

# H

## HARVEST

Good God, Creator of the world, draw us into prayer and celebration as we gather to remember the gifts of your earth and the stewardship you have entrusted to us as tillers and tenders in your image. We know that in the gathering of the people, power is present among us; your Holy Spirit stirs and moves and gives us courage to remember that all good gifts come first from you. We praise you for this creation in the words of the Psalmist, sung by our ancestors in faith for generations: "God speaks: the heavens are made; God breathes: the stars shine. God bottles the waters of the sea and stores them in the deep All earth, be astounded, stand in awe of God." Keep us faithful to this gathering in faith and "bless this vine your right hand has planted." Now and forever. *Amen*

O Lord of the harvest and giver of our daily bread, we rejoice in all thy fatherly goodness; and pray that thy loving-kindness may so prevail in the hearts of thy children everywhere, that the earth may be filled with gladness and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
*Amen*

Almighty God, our heavenly Father who dost feed the birds and clothe the flowers, and who carest for us as a father for his children: We beseech thee of thy tender goodness to save us from distrust and vain self-concern; that with unwavering faith we may cast our every care on thee, and live in daily obedience to thy will; through thy beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

O Almighty God, whose dearly beloved Son, after his resurrection, sent his apostles into all the world to preach the gospel to every creature: We beseech thee, O Lord, to look upon the fields now white unto harvest, and to send forth more labourers to gather fruit unto eternal life; and grant us grace to labour with them in prayers and offerings, that we, together with them, may rejoice before thee, according to the joy in harvest; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

O almighty and everlasting God, who hast given unto us the fruits of the earth in their season: Grant us grace to use the same to thy glory, the relief of those that need, and our own comfort, through Jesus Christ, who is the living bread which cometh down from heaven and giveth life unto the world; to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost be all honour and glory, world without end. *Amen*

O Almighty God and heavenly Father, we glorify thee that thou hast again fulfilled to us thy gracious promise, that while the earth remaineth, seed-time and harvest shall not fail. We bless thee for the kindly fruits of the earth. Teach us, we beseech thee, to remember that it is not by bread alone that man doth live; and grant us evermore to feed on him who is the true bread which cometh down from heaven, Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee, O Father, and thee, O Holy Ghost, be honour and glory for ever and ever. *Amen*  
O Almighty God, we pray thee, sow the seed of thy Word in our hearts, and send down upon us thy heavenly grace; that we may bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, and at the great day of harvest may be gathered by thy holy angels into thy garner; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

O most merciful Father, who of thy gracious goodness hast heard the devout prayers of thy Church, and hast granted us to gather in the kindly fruits of the earth in their season:

We give thee humble thanks for this thy bounty, beseeching thee to continue thy loving-kindness towards us, that our land may yield her increase; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
*Amen*

O Lord God of hosts, who dwellest in the high and holy place, and yet hast respect unto the lowly: We yield thee hearty thanks that thou hast safely brought us to the season of harvest, visiting the earth and blessing it, and crowning the year with thy goodness. We praise thee for the fruits of the ground which thou hast bestowed upon us, filling our hearts with food and gladness. For these and all thy mercies we laud and magnify thy glorious name; beseeching thee to give us also the increase of all spiritual gifts, and the dew of thy heavenly blessing, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

O Almighty God, whose dearly beloved Son, after his resurrection, sent his apostles into all the world to preach the gospel to every creature: We beseech thee, O Lord, to look upon the fields now white unto harvest, and to send forth more labourers to gather fruit unto eternal life; and grant us grace to labour with them in prayers and offerings, that we, together with them, may rejoice before thee, according to the joy in harvest; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

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O Lord, how manifold are thy works! In wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches. The eyes of all wait upon thee, and thou givest them their meat in due season. Thou openest thine hand, and satisfiest the desire of every living thing. Our mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord; and let all flesh bless his holy name for ever and ever.  
*Amen*

