headings:

- 1. A Resolution, Inspiration or Dedication*
- 2. Ring out . . .*
- 3. Ring in . . .*

Any may place the first paper or light a candle before the crib; and place the 'ring out' paper on one board, and the 'ring in' paper on another board.

Song

A person stands before the people, rings a bell and says:

Ring out the old, the false, the cold;
ring in the new, the true, the bold.

Ring out the futile party strife;
ring in the nobler ways of life.

Ring out the pride, the greed, the war;
ring in the service to the poor.

Now the bell-ringer or individuals read out some or all of the 'ring out' prayers and then the 'ring in' prayers. When all have been read out the bell-ringer concludes:

Ring out the darkness of the land;
ring in the tender heart and hand.
Ring out our selfish history;
ring in the Christ who is to be.

Music such as Handel's Messiah may be played or there may be singing.

Closing

God

**be a smooth way before us,
a guiding star above us,**

**a keen eye behind us,
each day and each night of this year.**

Imbolc/Spring – New births

In Celtic tradition Imbolc (the weeks between 1 February and 30 April) is the spring season. For the first day of Imbolc, use Festival of Light/Candlemas Prayer.

Spring is the first season in which vegetation begins to appear. In the northern hemisphere it is now from March to May and in the southern hemisphere from September to October. Spring marks the end of winter and the returning of the light. It is a time of beginnings, fresh inspiration, and planning for growth. It is a time to celebrate gestating life in the worlds of nature and the spirit.

Spring Morning Prayer

Opening

How the birds (*a bird may be named*) laugh to greet the morn
Celebrating with joy a new day born.
May we, too, rise and pray
Giving thanks for the break of day.

We arise today in the richness of the fertile earth.

We arise today in the promise of the rising seed.

Psalm

Psalm 104:24-30.

Spring, with her colour, warmth, and scent:
season of budding, rebirth, intent.
Year by year God sends the spring:
promise and pardon mingling.
With Christ eternal from the cross:
bounty bestows from utter loss.

The broken, cold, and stagnant earth:
awakes with miracles of birth,
and spirits, broken, contrite, cold:
are healed with blessings manifold.
Beauty is free to walk abroad:
and spread the glory of the Lord.

Peter Howard, Oxford Group

There may be singing.

Old Testament reading

Genesis 1:24-31a or Hosea 6:3.

There may be a creative activity or a reading, such as the following.

I will go forth to sow my seeds
in the name of God whose growth it needs,
and every seed that lies
beneath cold winter's eyes
shall take root in God's way.
Kissed by the winds that lightly run,
the new blades shall leap to greet the sun.

Anon

Fresh shoots and buds of promise,
be glad for the God of life.
First Spring flowers and winged arrivals,
be glad for the God of life.
Frolicking lambs /or... and industrious bees/ or...
be glad for the God of life.
There may be singing.

New Testament reading
Mark 4:26-28.

Intercessions

Glad Bringer of brightness,
spring's blessing, rainbow's embrace:
teach our hearts to open as the buds
and welcome in your grace.
Teach us to dance with the playful clouds
and laugh with sun's smile on our face.

Bring Spring-time also into human affairs . . .

There may be free prayer and singing.

Closing

**May the blessing of the earth be on us,
the earth budding with promise.**

**May we always have a kindly greeting for
people and see the promise in them.**

And may the Lord now bless us kindly.

Spring Midday Prayer

Opening

After stagnant days, life begins to stir.

All things grow.

Green shoots appear.

Buds open.

And will we not stir?

Psalm

Psalm 148.

The face of nature laughs in the springtime;
her breath is fresh, and her eyes are clearest blue.
The call of the birds is wild and free,
waterfalls splash with joy,
meadows light up with the colours of flowers,
the breeze is nature's harp, playing a song of love,
men are strong, women pretty,
and the world is in love with its Creator.

Welsh Book of Carmarthen?

Any may place a sample of Spring on a table or recall a blessing of Spring.

May we be
grounded, like the earth,
growing, like the plants.
free, like the wind.
**May the love that is within us
come to bud and flower.**

There may be singing or creative activity.

New Testament reading

Matthew 6:28-29.

O Christ, for this fair earth which is my home awhile, I bow
my knee – and for quickening dawns, for still noons, for
laughter in children and love in lovers' eyes.

Every sight and sound is a voice that tells of you.

The rain is your tears whenever I wound your love.
The sun is the shining of your face at every advance.
Sevenfold are the joys of spring.

**Bring forth warmth and brightness,
welcome newborn life,
bring buds of love to blossom,
bring innocence to birth.**

There may be free prayer and the Lord's Prayer.

Closing

**God bless the earth that is beneath us,
the spring that is around us,
the growth that is before us,
the hope that is within us.**

Spring Evening Prayer

Opening

Great Provider,

may the green of spring praise you,

may buds and blossom praise you.

May the stubble and grass praise you,

may the shrub and fruit tree praise you.

May the bursting new life praise you,

may the birds and bees praise you.

Abraham, the founder of faith, praised you,

may the seven days and the stars praise you.

Moses and Miriam praised you,

may male and female praise you.

Any

May the . . . praise you

Great Provider

may we and all that breathes praise you.

Psalm

Psalm 104:1, 10-24.

There may be singing or a creative activity using signs of spring.

Old Testament reading

Isaiah 40:28-31.

A Declaration such as We believe, O God of all gods (See Saturday Morning Prayer) may be said.

New Testament reading

Colossians 1:9-20.

Creator of the germ in woman,
maker of seed in man;
giving breath to everyone you create!
**How manifold are your works,
you who created the earth according to your heart.**

Silence, music or singing.

Intercessions

Bringer of light and laughter,
gifts of life are returning.
**Quicken our hearts within us;
release the beauty within.**

Birther,
**Bless the seeds and make them fertile.
Bless our thoughts and make them fruitful.**

Renewer,
**May fields become green.
May dreams come to pass.**

There may be free prayer.

Closing

May the blessing of the rain be on us,
the sweet soft rain.
May it fall upon our spirits,
so that all the little flowers may spring up
and shed their sweetness on the air.

May the blessing of the great rains be upon us,
that they beat upon our spirits
and wash them fair and clean
and leave there many a shining pool
where the blue of heaven shines,
and sometimes a star.

Thanks be to God.

Spring Night Prayer

Opening

The land is alight with the flowers in bloom.

May the colours of day light up our night.

The sun glints through the fresh, green leaves.

May you gleam through our shadows of dark.

There may be singing.

New Testament reading

Jesus said: The soil itself makes the plants grow and bear fruit; first the tender stalk appears, then the ear, and finally the full head.

Mark 4:28

If you were busy like us, dear God, you would have no time for the slow wonder of spring's growth.

If you were busy like us, dear God, you would have no time to listen to us.

So we praise you for having time for all things, and time to listen to us as we wait in quiet before you.

Silence and chant

Creator Spirit,
wellspring of life and love,
as the people sleep,
**renew the springs of their life,
refresh their weak frame,
restore love to their souls . . .**

People and places may be named.

Music or singing

Closing

God of springtime,
renew us while sleeping, guide us when waking,
that awake we may watch with Christ
and asleep we may rest in peace.

Spring Equinox - Momentum

Two candles are in place: one black and lit, the other white and unlit. A bowl of seeds is placed on a table.

Yesterday, darkness was longer than light.

The white candle is lit.

Today light and dark are in equal balance.

Tomorrow light will be longer than darkness.

The black candle is blown out.

**We thank you, God,
that we have come through the winter.
We thank you, God, for the coming of spring.**

Song or chant.

Bible reading

Song of Songs 2:11-13.

**We thank you for your love that never fails.
After winter you give spring, in pain you plant love.
We suffer long, but your beauty grows within us.**

*The youngest person may give everyone a spring flower from a central vase and say to each person,
May God's love come to flower in you.*

Each person holds their flower in silent appreciation of God's unfailing and ever-fresh love, listening for any prompting of the Spirit about a new beginning. Any who sense a prompting take a seed from a bowl in the centre as a sign of commitment

and promise of new growth. There may be prayer for new beginnings.

Great Spirit, thank you for new seeds,
new babies, new dreams, new love.
Spring into our lives, into our communities,
and renew our worn and wintry world.
Hear us, the children of your earth.

Brother Jesus,
you sprang to life
after the frozen darkness of the grave.
You know from the inside
the darkness and confusion that afflict us.
Spring into our lives and restore our well-being.
Hear us, the children of your earth.

Father, Mother of us all,
keep our beautiful planet in balance,
as light and dark are in balance today.
For all belong to you
and are called to reflect your glory.
Hear us, the children of your earth.

Beltane/Summer Thriving creativity

This is a time of warmth and growth, of increased confidence and sociability. It is a time to celebrate the vitality of life, the joys of youth, the adventures of heroes, the provisions of earth, the fullness of life and the goodness of God.