We thank you, Heavenly Father, for providing for all our daily needs. We thank you, in particular, for the good food that is available to us, and for the promise that while the earth remaineth, seed-time and harvest .... shall not cease .Help us to remember the needs of others, and to play our part in seeing that none go hungry in a world of plenty. *Amen*

Thank you, Father, at this harvest time, for all the beauty and colour in our world. We thank you for the trees and flowers that make our surroundings bright and beautiful. Help us to appreciate the parks and gardens and hanging baskets that contribute to tidy towns and a beautiful countryside. Thank you for the flowers that decorate our homes and churches, and that bring joy to those in homes and hospitals. *Amen*

### **For greater consideration for others**

Lord, we know how boring it is to talk of rubbish, but it is something we all have to consider, because we all contribute to the problem daily. Forgive us our selfishness in wanting the necessary dumps and incinerators placed somewhere rather than in our neighbourhood. Help us to realise that we must all share in finding solutions to the world's problems. *Amen*

### **Thanksgiving - for clean water**

Thank you, Heavenly Father, for the rivers and lakes and streams that we enjoy in so many ways. We thank you for the rain that falls, and irrigates our crops, and makes our gardens bright with flowers. We thank you, too, at this harvest- time, for the clean water we enjoy, that is so important for life and health. Help us to value this provision, and to see that is not polluted or wasted. *Amen*

### **Thanksgiving- for clean air**

Thank you, Lord, for the air we breath. We know that it is something that we take for granted, but we know that polluted air causes misery and illness in other countries, and we need to be more conscious of our environment, and do our part to maintain it. *Amen*

### **For care in using scarce energy resources**

Thank you, Lord, for providing for our needs for energy. We think of the electricity that we could not live without. We think of the fuel that heats our houses, and that allows us to travel by air and sea and on land. We cannot imagine life without cars and buses and trains. Help us to remember that much of the time we are using scarce resources. Make us more grateful, and more aware of the need to avoid wasting what we cannot replace. Help our scientists and engineers and others who are seeking renewable sources of energy. *Amen*

### **Of Lands and Waters**

Gracious Father, you open your hand and fill all living things: Bless the lands and waters, and multiply the harvests of the world; let your Spirit go forth, that it may renew the face of the earth; show your loving-kindness, that our land may give her increase; and save us from selfish use of what you give , that people everywhere may give you thanks; through Christ our Lord. *Amen*

## **HARVEST PRAYERS FOR USE BY YOUNG PEOPLE**

### **Thank you, God, for our food**

Thank you for the world so sweet;  
Thank you for the food we eat;  
Thank you for the birds that sing;  
Thank you, God, for everything.

### **Thank you for our senses**

Thank you, Lord, for our eyes to see,  
Thank you, Lord, for our ears to hear;  
Thank you, Lord, for our nose to smell,  
To smell the beautiful harvest feast.

### **For all living creatures**

Thank you, God, for all the animals and birds and fish that you created and gave to us. We thank you for the farm animals, and animals that live in zoos and parks, and for horses and ponies, and the pets that live with us. Help us to be kind to all living creatures and to prevent all cruelty to animals.

### **That we may keep God's world looking beautiful**

Lord, we know that everyone hates to see papers and rubbish, and all the things that litter our streets, and even, sometimes, our homes and classrooms. Help us to remember that we all must help to see that things are kept beautiful, and that means that I have to put my

sweet papers and drinks cans in the bin ! Please, Lord, help me to remember, even though it may be hard.

**That we should be careful not to waste what God gives us**

Thank you, Lord, for using harvest time to remind us that you give us, each day, all the things we need for life. We thank you for the food we need to keep us healthy and happy, and for all the things that make our lives interesting and exciting. Make us grateful for all that God has given to us, and to remember those who are not so fortunate. Above all, we ask that we should remember not to waste anything that is given to us. Make us remember not to waste water or paper or food or heat, or any of God's gifts to us.

**HEALING**

See also hospitals

Lord' we remember your presence with us and offer ourselves to you in faith and hope and love.

We believe in your power, both to heal and to comfort;  
we pray that your will may be done, in us and through us;  
we hope in your promises; we pray that we may be made worthy of them;  
we love you and pray that we may love you better' for by your love we are made and sanctified;  
we pray for ourselves, for one another and for all mankind, that we may, serve you faithfully, and in all things seek your glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

*The St Marylebone Centre for Healing and Counselling*

**HOMELESS/REFUGEES**

Lord, we remember the millions of homeless people in the world today, people in the overcrowded refugee camps, old people who are growing older and more hopeless, young children who have never known a settled home, people without a country. We pray for all who are seeking to help them, that they may be given generous and kind hearts, patience and understanding in all their efforts. May we be ready to help all homeless peoples, whether in this country or abroad, to find new homes and a new hope. *Amen*

**HOSPITALS**

Loving Lord Jesus,  
you spent much of your time on earth healing sick bodies and bringing health to troubled minds, bless we pray you, all those who are continuing your work in clinics and hospitals throughout the world.

Give inspiration to those who are seeking to discover new drugs and treatments to combat crippling and mortal diseases.

Give courage and endurance to those who care for the chronically sick.

Give skills to the hands and brains of surgeons as they perform delicate operations.

Give discernment to all in their use of new knowledge.

Give stamina and compassion to the nurses who play such a valuable part in the comfort and recovery of all sick people.

Give patience, understanding and comfort to all relatives, and friends of those who are ill.

In Your name we ask it. *Amen*

*Adapted from Beryl Bye, Prayers for All Seasons (Lutterworth)*

**Medical and nursing professions**

Lord Jesus Christ our great physician, the source of all healing, we thank you for all the agencies that bring healing to us, both in our hospitals and within the community. May doctors and nurses be enabled to use properly their skills, care and compassion so that

the sick and suffering may be restored to fullness of health) for the glory of your Great Name. *Amen*

Heavenly Father, we know that healing comes from you, and therefore we ask your blessing on all who are engaged in the ministry of healing. We pray for doctors, surgeons and psychiatrists, for health visitors and community nurses for the staff who work in our local hospitals, and for those who nurse the sick at home. Give them, O Lord, all useful wisdom, skill and patience; may they know that in ministering to the sick they are ministering to you, as well as being fellow workers with you in your purposes of love. *Amen*

### **People in hospital**

Lord God, whose son, Jesus Christ, understood peoples fear and pain before they spoke of them, we pray for those in hospital; surround the frightened with your tenderness; give strength to those in pain; hold the weak in your arms of love, and give hope and patience to those who are recovering; we ask this through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen*  
*Christine McMullen*

Almighty God, we pray today for those (any of our group / church) who are at this time in hospital. If they are frightened, reassure them. If they are in pain, relieve them. If they are homesick, comfort them. If they are lonely, help them to make friends. And grant that we, who are well, may not be so full of our own concerns that we fail to write to them or visit them. *Amen*  
*Beryl Bye, Prayers for All Seasons (Lutterworth)*

Watch thou, O Lord, with those who wake, or watch, or weep tonight, and give thine angels charge over those who sleep. Tend thy sick ones, O Lord Jesus Christ; rest thy weary ones, bless thy dying ones; soothe thy suffering ones; pity thine afflicted ones; shield thy joyous ones, and all for thy Love's sake. *Amen*  
*Adapted from St Augustine*

### **HUMANKIND - The Human Family**

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

O God, the creator and preserver of all, we humbly beseech you for all sorts and conditions of people; that you would be pleased to make your ways known unto them, your saving health unto all nations. More especially we pray for your holy Church universal; that it may be so guided and governed by your good Spirit, that all who profess and call themselves Christians may be led into the way of truth, and hold the faith in unity of spirit, in the bond of peace, and in righteousness of life. Finally, we commend to your fatherly goodness all those who are in any ways afflicted or distressed, in mind, body, or estate; that it may please you to comfort and relieve them according to their several necessities, giving them patience under their sufferings, and a happy issue out of all their afflictions. And this we beg for Jesus Christ's sake. *Amen*