In ancient Celtic tradition summer is known as Beltane. It begins on 1 May and ends on the last day of July. The official months of summer today are June to August in the northern hemisphere and December to February in the southern hemisphere.

Summer Morning Prayer

Opening

These are the long days when the sun rides high above us.

Days to enjoy with our sustaining God.

Gratitude for the sun: blinding, pulsing light
through trunks of trees, through mists, through walls,
warming caves and corridors –
the one who wakes us –
in our minds so be it.

Echoes a Mohawk prayer

The sun rises daily only because you command it;
its splendour will not last, created things all perish.

Christ the true Sun nothing can destroy;
the Sun of suns, he shall reign for ever.

There may be singing.

Psalm

Psalm 104:1-14 or 146.

The beauty of summer, its days long and slow,
beautiful too, visiting the ones we love.

The beauty of flowers on the tops of fruit trees,
beautiful too, covenant with the Creator.

We rejoice in the energies of the sun,
in the abundance that can be ours.

Let each raise a hand to bless the sun and the
earth and say together:

**for the earth and all it brings forth,
we praise you, generous Giver.**

There may be a short silence or blessings of summer may be named.

Old Testament reading

Job 38:1-15, Genesis 8:22 or Song of Songs 2:11-13.

We thank you, O God, for these amazing days;
for the leaping greenery and the arching blue sky.
Everything that breathes seems to cry 'Yes!'.
Today, may our whole being cry 'yes' to you.

Life of Jesus, Sun of suns, filling every part of us
life be in our speech,
sense in what we say,
until our journey's end.

Love of Jesus, Sun of suns, filling every heart for us
love be in our deeds,
thought be in our minds,
until you come back again.

New Testament reading

Matthew 6:25-33.

Free prayer and a song such as All creatures of our God and King.

Jesus said, 'I came in order that you may have life – life in all its fullness.'

John 10:10

Our energies are strong, O God, we have fullness
of life in you:

Sun shines.

Sap rises.

Buds burst.

Younglings frolic.

Birds sing.

People play.

Glory to the God of life.

Closing

Let us bless the Source of all that is.

Glory to God who nurtures us all.

Summer Midday Prayer

Opening

Rejoice you earth of sunlit days,
pointing us to Christ, the true Sun who lit the
world below and then radiant, rose again.

**Rejoice all spirits,
the ascending Sun who climbed the heights of heaven,
shines alike on the dead and on the living
and scatters the darkness from our path.**

Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendour,
radiant in the brightness of your King!
Christ has conquered death! Glory fills you!
Darkness vanishes for ever!

Alleluia!

Psalm

Psalm 148.

We bless you for sun and for summer days,
and that spilled on this earth are the joys of
heaven, including . . . *Joys may be mentioned.*

Jesus said:

God makes the sun shine on good and
bad people alike.

Matthew 5:45

I am the Light of the world.

John 8:12

There may be silence.

As the hand is made for holding
and the eyes for seeing,
you have fashioned us for joy.
Grant us your vision that we may find it
everywhere –

**in the sunlit faces of our world,
in the wild flower's beauty,
in the sky bird's melody,
in a child's smile,
in a mother's love,
in the face of a steadfast man.**

Free prayer or singing.

Closing

**God bless the sun that is above us,
the earth that is beneath us,
the work that lies before us,
your image deep within us.**

Summer Evening Prayer

Opening

The earth is the Lord's
and everything in it.

Let all the people give God praise
and all creation bless God's name.

God of the longest days,
may our life be a long day for you,
always reflecting your light.
Open, awake.

There may be singing.

Psalm

Psalm 8 or 104:10-15, 28-30.

May summer and sunshine praise you.

May streets and hillsides praise you.

May wind and blossom praise you.

May plants and treetops praise you.

May books and pictures praise you.

May fish and birdsong praise you.

May thought and action praise you.

May earth and waters praise you.

May all that breathes praise you.

Let us praise the King of glory.

Old Testament reading

Deuteronomy 11:13-21 or Isaiah 30:19-26.

For the rain forests gone, and the deserts caused by human destruction,

dear God, we grieve with you.

For polluted seas, and dirty streets

dear God, we grieve with you.

For not being content to savour the simple gifts of creation,

dear God, we grieve with you.

New Testament reading

Mark 13:28, 29 or John 21:1-15.

There may be silence, teaching or creative activity and a song such as 'Touch the earth lightly'.

Intercessions

We thank you for colours of day;

put colour into jaded lives.

We thank you for brightness of sun;

put brightness into faded lives.

Creator God, teach us to care for your earth, and to be good stewards of all that is in it.

May our eyes be open to see your hand in nature;

may our hands be open to cherish your gifts in the material things around.

May we learn how to live in harmony with your laws.

As the sun circles the world,

circle this land, O God.

Circle the soil and the waters,

keep harm without, keep good within.

Circle the crops, circle the homes,

keep mistreatment without, keep care within.

There may be circling or free prayers and singing.

Closing

May the blessing of the Sun of suns be on you,
giving you light without and light within,
so that the light shines out of your eyes.

May the blessing of the rain and the earth and the wind be on
you.

The blessing of the flowing Three.

Summer Night Prayer

Opening

The sun rides high and far;

a sign of blessing from our God.

All that breathes cries 'Yes!'.

As day fades we cry 'yes' to Christ the eternal Sun.

Light of the world, in grace and beauty,

mirror of God's eternal face,

transparent flame of love's free duty,

you bring salvation to our race.

Now, as we see the sun is setting,

we raise our voice in songs of praise,

worthy are you of endless blessing,

sun of our night, light of our days.

There may be singing.

Psalm

The heavens bespeak the glory of God,

the firmament ablaze, a text of God's works.

Dawn whispers to sunset,

dark to dark the word passes; glory, glory.

All in a great silence, no tongue's clamour –

yet the web of the world trembles

conscious, as of great winds passing.

The bridegroom's tent is raised,

a cry goes up: He comes! Rejoicing, presiding, his wedding day.

From end to end of the universe his progress.

No creature, no least being but catches fire from him.

From Psalm 19, paraphrased by Daniel Berrigan

The beauty of summer, its days long and slow,
beautiful too, visiting the ones we love.

The beauty of the garden when the plants grow well,
beautiful too, the shrubs in blossom.

The beauty of the fish in the water bright,
beautiful too, its surface shimmering.

The beauty of flowers on the tops of fruit trees,
beautiful too, covenant with the Creator.

Echoes 'The Loves of Taliesin'

Jesus said, I came in order that you may have life –
life in all its fullness.

John 10:10

**Life of Jesus, Sun of suns, filling every part of us,
life be in our being,
bloom be on our face,
thanks be on our lips.**

Samples or blessings of this long day may be shared.

*There may be singing and free prayer for the blessing of the
land.*

The following or other words may be read.

Praised be you, dear God, with all your creatures, especially
through Brother Sun, who is the day, and through whom you
give us light.

He is beautiful and radiant, with great splendour and bears a
likeness of you, Most High One.

Praised be you, my Lord, through Brother Wind, and through the air, cloudy and serene, and every kind of weather, through which you give sustenance to your creatures.

Praised be you, my Lord, through our sister, Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us and who produces varied fruits with coloured flowers and herbs.

Praised be you, my Lord for our nursemaid, Sleep, who calms and renews us and who restores us for the morrow.

Echoes Francis of Assisi's hymn

As the sun circles the world, circle the needy and our dear ones, O God, in every place, especially . . . *People or places may be mentioned.*

All sing the following or another song:

To the Sun of suns come singing,

Jesus is Lord. (x3)

Earth come to the sun's King singing,

Jesus is Lord. (x3)

Sky come to the sun's King singing,

Jesus is Lord. (x3)

Spirits come to the sun's King singing,

Jesus is Lord. (x3)

Birther, Saviour, lighting Spirit,

you are the Lord. (x3)

The Celtic Hymn Book, no. 196

Closing

We quieten our souls under the stillness of a summer sky;

peace be upon our breath,

peace be upon our eyes,

peace be upon our sleeping

peace be upon our awaking.

Summer Solstice Zenith of energy

Day-time Prayer

Opening

Welcome, season of growth and friendship, season of activity and celebration.

May ardour, vigour and noble love flow strongly in our veins.

Music, singing or dancing.

Thanksgiving

Let us celebrate the work of the world:

May desks and treetops praise you.

May lambs and new clothes praise you.

May fuel and wireless praise you.

Let us celebrate the renewal of nature:

May its scents and sounds praise you.

May the growing trees praise you.

May the skies and the breezes praise you.

Let us celebrate the joys of life:

May lovers praise you, in love of the King of Life.

May gardens and sports praise you.

May elegant birds and music praise you.

Let us celebrate the refreshments of life:

May friendship and enterprise praise you.

May strength and the beauty of little things praise you.

May ecstasy and mystery praise you.

Any

May . . . praise you

We acknowledge your presence in the sun-shaping of our lives.