## **IDEAS - New ideas**

Lord, you know what it is to be tired in mind, and faced with problems that must be 'settled'. Make us ready both to take in new ideas and to give up old ones when they are wrong.  
*Amen*

## **ILLNESS**

### **Physical and mental challenges**

God our Father, we pray for all who are ill, especially children who are in hospital. Give great skill to the doctors and nurses who are looking after them, that they may soon be well again. Then there are children who can never be cured - the blind, the deaf, the physically challenged. Give them strength and courage to live full, useful and happy lives in spite of their challenges. May we do everything we can to help them, and thus follow the example of Jesus, who was always ready to help. *Amen*

### **Drugs and mental health**

O God, there are many people in the world who are now taking drugs. Help those who have been mentally disturbed to seek treatment and to try and get back to their normal lives. Give understanding to those who are seeking to help them, and try to make us understand their reasons and their ways. *Amen*

### **Disabilities**

O God our Father, we pray for all who are ill, especially children who are in hospital. Give great skill to the doctors and nurses who are looking after them, that they may soon be well again. Then there are children who can never be cured—the blind, the deaf, the crippled. Give them strength and courage to live full, useful and happy lives in spite of their handicaps. If we meet such children, may we never give way to a temptation to make fun of them, but rather do everything we can to help them, and thus follow the example of Jesus, who was always ready to help. *Amen*

### **Stewardship of health**

O God, Creator and Life giver, thank you for the gift of life with all its potential; thank you for our powers of mind, body and spirit by which we are enriched and fulfilled. Help us to be so conscious that they are your gracious gifts that we will want to safeguard them. Enable us to show our gratitude in our care of those who are ill or in any kind of need. May we live each day to your glory and in your service; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

### **Aids**

Loving God, you show yourself in those who are vulnerable, and make your home with the poor and weak of this world, warm our hearts with fire of your Spirit. Help us to accept the challenge of AIDS. Protect the healthy, calm the frightened, give courage to those in pain, comfort the dying and give to the dead eternal life; console the bereaved, strengthen those who care for the sick. May we your people, using all our energy and imagination, and trusting in your steadfast love, be united with one another in conquering ail disease and fear. *Amen*

## INVOCATIONS

### A Prayer of Awareness

Today we know of the energy that moves all things: the oneness of existence, the diversity and uniqueness of every moment of creation, every shape and form, the attraction, the allurements, the fascination that all things have for one another. Humbled by our knowledge, chastened by surprising revelations, with awe and reverence we come before the mystery of life.

## J

### PRAYED IN JERUSALEM

#### Holy People

Eternal Lord God, Source of all truth, Lover of all men, we thank thee for the experience of living in this city Grant that we may be

humble, grateful people,  
worshipping people,  
holy people,

Help us to be peace-loving people

who know the things that belong to peace,  
who pray and work for peace,

who try to understand the experiences, the hurts, the hopes of people from whom we differ.

Let this city be a centre of unity for the Churches.

Let it be a place of friendship and understanding for men of different faiths.

Let it be truly the City of Peace, a joy of the whole earth and a place of blessing to all nations.

For the sake of him who wept in love over this city and died in love outside its walls,  
The Everliving One, ever present with thee to heal and bless, Jesus Christ our blessed Lord. *Amen*

#### City of Peace

O Christ our Lord, thou didst weep over this city, because the people in it did not know the things that make for peace.

Grant to us who live in it today to know these things - truth, justice, and love - to hold them in mind and heart, and to work for them in word and deed, so that we may be sons of peace and brothers of thine, O Prince of Peace, Christ our Lord. *Amen*

#### Bethlehem

O God, in thine infinite mercy look on the travail of the human race - fear, hatred, war, hunger, homelessness, grief, and anxiety. Thou art among them, O Lord, as thou wast in the homeless babe in this place of the manger. Move the hearts of nations and governments to use thy gifts of wealth and skill to build the Kingdom of thy love, where all shall live free from fear and free from want? free from hatred, cruelty, and sin, free to look into the faces of our fellow men with welcome and love. O Father, we are all brothers and sisters of the babe born in this place - wise men, simple shepherds, the tired and the old, the young and the strong, the sad and the lonely, the hungry and the homeless, the living and the dead, men of every race and religion. May all come to gaze with us at the humble, defenceless love of the perennial Bethlehem, the recurrent spring time of the human spirit

which renews our faith, our hope, our life, in the knowledge of thy eternal goodness, O Lord of God. *Amen*

### **The Holy Land**

O Lord our God, we would hold close to thee this land with its problems, tensions, hatreds, and griefs.

We lift hearts and minds to thee in faith that when we pray with loving persistence thou wilt work with unfailing love, and things will change in the direction of thy will.

Increase our faith, our hope, our love, so that we may be channels of healing, reconciliation, and blessing, for the sake of him who was incarnate in this land and gave his life in this city, and who is omnipresent with thee in love, power, and glory, even Jesus Christ the Saviour of all. *Amen*

*by George Appleton former Archbishop in Jerusalem*

### **JUSTICE**

God of love, God of justice; your love for us does not make us exempt from difficult times. As Jesus walked in the temple, expressing anger at the injustice of the money changer, so we are faced with times of anger at injustice. When you call us to face injustice and risk action, help us to be confident of your Spirit walking beside us. *Amen*

Ever loving God, You have taught us that justice is your will and your way. We are grateful for the lessons of love taught by the life, death and resurrection of your son Jesus. We come in full recognition of the reality that justice is expected of us and yet we confess that our days have been marked with injustice. We pray this day, O God, that we might be moved to act against injustice so that all might have life abundant, full and free: Let us remember those women and men who gave their lives in the struggle for justice and let their sacrifice be an inspiration to us. Let us all name those known and unknown who suffer still and stand in need of God's love.

*The congregation is invited to call out names.*

Righteous God, hear our prayer, hold all those who suffer in your everlasting arms. Lead us to discern injustice and to resist with all our being. Enable us to be in solidarity with all who are oppressed. Lead us to follow Jesus who was unjustly put to death, whom you did raise again as our every living hope. Praise be to God. *Amen!*

*World Council of Churches*

Dear God,

Open our hearts

So that we may feel the pain of those who are victims of senseless acts of violence.

Unclench our hands

So that we may reach out to one another.

Open our lips

That we may speak for justice and wholeness and health and safety for all people.

Unclog our ears

To hear your agony in our inhumanity.

Open our eyes

To see you even and most especially in the midst of the horror that touches our world.

Be with us we pray. *Amen*



# K

## **KINDNESS**

### **Blessing of Loving-Kindness**

May every creature abound in well-being and peace. May every living being, weak or strong, the long and the small, The short and the medium-sized, the mean and the great. May every living being, seen or unseen, those dwelling far off, Those near by, those already born, those waiting to be born May all attain inward peace Let no one deceive another. Let no one despise another in any situation. Let no one, from antipathy or hatred, wish evil to anyone at all. Just as a mother, with her own life, protects her only child from hurt So within yourself foster a limitless concern for every living creature. Display a heart of boundless love for all the world In all its height and depth and broad extent Love unrestrained, without hate or enmity. Then as you stand or walk, sit or lie, until overcome by drowsiness Devote your mind entirely to this, it is known as living here life divine.