Christ be in the earth and in each thing we touch.

Christ be in the work and in each thing we do.

Christ be in the mind and in each thing we pursue.

Let us kindle our souls at the forge of nature's Soul-smith.

A spark of life to us.

A spark of light to us.

A spark of love to us.

We offer you our creativity, our sowings and our sap.

Meditation, music or free prayer.

As we enter this season of creativity,

may we think your thoughts after you.

As we enter our beds of hope,

may we dream your dreams after you.

As we explore new sun-lit realms,

may we live your life after you.

Closing

A blessing on the season of growth,

a blessing on all that is done:

the blessing of the fertile Creator,

the blessing of the virile Son,

the blessing of the Spirit, sustaining,

may God and earth be at one.

Summer Solstice and Midsummer

Out-door celebration

The solstice is the longest day. In some countries midsummer is celebrated a day or two later and in the northern hemisphere it coincides with the birth of St. John the Baptist

Homes or gardens may be decorated with flowers and gems of nature. Night-time fires may be lit.

Opening

I saw the glory-tree shine out gaily, sheathed in yellow decorous gold.

From The Dream of the Rood

Let us decorate the cross of our Lord of Summer.

A wooden cross is decorated with flowers and greenery which have been gathered (or a flower placed on a cross of twigs).

Lying on the warm, scented earth
Listening to nature's joyous sounds
New horizons light our inner eye,
A time of transformation.

More creatures breathe or spin or sing
And so will we.

There may be singing.

These flowers of a thousand colours
we now pour out at your feet;
their beauty and their brightness

shout for joy along the street.

You made each one more lovely
than humans could design;
**accept our joy as well as theirs,
that we may be a sign.**

As the wind blows through these flowers
till they dance with nature's light,
**may your Spirit blow through us,
till we dance with sheer delight.**

As children of the earth, the sky,
the land, the sea,
**we honour you, Creator
of all that we can see.**

Closing

We bless our Sister Earth on this special day of promise.
We bless the vibrant Spirit, we'll live with greater relish.

Lammas/ early crops - Fulfilment

A loaf is cooked from freshly produced flour or a barbecue with freshly made rolls is arranged.

Opening

Following the season of sunlit days,
let us bless the first of the crops.

We offer you these and the best of our lives –
all things come from you, and of your own do we give you.

There may be singing.

Old Testament reading

Exodus 23:14-19, Leviticus 23:9-14 or Psalm 126.

There may be silence.

We thank you for light, without which nothing would grow.

We bless you, Giver of light.

We thank you for water, without which plants would wither.

We bless you, Giver of water.

We thank you for air, without which all would die.

We bless you, Breath of life.

New Testament reading

1 Corinthians 15:12-20, James 5:7-9, Matthew 15:32-29 or
John 4:3-38.

Bread is placed on a table.

Great God, as the grains of wheat were scattered on a
thousand fields and now become one in this loaf, so may we,

who are scattered in a thousand places, become one people in Christ.

The loaf is passed round and each person breaks off a piece and eats it. There may be festivity.

Closing

We give you back the months that are past.
We offer our best for what is to come.

The sheaves and the green leaves fall.
Generous be our hearts, open be our hands.
Justice be our goal, thanksgiving be our call.

For the sake of your great giving,
O Christ, who was ground like flour
and became our Bread of Life,
feed and nourish us evermore.

Autumn Equinox/The Fall/ Harvest - Thanksgiving

This is a time of thanksgiving for God's goodness to our lands through the memory and harvesting of both material and human riches. It falls in late September

In the Celtic tradition three months of harvest celebrations conclude with the harvest of berries and nuts on 2 November in the northern hemisphere.

The term 'Thanksgiving' reflects the North American custom of linking gratitude for the completed harvest with thanksgiving for God's hand in history, especially, in the USA, for its early European Christian pilgrims.

In Jewish tradition this is the Festival of Tabernacles or Shelters. Those who wish to reflect this may put up tents or shacks in a garden or a space next to their house for several days, and eat a meal or sleep in it.

In the northern hemisphere this takes place in October; in the southern hemisphere it takes place in April.

Autumn Morning Prayer

Opening

Harvester God, as autumn light ripens the grain,
ripen, too, our souls.

As brown leaves fall and sheaves are stored,
help us to leave behind summer's ways
and go forward in deepening compassion,
thankful to heaven.

There may be singing.

Psalm

You are the life and hope of the earth,
by your strength you established the mountains.

Let us bless our generous God, whose goodness crowns the year.

You silence the roaring of waves and sea,
you silence the tumult of the peoples.

Those who live at earth's furthest bounds are awed by your
signs.

Let us bless our generous God, whose goodness crowns the year.

You make the gateways of the morning and evening shout for
joy.

You visit the earth and water it, you greatly enrich it.

Let us bless our generous God, whose goodness crowns the year.

You provide the people with grain you have prepared,
you soften the earth with showers and bless its growth.

Let us bless our generous God, whose goodness crowns the year.

You crown the year with your goodness,

your ways overflow with richness,
the desert pastures overflow,
the meadows gird themselves with flocks,
the valleys deck themselves with grain;
they shout and sing together for joy.

Let us bless our generous God, whose goodness crowns the year.

From Psalm 65

Thanksgiving

With falling leaves and sunsets,

we join our praise.

With ripened corn and berries,

we join our praise.

With gold and brown and purple,

we join our praise.

With migrating birds and memories,

we join our praise.

With faithful souls and forebears,

we join our praise.

Forgiveness

These good things are denied to people in other parts of your earth;

forgive us for pollution, neglect and greed.

Forgive us, God of mercy.

These good things would not be here unless their seeds had first laid still in winter's soil;

forgive us for resisting your rhythms.

Forgive us, God of mercy.

Generous Provider, the good things of your earth shout out your praise; yet our lives so seldom speak of gratitude.

Forgive us, God of mercy.

Silence or music.

Old Testament reading

Exodus 23:14-26, Isaiah 37:Jeremiah 5:20-29 or Joel 2:21-27.

This we know, the earth does not belong to us,

we belong to the earth.

This we know, all things are connected,

like the blood that unites one family.

This we know, we did not weave the web of life,

we are merely a strand in it.

This we know, whatever we do to others,

we do to ourselves.

New Testament reading

John 6:26-35 or 1 Thessalonians 5:12-24.

Water

Without water no plants would grow.

Blessed be God for ever.

Without water no humans could live.

Blessed be God for ever.

Without water, the earth could never have been.

Blessed be God for ever, the Living Water of Life.

*Water may be brought in a container. Three representatives,
e.g. persons in young, mid and old age hold out their hands
and water is poured over them.*

May the life of God pour through you and
through this land.

Or offerings are made, e.g. food, mobile phones, and placed in a circle on a table.

Intercessions

As the rain hides the stars, as the autumn mist hides the hills,
as the clouds veil the blue of the sky,
so the dark happenings of my lot hide the shining of Thy face
from me.

Yet, if I may hold Thy hand in the darkness, it is enough.
Since I know that, though I may stumble in my going,
Thou dost not fall.

Alistair Maclean

We pray for
those whose crops have failed, whose land has been ravaged
by war . . .
the hungry, refugees, the homeless . . .
those whose harvest comes only after a constant struggle with
the elements . . .
all who plan for the resources of the earth that they may be
shared . . .

There may be singing.

Closing

Great Spirit, bring to harvest
the fragments of our lives
and crown our year with goodness.

**Penetrate the storehouse of our memories,
making them whole and holy
until your life slowly ripens in us.**

Autumn Midday Prayer

Opening

O sacred season of autumn, be my teacher,
for I wish to learn the virtue of contentment.
As I gaze upon your full-coloured beauty,
I sense all about you an at-home-ness with your amber riches.

**You are the season of retirement,
of full barns and harvested fields.
The cycle of growth has ceased
and the busy work of giving life
is now completed.**

Edward Hays.

Psalm

Psalm 126:5-6.

Earth-maker God, our society is ever restless,
always craving one more thing to do,
seeking happiness through ever-more possessions.
**Teach us to be at peace with what we have,
to embrace what we have given and received;
to know that enough is enough,
until our strivings cease
and we rest content in you alone.**

New Testament reading

John 4:35-36 or Romans 8:18-25.

Silence, singing

Intercessions

O God, make us co-workers with you: that humankind may reap a full harvest.

We pray for this world you have given us:
for the planting of seeds, for the propagation of stock in the soil and commerce of the world,
for those who cannot plant because hunger has devoured them,
for those whose animals are diseased and dying.
for those in need and whose crops have failed.

Silent or free prayer

O God, who called all life into being,
the earth, sea and sky are yours.
Your presence is all around us,
every atom is full of your energy.
Your Spirit enlivens all who walk on earth,
with her we yearn for justice to be done,
for creation to be freed from bondage,
for the hungry to be fed,
for captives to be released,
for your kingdom to come on earth.

Closing

**God of the shadows, God of the way,
God of the fall, God of the grey,
God of creation, guide us this day.**

Autumn Evening Prayer

Opening

Generous God, seed-time has ripened into harvest,
and your earth has yielded fruits.

Winter's cleansing cold gave way to spring's
gentle warmth, and now summer's full sun has offered us
autumn's ripe gifts.

Giver of all, we worship you.

God of goodness, the wonders of your creation,
the splendour of the heavens, the order and
richness of nature, speak to us of your providence.

**The coming of your Son,
the presence of your Spirit,
the fellowship of your church,
show us the marvel of your love.**

The patterns of the year,
the beauty of the earth,
the fruitful gifts of harvest,
call us to worship and adore.

There may be singing and silence.

Psalm

Psalm 67.

Thank you for the migration of bird flocks and the landscape
of many deepening hues,

**Open up to us, O God, the ripening fruit and grain.
Open up to us, O God, the maturing wisdom of life.**

Old Testament reading

Deuteronomy 8:7-18, Deuteronomy 24:19-21, Isaiah 9:3,
Isaiah 62:8-9 or Jeremiah 5:24.

The Lord crowns the year with goodness:

Let all creation give God praise.

*At each response one person may stand and lift a handful of
fruit to heaven*

With corn and flour and dairy we sing to God:

Let all creation give God praise.

With berries, fruits and earth's flowered gems:

Let all creation give God praise.

With creatures of land and sea and air

Let all creation give God praise.

With wind and storm and purple deeps:

Let all creation give God praise.

With those who fish and farm and trade:

Let all creation give God praise.

New Testament reading

Mark 6:30-44.

Thanksgiving

Creator, from whom come all good things,

**we savour your presence and recall your generosity
towards us.**

There may be a pause.

Our hearts are grateful for the life you have given
us and the world in which we live;

for the beauty and bounty of the world, its

seasons and its gifts;

for harvest's boundless store, and earth's fruits
which sustain and gladden us;

**for those who work the land, and the food-chain
which reaches our door;**

for comforts, homes and friends, and the power of
compassion;

**for this earth, and the One you sent to restore us
when we fell away from your plan.**

Bless those who tend the earth and bring its fruits to our door.

Bless those who are entering retirement
and those who have lost a job.

Bless women who no longer menstruate
and creatures who are trapped and in pain.

Bless the land and bless the season.

There may be free prayer and singing.

Closing

May this season of mellow fruitfulness enrich and bless you;
**may we harvest relationships of trust,
forgiveness and generosity,
and until we meet again, may we be kept in the
hollow of God's hand.**

Autumn Equinox Night Prayer

Two candles are lit: one black, the other white.

Opening

We thank you for the balance
of light and dark
at this time.
The balance yields
good gifts of harvest.
The balance leads
to the glory of autumn.

A poem such as Lord, it is time by Rainer Maria Rilke is read:

Lord, it is time. The summer was very big.
Lay thy shadow on the sundials,
and on the meadows let the winds go loose.

Command the last fruits that they shall be full,
give them another two more southerly days,
press them on to fulfilment and drive
the last sweetness into the heavy wine.

Who has no house now, will build him one no more.
Who is alone now, long will so remain,
will wake, read, write long letters
and will in the avenues to and fro
restlessly wander, when the leaves are blowing.

The white candle is blown out.

Let us prepare to enter

the kingdom of night.

The days grow ever shorter.

The dark grows ever deeper.

The cold comes ever sharper.

**But the Light of the World
shines in the darkness.**

In his love we are warmed.

**In his Spirit we are guided
where we cannot see.**

This is the time when our ancestors were afraid of wild animals, of creeping thieves, of hobgoblins and sprites.

Stories of darkness, light and winter may be shared.

We give thanks for the Lord of the night
who has banished all fear.

**We give thanks for Mary his mother
who calms all her children.**

We give thanks for the great angels
who guard us with fiery sword.

**We give thanks for the turning year,
bringing God's gifts in due time.**

Free prayer and singing

Closing

Let us journey into the darkening days
embracing the treasures of darkness, embracing our Shadow
within, until we again pass a threshold, our season complete
in our God.

Later Autumn Night Prayer

Opening

At this sacred season of harvesting and contentment,
we are content to be in your presence.

Through your providence, the earth has yielded its fruit.

Tonight we yield ourselves to you.

Silence or chant

Psalm

Psalm 131.

Blessed be God, source of all.

Blessed be God, whose life brings growth.

Blessed be God, whose peace brings sleep.

Blessed be God for . . . *any may mention a blessing*

Maker of All,

teach us how to treat your world with the respect
it deserves;

teach us to observe the rhythms and balance of
nature;

teach us to be one with you tonight.

New Testament reading

Matthew 13:24-30, John 4:32-36 or 2 Corinthians 9:6-10.

Our dear ones bless, O God, in every place.

Bring to completion in them that which you have begun.

Work this night in these we now name . . . *names may be mentioned*

Singing or music

Lighten our darkness at the end of the day,
defend us from perils, our fears allay.
Lighten our burdens, make fruitful our rest,
and grant, on our waking, we give you our best.

Closing

At the drawing in of the day,
may our contemplations bring us peace.
May the soft mists of God's presence wrap us in
their gentle folds.
May the light of God's presence lengthen us.
May the might of God's presence strengthen us.
May the warmth of God's presence uplift us.

Last Harvest

A table may be decorated with berries, nuts or fruits arranged around a candle.

This is the time when the last crops are gathered in,
the harvest of nuts and berries and ripening fruit.
May it be for us a season of gratitude for these and all your gifts;
may it be a season of ripening love that brings healing to our lives.

A candle is lit.

There is a time to take stock of blessings,
to gather in the fragments of memory,
to store up good things
from which to draw nourishment in the times ahead.
As we gather together the fragments
we get to know our story.
The more we get to know our story,
the more we become whole.
Before you, God our Providence,
we come home to ourselves.

Night Prayer for New and Full Moons

Opening

Many a soul has passed beyond
in the time between the two moons,
but we are still enjoying earth
in the gleam of the moon above.

Creator of moons, Saving Light,
Sheen-bright Spirit . . .

either (for new moon)

as the new moon rises with its promise of brilliant light we
**welcome your Presence, Risen Christ, renewing itself in
our midst.**

Shine into our hearts and reveal new possibilities.

**Help us to recognise injustice and to act with insight and
inclusion**

or (for full moon)

tonight your glory shines in its fullness.

We receive of your fullness now.

Scripture Readings

Genesis 1:16-18, Numbers 10:10, Job 38:22-3, 1 Corinthians
5:41 or Colossians 2:16.

We praise you for creating sun, moon and stars
and for revealing your glory to us.

You have assigned them tasks
which they perform without demur;

teach us to perform willingly in the orbit of your love.

An arm of the reader or of everyone may be raised to salute the moon.

Moon of gentle light, guiding jewel of the night,
we raise our hand to you, we lift our eye to you.
You are travelling your course, you blessing of
God, you moon that graces the seasons.

**You are travelling your course, you blessing of God, you
moon that graces the seasons.**

Psalm

Psalm 8, 74:16-17, 81, 104:19, 136:7-9 or 148:3.

God is the beauty within everything that has been created.

**In the twilight let that beauty shine until we feel sheen-lit
by your presence.**

Intercessions

Creator of the cosmos, your dominion extends through the
immensities of space.

When two worlds embrace and are at peace –
the dark and the light, the day and the night,
the strong and the tender,
the male and the female –
then may we rest in peace.

then may we rest in peace.

There may be silence or sharing.

May the Moon of moons watch over our sleep and pour
blessing on those we love . . . *Name loved ones or needy
people and places.*

This prayer is said for all who have been named:

Grace of well-being be yours.
Grace of the moon-bright night
The sheen of the Three of love.

New Testament reading

John 1:1-5, Colossians 1:17-20 or James 1:17.

There may be singing.

Closing

May the Eternal Moon rest upon us.
Holy be each thing she bathes.
Holy be each person she illumines.
**May we sleep in this gentle light of heaven and
awake to renew our course.**

Praying the Hours

In Jesus' time the Jewish practice of reciting prayers at set times of the day was continued by Christians (see, for example, Psalm 119:64, Acts 3:1). Seven times of prayer became quite widespread, with different practices in different places. Early Celtic monastic churches kept such practices alive. In later centuries Books of Hours developed for use by individuals. Roman Catholics refer to 'the canonical hours', 'the divine office' and 'the Liturgy of the Hours'. The Orthodox Church sometimes refers to these as 'the divine services'. In recent times the practice of weeks of '24/7 prayer' has inspired fresh experiments. Those who follow the Way of Life may include night workers, hermits, patients with sleepless nights or 24/7 volunteers. So we here provide a theme for prayer for each of the eight three hour periods in a day.

03.00 am

Jesus was raised from death 'very early in the morning while it was still dark' Matthew 28:11.