*Amen*

# L

## **LEISURE - Good Use of Leisure**

O God, in the course of this busy life, give us times of refreshment and peace; and grant that we may so use our leisure to rebuild our bodies and renew our minds, that our spirits may be opened to the goodness of your creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

## **LIFESTYLE**

Dear Lord, help us to be content with what we have got, and not to envy other people because we know that there are people always worse off than ourselves. Help us to have the courage to stand up for what we know to be the truth, and to admit our mistakes when we are wrong. *Amen*

# M

## **MARRIAGE**

### **Anniversary of a Marriage**

O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church: Send your blessing upon *(name)* and *(name)*, that they may so love, honour, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their lives together may be a witness to your love and forgiveness, and that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

## **ME AWARENESS**

Heavenly Father, to whom the needs of every heart are known, give patience, courage, and hope to those suffering from M.E. and all other conditions of chronic fatigue, and strength to those who care for them. Increase the sensitivity of doctors, the compassionate understanding of family, colleagues, and neighbours, and the skill of researchers as they seek a cure. We ask this through one who restored the sick to fullness of life Jesus Christ, Our Lord. *Amen*

*A Prayer for M.E. Awareness Week, written by Reverend Michael Mayne, Vice- President of the British M.E. Association*

### **MISSION**

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honour of your Name. *Amen*

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh, and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

O God and Father of all, whom the whole heavens adore: Let the whole earth also worship you, all nations obey you, all tongues confess and bless you, and men and women everywhere love you and serve you in peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

### **Mission - going out**

For all that God can do within us,  
For all that God can do without us,

**Thanks be to God.**

For all in whom Christ lived before us,  
For all in whom Christ lives beside us,

**Thanks be to God.**

For all the Spirit wants to bring to us,  
For where the Spirit wants to send us,

**Thanks be to God.**

Listen.

Christ has promised to be with us in the world  
as in our worship.

**We go to meet him.**

Go in peace to be witnesses to hope.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

*Iona Abbey Worship Book | Wild Goose Publications | ISBN:1901557 50 2*

### **MOTHERING SUNDAY**

Lord we ask your blessing today especially for all mothers. We remember all grandmothers and great-grandmothers; all mothers whose children have left home; all mothers of children at schools and colleges; mothers of young children and babies; mothers to be, and our daughters who will be the mothers of the future. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer. *Amen*

*From Pour Out Your Sunshine (Ashtead Young Wives)*

### **MOTHERS' UNION**

**The Mothers' Union Prayer**

*As a young woman, Mary Sumner took a special interest in women and their families.*

*When she started meeting with mothers of the parish in 1876, Mary wrote the first Mothers'*

*Union prayer. The current prayer, like the original, focuses on the real concerns and needs of women throughout the world.*

Loving Lord,  
We thank you for your love so freely given to us all.  
We pray for families around the world.  
Bless the work of the Mothers' Union  
as we seek to share your love  
through the encouragement, strengthening and support of marriage and family life.  
Empowered by your Spirit, may we be united in prayer and worship,  
and in love and service reach out as your hands across the world.  
In Jesus' name. *Amen*

### **The Mary Sumner Prayer**

All this day, O Lord,  
let me touch as many lives as possible for thee;  
and every life I touch, do thou by thy spirit quicken,  
whether through the word I speak,  
the prayer I breathe,  
or the life I live. *Amen*

*Written in 1876 by Mothers' Union founder, Mary Sumner.*

### **Young mothers**

Lord Jesus, you know what it is like to be exhausted, stretched to the limits and alone. We pray for all new mothers: they can get so tired: too tired to bake, to iron, to Hoover, to shop, too tired even to think of you, to pray or to go to church; everything can be all too much: help us to show that we care, that our society (the Mothers Union) cares, and that the Church cares. We pray that whenever an opportunity arises we can show our care by our practical help. We ask you to help us share and care in your name and for your sake.