Risen Christ, be my light in the darkness and shine on all who sleep but know you not, especially...

06.00 am

Waken me, Lord, to the unique gift of this new day.
Awaken ... to the possibilities you hold out.

09.00 am Use Morning Prayer or an 'I arise...' prayer.

12.00 Use Midday Prayer

3.00pm Jesus, as at this hour you died on the Cross, help me to put to death my destructive cravings and remain true to you. I pray this also for these your children...

6.00 pm Use Evening Prayer

9.00 pm Use Night Prayer

12.00 Midnight

We remember that the Jewish people were led out of slavery in Egypt at midnight (Exodus 12:29) and that Jesus is expected to come as unexpectedly as a thief in the night. We remember those who have died in Christ. Shepherd of souls, watch over those who cannot sleep, especially . . .

A Healing Service

Opening

We come to God whose love makes us whole.

We come as we are, with our hurts and our ills.

We offer our world, fragmented and bruised,

knowing God will heal us through Jesus our Lord.

Music, song, a Bible story of healing ora homily

We give you thanks for your healing blessings

Examples may be named.

Through Christ, Source of creation,

we pray for healing of the earth.

Through Christ, Source of love,

we pray for healing of families.

Through Christ, Source of peace,

we pray for healing of hostile peoples.

Through Christ, Source of joy,

we pray for delight in our lives.

Through Christ, Source of freedom,

we pray forgiveness for past wrongs.

Through Christ, Source of resurrection,

we pray for help to make a new start.

Let us pray for those who serve the public health
and take part in the process of healing:

Any may name medical or care staff.

Healer, Pain-bearer, may they seek to heal the whole person
and be your instruments of love.

Let us circle in healing prayer those known to us
that we now name . . . *Names are mentioned aloud or silently
or candles are lit for them*

aloud or in silence.

Let us say together:
**Spirit of the Living God, present with us now,
enter their minds, bodies and spirits
and heal them of all that harms.**

Reflection or singing.

Giver of Life,
Bearer of Pain,
Maker of Love,
you are able to accept in us
what we cannot even acknowledge;
you are able to name in us
what we cannot bear to speak of;
you are able to hold in your memory
what we have tried to forget;
you are able to hold out to us
the glory that we cannot conceive of.
Reconcile us through your Cross
to all that we have rejected in our selves,
that we may find no part of your creation
to be alien or strange to us,
and that we ourselves may be made whole.

Janet Morley

Great Physician of our souls and bodies,
you are always at work in our lives to bring good out of evil.
May your sick children experience the same surge of healing
power as did the sick woman who touched the hem of your
robe.

*Silence, during which we align ourselves to God's healing
love as we prepare for the laying on of hands.*

*You are invited to come as advised for the laying on of hands
for yourselves or another. There may be quiet music and
singing.*

*Those who minister may do so silently, with spontaneous
words, or with prayers such as the following:*

By the laying on of these hands,
may the healing spirit flow through you,
to warm you, to free you, to make you strong.

From violence to your body . . . be healed.
From violence to your personality . . . be healed.
From violence to your calling . . . be healed.

*Silence or music. People may leave when they are ready or
this closing prayer may be said:*

Healing Christ, present with us now,
circle these your children who have come to you;
enter their body, mind and spirit
and heal them of all that harms. **Amen.**

Service for the Healing of the Land

For use at any time, especially on 12 July

Suitable for garden and larger gatherings

It may be preceded by folk singing or marching with bands and banners

Opening

Today let us celebrate our heritage, turn humbly to our God, seek healing for our land, and reach out in hope.

Sing a well known hymn or song of thanksgiving

God's people were called to strive for the ideal of shalom – a caring community in harmony with its neighbours, its land and its God. To this God calls us still. Let us pray for our land today as of old they prayed for Jerusalem.

Psalm

Psalm 122

There may be a creative activity

We remember great men and women who have shaped our land.

There may be a pause; examples of such people from different traditions may be read out or displayed.

We remember those who laid down their lives for another people: Patrick the Briton who brought Christ to the Irish; Aidan the Irishman who brought Christ to the English;

Columba the Bridge, who share faith will all Scots; Hilda the Saxon who sent missionaries to other peoples.

Local examples may be given.

May we reach out to others in valour and mercy, weaving a pattern that God will provide.

Fire

A fire may be lit. This may be on a nearby high place to which people walk or it may be a small barbecue fire.

St Patrick lit a fire to celebrate in a new land the resurrection of Christ.

We light this fire to commemorate landmarks in our history to signify the burning away of all that blots our landscape, to be a beacon of hope for the future.

Holy God,

may your purging fire sweep through our people.

May your blazing fire kindle in us the flames of love.

**May the light of Christ, rising in glory,
banish darkness from our land.**

Bread

There may be a picnic, barbecue or simply the following symbolic meal. The Leader holds up the loaf, says the following words, and each person eats a piece.

As grain that was scattered upon a thousand hills has become one in this loaf, so may the people of this land become one. God bless us as we eat, and meet, and live out the rest of our lives.

Earth

This paraphrase of the Book of Proverbs Ch 30 21-23 teaches that certain behaviour creates such dis-ease that the earth itself is affected. There are four things that the earth itself cannot tolerate: a person who usurps someone in high office, someone who devours what he has not worked for, a person filled with hate who enters a marriage designed for love, employees who have an affair with their employer's spouse.

Representatives of different parts pour earth from containers onto a focal place or into a large bowl. All who wish may place a stone on this mound of earth.

We confess deeds of wrong which cause ills to fester still.
In sorrow we bring these to you and ask you to forgive.
Acts of apology may be made [here](#).

Lord, for contempt and abuse of others, the unwanted and the unborn, and for mistreatment of your creation
Forgive us all.

There may be silence.

The Cross

A simple wooden cross which may be made of sticks or branches is placed in a mound of earth.

We plant the cross of Christ in this soil which carries both our pride and our shame.

May Christ set this land free from bitterness of memories and the power of the past to control the present.

The victory of the cross over neglect and fear. The victory of the cross over hatred and division.

Here may healing take place and our wholeness be restored.

Lord, bless this earth on which we live and work and make community. Take from it the corroding effects of human betrayal. Bring from it goodness that will nourish and renew us all.

Sing Christ beside me or another song.

There may be more singing, a New Testament reading, a talk or creative activity.

We thank God for this land.

May all that is good flourish in it

May all that spoils it diminish.

We thank God for those who have taught us the Faith.

May we hand on a land that reflects more of your kingdom.

May our seeds of truth and tenderness come to flower.

There may be singing.

An Agape Meal

This is an act of loving fellowship - that is the meaning of Agape, symbolised by the sharing of food (usually bread) and drink. Early Christians had fellowship meals (Acts Corinthians a coming together in Christ to share food and drink one of the fundamental expressions of care and fellowship. At Jesus' Last Supper four cups of wine were passed round – Jesus chose only one to represent his death. The Agape is not about his death. Here the cup focuses on praise to the God of creation and we recall God's provision, not only for ourselves, but for all people. There is no Eucharistic re-call of the saving acts of God in Christ, no invocation of the Holy Spirit over bread or wine: this is an informal meal of love, during which bread and drink are shared as symbols of fellowship with God and with one another, and perhaps with the poor. In recent times a desire to recover this meal, as an ecumenical sharing of God's good gifts, has led to its revival.

The prayers are at a table prepared for a meal, and may be in two parts, at the beginning and end of a meal.

Before the meal

A candle is lit and music is played.

You are here with us, dear God, and welcome us all. In thankfulness and friendship may we draw close to you and to one another. We are your children, made in your likeness, enjoying the One who nurtures our being, returning all life back to you with praise.

Song and scripture reading, meditation or homily

Let us pray.

**Good God, our host through all eternity,
gathered here we rejoice
that your Spirit permeates all creation,
inspiring your earth to bring forth
food and drink, energy and life,
that we may now offer this back to you,
who gives so much to us.**

When you have forgiven each other wrongs you do
to each other, the Mother heart of God forgives you.

We forgive each other; and trust that we are forgiven.

Exchange of the Peace with or without words

*A loaf of bread is placed in the centre of the table. The host
holds it and the following is said:*

On behalf of us all I offer this loaf to God.

Blessed be God.

**As grains of wheat scattered on a thousand fields
were gathered and became one in this loaf,
so may we who have been scattered in many
places become one company in Christ.**

Bread is a lovely thing to eat,
God bless the barley and the wheat.
A lovely thing to breathe is air,
God bless the sunshine everywhere.

The world is a lovely place to know,
God bless the folk who come and go.
Alive is a lovely thing to be,
Giver of life, we say: **Bless Thee.**

Anon.

Be gentle when you touch bread.
Let it not lie, uncared for, unwanted.
So often bread is taken for granted.
There is such beauty in bread –
beauty of sun and soil, beauty of patient toil.

After the meal

Wind and rain have caressed it,
Christ often blessed it.
Be gentle when you touch it.

Anon.

The bread is passed round and each breaks a piece saying words such as 'The generosity of God be yours.' When all have taken a piece, these are eaten.

We bless you, who sends water and brings grapes out of the earth, for this wine (or juice). Jesus, you promise that those who come to you will never thirst again. As we drink, fill us with the new wine of your Spirit. Renew our being; sweeten our hearts, that we may then refresh your world.

A person takes a glass of wine or juice.

You are blest, O God, King of the Universe,

creator of the fruit of the vine.

You are blest, O God, King of the Universe,
creator of the fruit of the vine.

The drinks are passed round with words such as 'God's out-pouring life be yours.'

If there is a full meal, this is now enjoyed. There may be sharing of news and thoughts. There may be teaching, story-telling, poetry and music.

Bread of Life, we thank you for this sharing of food in love,
and that you have made yourself known to us in the breaking
of bread.

Praise to you, Source of all.

Praise to you, Saviour of all.

Praise to you, Sustainer of all.

**May we go with fresh energy to give pleasure to you, and
serve the world with love.**

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Pilgrimage Prayers and Readings

Before setting out

As we journey together may we place in your hands those we have left behind, enjoy our fellow pilgrims for who they are, celebrate your presence in each place we visit and make Christ our constant companion.

Lead us on our journey
to places of resurrection,
to dwellings of peace,
to healings of wounds,
to joys of discovery.

Keeper of our journey, who marks the horizon of our destiny, remind us that this is so.
Keeper of the maps, show us not the whole road at once,
but sufficient steps to challenge without overwhelming us.

Cf M Pearson

Great Spirit, keep of our inner compass, let your presence on the journey encourage us to come to you each day with trust.

On setting out

High king of land and sea, wherever we go is yours.
You led our forebears by cloud and fire, you lead us through the days and years.
You led your saints by sign and sail, your presence goes before us now.

Make us pilgrims of the world
until we see your face in everyone we meet.
Make us pilgrims of the grail
until we see your grace in every place we visit.

We go forward in light of sun,
in strength of earth, in flowing of water.
We go forth with the desert hermits, the holy martyrs,
and all the holy and risen ones.
We go forth with the word of the apostles
and the wisdom of the seers,
with the angels above
and the prayers of all God's people.

Refrains

To be said or sung repetitively at any time.

God behind,
God before,
God beside.

God below,
God above,
God within.

In the presence of the sending Father,
in the presence of the pilgrim Son,
in the presence of the wind-like Spirit,
in the presence of the Three we are One.

God be
a smooth way before us,
a guiding star above us,

a keen eye behind us.

We are strangers no longer
but pilgrims together in the ways of God

In the name of the sending Father
in the name of the pilgrim Son,
in the name of the wind-like Spirit,
In the name of the Three we are one.

God be with us at every leap.
Christ be with us on every steep.
Spirit be with us in every deep.
Each step of the journey we go.

A psalm with refrain

Psalm 107:1-9, 23-32

Refrain after each verse:

Give thanks to the Lord, who leads us on.

Scripture verses with refrain

Forgetting what is past, we look to the things unseen.
We journey in your light.

The sun shall not strike us by day,
nor the moon by night.
We journey in your light.

We look not to right or left,
but straight towards your way.
We journey in your light.

The rough places shall be smoothed

and the pitfalls shall be cleared.

We journey in your light.

The proud shall be brought low
and the humble shall be raised up.

We journey in your light.

No final home have we on this life's passing seas.

We journey in your light.

Psalms

Suitable passages from the following are
suggested: Psalm 40, 42, 123, 125 or 139

Bible readings

Isaiah 43:2

Philippians 3:7-14

Hebrews 11:8, 12:1, 2.

Sayings to repeat

Christians must live in perpetual pilgrimage, as guests of the
world

Columbanus

We always know which is the best road to follow, but we
follow only the road that we have become accustomed to.

Paulo Coelho, The Pilgrimage

As I make my slow pilgrimage through the world, a certain
sense of beautiful mystery seems to gather and grow.

C.Benson

Here we are at your service, O Lord;

to you belong the empires of the world.

Echoes a Muslim prayer made on arrival at a pilgrim centre

Prayers

Babe of heaven, Defenceless Love,
you had to travel far from your home.
Strengthen us on our pilgrimage of trust on Earth.

We place our souls and bodies
under your guarding this day/night, O God,
O Father of help to frail pilgrims,
Protector of heaven and earth.

We place our souls and bodies
under your guiding this day/night, O Christ,
O Son of the tears and the woundings,
may your cross this day/night be our shield.

We place our souls and bodies
under your glowing this day/night, O Spirit,
O gentle Companion, and Soul Friend,
our hearts' eternal Warmth.

In our journeying this day,
keep us, Father, in your way.
Guide us, Saviour, by your Word,
you alone be overheard.
May we, Spirit, with you walk
in our thoughts and in our talk.
In our friendships let us be
in the Blessed Trinity.

You who made a pilgrimage of trust on Earth,

help us to
flee from deceptive places that destroy,
walk through valleys of despair,
grow in nurseries of wisdom,
steer clear of devouring lions,
find freedom at the Cross,
convalesce after exhausting struggles,
cut through the tangles of Vanity Fair,
remain open while passing through Doubting Castle,
persevere through ups and downs
and, when the eternal city comes into view,
plunge in and willingly cross the final river.

Inspired by John Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress

Every day we travel through this life,
may we sense you in the taste of good food,
in the crying of the wind and in the singing of the birds.
May we see you in the wild flower or the playing of a child.
May we know you in the sap and the disintegration of our
bodies
but always travel with you.

On arrival at a pilgrim place

Dear Father God,
we have journeyed to this place and here we pause.
If, thus far, our journey you have shared,
accompany us now.
Give wisdom, light and always joy,
so that in thought and gift and love
our lives shall be to fellow travellers
a witness to your presence in the world.

After Ian Fosten, with permission

Blessings

Blessing of discovery be yours,
and blessing of rest.

Blessing of scenery be yours,
and blessing of saints.

Blessing of meeting be yours,
and blessing of quiet.

Blessing of friendship be yours,
and blessing of God.

Go before us
in our pilgrimage of life.
Anticipate our needs,
prevent our falling, and lead us to our eternal destiny.

May the Christ who walks with wounded feet
walk with us on the road.

May the Christ who serves with wounded hands
stretch out our hands to serve.

May the Christ who loves with the wounded heart
open our hearts to love

As you go your different ways, sing in your souls a song of
thankfulness for each other throughout each day, each week,
each year of your lives;
through sunny days, and nights of shadow
through summers of fruitfulness and winters of sorrow.
Before the ending of the day.

May all that is good rise up and meet you.
May all that is evil fall from your path.

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The Lord will make us strong.
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What shall I give you, Lord?
Wisdom freed from a nation
With John, the loved disciple ... We shall overcome

Before the ending of the day,

Before the ending of the day,
Creator of the worlds we pray,
in loving mercy ever keep
your watch around us while we sleep.

As night enfolds receding day,
our fantasies and fears allay,
defend us from the tempter's charm,
your peace protect our souls from harm.

O, Triune God of Love and Light,
come dwell within us through the night,
renew our hope and with the day,
unveil the Life, the Truth, the Way.

*Echoes an eighth-century or earlier song, and words of
Jonathan Robinson*

Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel **The Song of Zechariah (Benedictus)**

Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel;
who has come to his people and set them free.
He has raised up for us a mighty saviour,
born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets God promised of old
to save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all who hate us.
To show mercy to our ancestors,
and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
Free to worship him without fear,
holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
to give his people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of
death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Bless the Holy One – Song of creation (Benedicite)

Bless the Holy One, all created things;
to whom be praise and glory for ever!
Bless the Holy One, you beings of heaven;
to you be praise and glory for ever!
Bless the Holy One, sun and moon.
Bless the Holy One, clouds and sky.
Bless the Holy One, rain and wind;
to whom be glory and praise for ever!
Bless the Holy One, cold and heat.
Bless the Holy One, winter and summer.
Bless the Holy One, earth and sea.
To you be glory and praise for ever!
Bless the Holy One, all that grows in the ground.
Bless the Holy One, all that swims in the waters.

Bless the Holy One, all that flies in the air.

To you be glory and praise for ever!

Bless the Holy One, all people on earth.

Bless the Holy One, all beings in heaven.

Bless the Birther, the Saviour and the Holy Spirit.

To you be glory and praise for ever!

Based on the Septuagint version, book of Daniel

Bless our God (Benedictus)

A new baby with a special calling inspires a prophetic poem.

Bless our God,

he has come to our people

with a power that can set us free.

This is what our prophets spoke about.

This is what God promised Abraham,

that he would set us free to serve him –

a holy people who do good in the world.