*Amen*

*Kate Smith*

## **N**

### **NATIONS OF THE WORLD**

Commonwealth O Lord God of our fathers, who in thy goodness hast led this people hitherto by wondrous ways, who makest the nations to praise thee, and knittest them together in the bonds of peace: We beseech thee to pour thy blessing on the commonwealth of nations over which thou hast called thy servant Elizabeth to be (Queen. Grant that all, of whatever race or tongue, may, in prosperity and peace, be united in the bond of brotherhood, and in the fellowship of the one Faith, so that we may be found a people acceptable unto thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

### **United Nations**

Almighty God and most merciful Father, who wouldst have the kingdoms of the world become the kingdom of thy Son Jesus Christ: Bestow thy blessing, we beseech thee, upon the Assembly of the United Nations and all who are labouring for peace and righteousness among the peoples; that the day may be hastened when war shall be no more, and thy will only shall govern the nations upon earth; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

## **NIGHTTIME**

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. *Amen*

O God, the life of all who live, the light of the faithful, the strength of those who labour, and the repose of the dead: We thank you for the blessings of the day that is past, and humbly ask for your protection through the coming night. Bring us in safety to the morning hours; through him who died and rose again for us, your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen*

Almighty God, we entrust all who are dear to us to your never-failing care and love, for this life and the life to come, knowing that you are doing for them better things than we can desire or pray for; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

## **NOON**

Blessed Saviour, at this hour you hung upon the cross, stretching out your loving arms: Grant that all the peoples of the earth may look to you and be saved; for your mercies sake. *Amen*

## **NORTHERN IRELAND**

God, our heavenly Father, we pray for this Province, its politicians and its people, inspire them with the vision and will, to seek reconciliation and justice, that we may find stability in government and in peace. *Amen*

Grant that as the Holy Spirit overcame barriers between Jew and Gentile, creating one new humanity in Christ, so by the same Spirit, the people of Northern Ireland may find in Christ the Spirit of peace and goodwill, to give them the courage and the freedom to reach out and to care for one another in his name. *Amen*

For all who suffer

We commend to thy merciful care, O God, those who have been injured and those who sorrow as the result of conflict, both in Northern Ireland and abroad. heal the injured in body and in mind, and comfort those who mourn. Deliver us from evil, and lead us in the ways of justice and peace, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

# **O**

## **ORDINATION AND VOCATION**

### **For the Apostolic Ministry of the whole People of God**

O God, who by the preaching of the apostles didst cause the light of thy gospel to shine upon the nations: Grant, we beseech thee, that we, having their life and labour in remembrance, may show forth our thankfulness to thee for so great a gift, by following the example of their zeal and service; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

### **For vocations to the ordained ministry**

God, you have told us to pray

for more labourers in your harvest-field.

We ask you then to call many of your sons and daughters

to the work of the ministry,  
and to enable them by your grace  
to hear and act upon your call.  
Make them at all times sensitive to your guidance,  
willing to learn and eager to serve.  
We ask this in the name of him who came  
not to be ministered to but to minister,  
Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. *Amen*

**For those who are ordained**

Lord God, we pray for your Church's ministers.  
May they have strength for their work,  
and grow in holiness and love.  
May they be mature in their faith  
and wise in their judgements.  
May they be confident of your grace  
and zealous in fulfilling their duties.  
May they boldly proclaim the truth of your Word  
and faithfully administer your sacraments.  
And may they seek your glory in all things,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

**For the Clergy and People**

Almighty and everlasting God, who alone workest great marvels; Send down upon our Bishops, and Clergy, and all Congregations committed to their charge, the healthful Spirit of thy grace; and that they may truly please thee, pour upon them the continual dew of thy blessing. Grant this, O Lord, for the honour of our Advocate and Mediator, Jesus Christ.  
*Amen*

**For the selection of a new rector**

Our Father, by your Holy Spirit guide the members of the Board of Nomination of our parish to see clearly our needs and to be led to the person of your choosing to serve as our Rector. Give us a new leader who will enable us to be fully alive to you so that we may fulfil the mission you have for us in this community for Jesus sake. *Amen*

**For the election of a Bishop**

Our Father, may your will be done in the election of a priest to serve as bishop of this diocese. Save us from petty politics, from minds that cannot be changed, and from unhappy divisions. Bring to us a person of holiness, who will be a true shepherd to this flock, and a leader open to your will, that this diocese may be built up in love, and may fulfil the mission you have entrusted to us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