And you, little one,

shall be called Prophet of the Most High,

for you will go before God

to prepare a way for him –

to make sure the people know

that God will save them:

by forgiving them,

by revealing his faithful love.

He is the True Sun, who rises upon us,

lighting up our shadows, lighting up our darkness,

to guide us into ways of well-being.

Candle-lighting for any time

Christ, Light of the world

I light this candle.

May it be Fire from you

to burn up my selfishness and my pride,
my wrong feelings and unhelpful attitudes,
my dishonouring passions and thoughtless words.

I light this candle.

May it be Light from you

to lighten my way through difficulties and decisions.

May it be Flame from you to teach me love.

Until I shine with your presence

and warm a thousand hearts.

Christ as a light

Christ as a light, illumine and guide us.

Christ as a shield, protect us from harm.

This night draw near us and be within us,
guarding our sleep and lighting our dawn.

Christ in the lonely, Christ in the hungry,

Christ in the sleepless, Christ in the worn,

Christ as a light, illumine and guide them.

Christ as a shield, protect them from harm.

To the tune 'Buinessan'

Christ Jesus – The song of Christ's glory

Christ Jesus, though you were in the form of God

you did not cling to equality with God.

You emptied yourself, taking the form of a servant;
you were born in human likeness.
Being found in human form you humbled yourself
and became obedient, even to death on a cross.
Therefore God has highly exalted you
and given you a name above every other name.
That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father. For ever and ever.
Amen.

Philippians 2:6-11

Christ was revealed in human form – Creed

Christ was revealed in human form,
shown to be right by the Spirit,
contemplated by angels,
proclaimed among the nations,
believed in throughout the world,
taken up into heaven.

A very early creed – 1 Timothy 3:18

Come, bless the Lord

Come, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord,
who stand by night in the house of the Lord;
lift up your hands in the holy place,
come, bless the Lord, come, bless the Lord.

From Psalm 134

Creator Spirit

Creator Spirit Lord of grace,
come, make in us your dwelling place;
O purest Light, in darkness shine;
fill loveless hearts, O Love Divine.

Consoler, hear your people's cry;
come down, O Gift of God, Most High.
Descend in peace, O heav'nly Dove;
come Fount of Life; come Flame of Love.

As once on Christ the Servant's head
the oil of sevenfold grace you shed,
so now anoint from love's deep springs
your chosen prophets, priests and kings.

Of ev'ry gift the living source,
of mighty deeds the unseen force,
the Father sends his promised One
to speak for all who serve his Son.

Keep far all those who wish us ill,
O Dove of Peace, be with us still,
in ev'ry danger at our side
O Friend, befriend us; be our guide.

Reveal to us the Father's love,
reveal his Son, who reigns above.
To truth, O Truth, make us all true;
in love, O Love, make all things new.

*James Quinn S J, based on Veni, Creator Spiritus
(Tune: LM) ascribed to Rabanus Maurus, a sixth-century
Solitary in Gaul*

Faithful vigil ended – Simeon’s Song (Nunc Dimittis)

Faithful vigil ended, watching, waiting, cease:
Master, grant your servant his discharge in peace.

All your Spirit promised, all the Father willed,
now these eyes behold it, perfectly fulfilled.

This, your great deliverance, sets your people free;
Christ, their light uplifted all the nations see.

Christ, your people’s glory!
Watching, doubting cease;
grant to us your servants our discharge in peace.

Timothy Dudley-Smith

Giver of Life,

Giver of Life,
Bearer of Pain,
Maker of Love,
you are able to accept in us
what we cannot even acknowledge;
you are able to name in us
what we cannot bear to speak of;
you are able to hold in your memory

what we have tried to forget;
you are able to hold out to us
the glory that we cannot conceive of.
Reconcile us through your Cross
to all that we have rejected in our selves,
that we may find no part of your creation
to be alien or strange to us,
and that we ourselves may be made whole.

Janet Morley

Glory and honour

Glory and honour and power are yours by right,
O Lord our God,
for you created all things
and by your will they have their being.

Glory and honour and power are yours,
O Lamb who was slain,
for by your death you set people free for God
from every language, tribe and people,
to make them a kingdom of priests to stand
and serve our God.
To God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb,
be praise and honour, glory and power,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

Echoes Revelation 5

Glory be to God on high (The Gloria)

Glory be to God on high
and on earth peace to people of goodwill.

We praise you, we bless you,
we worship you, we glorify you;
we give thanks to you for your great glory,
O Lord God, heavenly King,
God the Father almighty.
O Lord Christ, one and only off-spring of the Father;
O Lord God, indwelling light,
Son of the Father,
whose wisdom mightily and sweetly
orders all things, pour forth your love.
You whose strength upholds and sustains
all creation, receive our prayer;
you whose beauty
shines through the whole universe,
unveil your glory.
For you only are holy; you only are the Lord;
you only, O Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
are most high in the glory of God the Father.

Echoes the Young Rite version

God, who made the earth and heaven

God, who made the earth and heaven,
darkness and light,
who the day for toil has given, for rest the night;
may your angel guards defend us,
slumber sweet your mercy send us,
holy dreams and hopes attend us,
all through this night.

Guide us waking, guard us sleeping,
and, when we die

may we in your mighty keeping, all peaceful lie.
And when death to life shall wake us
you will in your likeness make us
then to reign in glory take us with you on high.

To the tune 'Ar Hyd y Nos'

Here be the peace of those who do your sacred will

Here be the peace of those who do your sacred will;
here be the praise of God by night and day;
here be the place where strong ones
serve the weakest,
here be a sight of Christ's most gentle way.
Here be the strength of prophets
righting greed and wrong,
here be the green of land that's tilled with love;
here be the soil of holy lives maturing,
here be a people one with all the saints above.

*Tune: Danny Boy, traditional Irish.
Celtic Hymnbook No. 73 Ray Simpson*

Jesus, like a mother

Jesus, like a mother you gather your people to you;
you are gentle with us as a mother with her children.

Despair turns to hope through your sweet goodness;
through your gentleness we find comfort in fear.

Your warmth gives life to the dead,

your touch makes sinners righteous.

Lord Jesus, by your mercy heal us;
in your love and tenderness remake us.

In your compassion bring grace and forgiveness,
for the beauty of heaven may your love prepare us.

Anselm

Jesus, Saviour of the world

Jesus, Saviour of the world,
come to us in your mercy.
We look to you to save and help us.

By your Cross and life laid down
you set your people free.
We look to you to save and help us.

When your disciples were about to perish
you reached down and saved them.
We look to you to come to our help.
In the greatness of your mercy,
free us from our chains.
Forgive the sins of all your people.

Come now, and dwell with us, Lord Christ Jesus.
Hear our prayer and be with us always.

And when you come in your glory,
make us to be one with you and to share the life of your kingdom.

Magnificat

Magnificat, magnificat,
praise God, my soul, always.
God's mercy penetrates my being,
brings joy to all our days.

Deserted folk God won't forget,
God meets our every need.
The proud are downed, the poor raised up,
tell out God's wondrous deed.

To the tune 'Amazing grace'

May summer and sunshine praise you

May summer and sunshine praise you.
May plain and hillside praise you.
May wind and blossom praise you.
May mighty trees and sweet-fruited shrubs praise you.
May the stubble and grass praise you.
May the birds and bees praise you.
May the sand and the earth praise you.
May the fish in the rivers praise you.
Abraham praised you, the founder of faith.
May life everlasting praise you.
Moses and Miriam praised you.
May male and female praise you.
May books and letters praise you.
May thought and action praise you.
All good things created praise you.
May the seven days and the seasons praise you.
And we, too, shall praise you, King of glory.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
who has looked with favour on me, a lowly servant.
From this day all generations shall call me blessed:
the Almighty has done great things for me and
holy is the name of the Lord.
whose mercy is on those who fear God
from generation to generation.
The arm of the Lord is strong,
and has scattered the proud in their conceit.
God has cast down the mighty from their thrones
and lifted up the lowly.
God has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich empty away.
God has come to the aid of Israel, the chosen servant,
remembering the promise of mercy,
the promise made to our forbears,
to Abraham and his children forever.

O Saviour God, forgive our sins

O Saviour God, forgive our sins,
have mercy on us all.
We seek your face, we leave behind
what blinds us to your grace.

Through many journeys you have been,
your pilgrim children's strength.
Tonight we ask that nought we do
will cancel out your love

We lay ourselves before you, Lord,

we rest in love divine.
We sleep in hope of glory years
of being forever yours.

To the tune 'Amazing grace'

Our God is the God of all humans

Our God is the God of all humans,
the God of heaven and earth,
the God of seas and rivers,
the God of the sun and moon,
the God of the stars and planets,
the God of the lofty mountains,
the God of the lowly valleys.

God is above the heavens and is beneath the heavens.
Heaven and earth and sea
and everything that is in them are God's abode.

God inspires all things, gives life to all things,
stands above all things.
God is the light-giver of the sun,
the night and the stars.
It is God who makes wells in arid land
and islands in the sea,
who places the stars in service of the galaxies.

God has a Son who is co-eternal
and similar with himself;
the Son is not younger than the Father,
nor the Father older than the Son,
and the Holy Spirit breathes in them.
And the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit

are inseparable.
Amen.

Echoes St Patrick's Creed

Out of nothing you brought all things into being

Out of nothing you brought all things into being.
From the four elements you form creation
and crown the year's cycle with seasons.
The spiritual powers tremble before you.
The sun salutes you.
The water-springs serve you.
We thirst for you.
You pour forth the air for breathing.
You establish the earth for sustaining.
You create our souls and give us eternal worth.
You send Jesus for our healing.

Rejoice, heavenly powers

(Easter and Sundays)

Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!
Christ our King has risen. Alleluia!
Exult, all creation, around God's throne:
sound the trumpet of salvation!
Christ our King has risen. Alleluia!
Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendour,
radiant in the brightness of your King!
Christ our King has risen. Alleluia!
Christ has conquered death! Glory fills you!
Darkness vanishes for ever!
Christ our King has risen. Alleluia!

Rejoice, O Church! Exult in glory!
The risen Saviour shines upon you!
Let this place resound with joy,
echoing the mighty song of all God's people!
Alleluia!

Rising suns (A Lindisfarne Benedicite)

O angels of the Lord, bless the Lord
O saints of Lindisfarne bless the Lord
O followers of the Way who have sung your praises through
many generations, bless the Lord
O sheep and lambs that frolic in the fields, bless the Lord
O fish and seals that glisten in the sea, bless the Lord
O sea birds that fill the air with their clamour, bless the Lord
O flowers that gem the earth with colour, bless the Lord
O purples and deep and rocks shaped through countless ages,
bless the Lord
O winds and clouds, rain and sun, bless the Lord
O scribes and artists and illumined Gospels, bless the Lord
O pilgrims and kindly folk of this place, bless the Lord
To whom be praise and glory for ever.

Rising suns and star-lit nights bless the Lord
Elements and mighty winds bless the Lord!
to whom be praise and glory for ever!
Aidan and Colman, Cuthbert and Chad, bless the Lord
Holy people in holy places bless the Lord
to whom be praise and glory for ever!
Eadfrith and Gospels bless the Lord
Scribes and artists bless the Lord
to whom be praise and glory for ever!
Eider ducks and singing seals bless the Lord

Gliding birds and grazing sheep bless the Lord

to whom be praise and glory for ever!

Flowers that gem the earth with colours bless the Lord

Sea creatures and kindly fisher-folk bless the Lord

to whom be praise and glory for ever!

Sands and rocks fashioned by wild forces, bless the Lord

Bird watchers and nature lovers bless the Lord

to whom be praise and glory for ever!

Pilgrims and dwellers in this place bless the Lord

All people on earth bless the Lord

to whom be praise and glory for ever!

The cross, we shall take it

The cross –

we shall take it.

The Bread –

we shall break it.

The pain –

we shall bear it.

The joy –

we shall share it.

The Gospel –

we shall live it.

The Love –

we shall give it.

The Light –

we shall cherish it.

The dark –

God shall perish it.

John Bell

The Immortal who bowed the heavens

The Immortal who bowed the heavens
bows his head before a mortal.

Glory!

The Uncreated enters the stream of created life.

Glory!

God becomes one with us,
and we are made one with God.

Glory!

Our lost innocence is restored
and the world is charged with the grandeur of God.

Glory!

Father love cascades over the Son;
the Spirit pours upon him;
God in Trinity is revealed.

Glory! Glory! Ever and everywhere.

We believe, o God of all gods, (Patrick's Creed)

We believe, o God of all gods,
That you are the eternal God of life.

**We believe, o God of all peoples,
That you are the eternal God of love.**

We believe that you create earth and seas and skies,
**we believe that you create us in your image,
and give us eternal worth.**

Longer alternative version:

We believe, O God of all gods,
that you are the eternal Creator of life.

**We believe, O God of all gods,
that you are the eternal Creator of love.**

We believe, O Lord and God of all people,
that you are the Creator of the skies above,
that you are the Creator of the oceans below.

**We believe, O Lord and God of all people,
that you are the One who created our souls
and set their course,**
that you are the One
who created our bodies from earth,
that you gave to our bodies their breath
and to our souls their possession.

**God, bless to us our bodies.
God, bless to us our souls.
God, bless to us our living.
God, bless to us our goals.**

We bless you, great God

We bless you, our great God,
for you have set your people free.

You have raised up for us a mighty Saviour,
born of your servant David's family.

Through your holy prophets you promised of old,
that you would save us from all who hate us.

You promised to show mercy to our forebears,
and to remember your holy covenant.

You vowed to our ancestor Abraham,
to set us free to worship you without fear.

The dawn from on high shall break upon us,
**to shine on those in darkness
and to guide us into peace.**

We praise you – Te Deum laudamus

We praise you, O God:
we acclaim you as the Lord;
all creation worships you: the Father everlasting.

To you, all angels, all the powers of heaven:
the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise,
holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might:
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

The glorious company of apostles praise you:
the noble fellowship of prophets praise you.

The white-robed army of martyrs praise you:

**throughout the world,
the holy Church acclaims you.**

**Father, of majesty unbounded:
your true and only Son, worthy of all praise,
the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.**

You, Christ, the King of glory:
the eternal Son of the Father,
chose the Virgin's womb.

**You overcame the sting of death:
when you took our flesh to set us free**

**you humbly opened the kingdom of heaven
to all believers.**

You are seated at God's right hand in glory:
we believe that you will come to be our judge.

**Come then, Lord, and help your people,
bought with the price of your own blood:
and bring us with your saints
to glory everlasting.**

The Lord will make us strong

The Lord will make us strong,
the Lord will make us strong,
the Lord will make us strong,
some day.

Chorus:

With my whole heart and mind I cry
we shall overcome some day.

Our God's Word is our shield x3
some day.

Our hearts, they shall not yield x3
some day.

Our Saviour we'll obey x3
today.

We'll walk the narrow way x3
some day.

Echoes 'I'll overcome some day' by Charles A. Tindley

What is best? – An early British catechism

What is best in this world?

To do the will of our Maker.

What is his will?

That we should live according to the laws of his creation.

How do we know those laws?

By study – studying the Scriptures with devotion.

What tool has our Maker provided for this study?

The intellect which can probe everything.

And what is the fruit of study?

To perceive the eternal Word of God

reflected in every plant and insect,

every bird and animal,

and every man and woman.

Probably eighth century but sometimes attributed to Ninian

What shall I give you, Lord?

What shall I give you, Lord, in return for your kindness?

Glory to you for your love.

Glory to you for your patience.

Glory to you for forgiving us all our sins.

Glory to you for coming to save our souls.

Glory to you for your incarnation

in the virgin's womb.

Glory to you for receiving your wounds.

Glory to you for your crucifixion.

Glory to you for your burial.

Glory to you for your resurrection.

Glory to you that you preached to all.

Glory to you in whom they believed.

Ephrem the Syrian

Canticle – A song of wisdom (Wisdom 10:15-19, 20b-21)

Wisdom freed from a nation of oppressors,
a holy people and a blameless race.
She entered the soul of a servant of the Lord,
withstood dread rulers with wonders and signs.

To the saints she gave the reward of their labours,
and led them by a marvellous way;
she was their shelter by day
and a blaze of stars by night.

She brought them across the Red Sea,
she led them through mighty waters;
but their enemies she swallowed in the waves
and spewed them out from the depths of the abyss.

And then, Lord,
the righteous sang hymns to your Name,
and praised with one voice your protecting hand;
for Wisdom opened the mouths of the mute,
and gave speech to the tongues
of a new-born people.

With John, the loved disciple . . . we shall overcome

With John, the loved disciple who soars like an eagle,
we shall overcome.
With the desert fathers and mothers

who were weaned from selfish living,

we shall overcome.

With Ninian of the shining Household of Faith

we shall overcome.

With Illtyd, holy and learned sage,

we shall overcome.

With David, flame and faith-builder of Wales,

we shall overcome.

With Patrick, slave of Christ and apostle of the Irish,

we shall overcome.

With Brigid, midwife of faith to the people,

we shall overcome.

With Mungo, faithful pilgrim and founder of communities,

we shall overcome.

With Columba, Christ's giant of the Isles,

we shall overcome.

With Aidan, gentle shepherd and apostle of England,

we shall overcome.

With Hilda, bright jewel of the Church, gatherer of the faithful,

we shall overcome.

With Cuthbert, healer and conqueror of the dark places,

we shall overcome.

With the saints of this place,

we shall overcome.

With . . . *(names of local or other saints may be added),*

we shall overcome.

An alternative response for Night Prayer is

We rest in life eternal.

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