**OPPRESSED**

Look with pity, O heavenly Father, upon the people in this land who live with injustice, terror, disease, and death as their constant companions. Have mercy upon us. Help us to eliminate our cruelty to these our neighbours. Strengthen those who spend their lives establishing equal protection of the law and equal opportunities for all And grant that every one of us may enjoy a fair portion of the riches of this land; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
*Amen*

# P

## PARISH

### Anniversary of dedication

Almighty and everlasting God, behold us thy servants gathered once again to give praise and thanks for the dedication of this holy house to thy service; mercifully grant, that recalling our own dedication as living temples of thy Holy Spirit, we may be enabled to rule and govern our souls and bodies according to thy commandment, and to the glory of thy holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

### Signs of hope in the parish

Spirit of Jesus enlighten the eyes of our hearts.  
Lead us to recognise you in each other and in our home.  
Help us to appreciate the signs of hope in our parish community.  
And make us sensitive to all that is in need of healing. *Amen*

Spirit of Jesus poured out in flames of fire  
upon your disciples at Pentecost, inflame our hearts.  
We pray that we, your body in this place on earth,  
may brighten each others lives with the brightness of Christ,  
as we face forward with new faith, new hope and new love. *Amen*

### The parish family

Almighty and everliving God? ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within you holy Church, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

### The stewardship of parish buildings

Give to us in your church today' Lord God, such an attitude to our buildings that we maintain them with a sense of responsibility. Let us recognise that you have given them to us to encourage us in discipleship; as places where people gather to worship and to develop their potential to serve your purposes in today s world. This we ask in the name of Christ our Lord. *Amen*

## PEACE

Almighty Father, whose will is to restore all things in your beloved Son, the king of all: govern the hearts and minds of those in authority, and bring the families of the nations, divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin, to be subject to his just and gentle rule; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.  
*Amen*

O God, who wouldst fold both heaven and earth in a single peace: Let the design of thy great love lighten upon the waste of our wraths and sorrows: and give peace to thy Church, peace among nations, peace in our dwellings, and peace in our hearts: through thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen*

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So mightily spread abroad your Spirit that all

people and nations may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of Peace as children of one Father; to whom be dominion and glory, now and for ever. *Amen*

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purpose on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

*Book of Common Prayer, Episcopal Church of the USA*

## **PEACE - MEDITATIONS**

### **Peace is...**

Peace is not a thing to possess, but a way of possessing  
Peace is not a gift to be given, but a way of giving  
Peace is not a topic to teach, but a way of teaching  
Peace is not a theory to learn, but a way of learning  
Peace is not an opinion to hold, but a way of holding  
Peace is not a resolution of strife, but a way of striving  
Peace is not a creed to preach, but a way of preaching  
Peace is not a God to serve, but a way of serving  
Peace is not a question to ask, but a way of asking  
Peace is not an answer to seek, but a way of seeking  
Peace is not a journey's end, but a way of journeying.

*Bishop Michael Hare Duke*

### **Real peace is in you...**

Beloved, there is real peace in the world: it is in you. Who but you could give this immense inner peace that comes on soft feet to bring holy tranquillity to a heart surrounded by the noise of continual action? It's as if my soul becomes a cool, quiet temple, standing in the shade of eternal trees – alone, an oasis in a boiling sun.

O Beloved, how peaceful you are! How quiet! How tranquil! How strong!

The voices of the world dissolve into silence at the threshold of a soul filled with you!

Give me your peace! I love you. Teach me your holy quiet strength. Beloved, I love you!

*From the Madonna House Community*

### **You say peace to...**

You say Peace to the storms of my life  
Peace to my troubled heart  
Peace to my turmoil  
You breathe peace into my trembling  
Peace deep into my soul  
Peace into my thinking  
Peace into my feeling  
Peace into my being  
Far beyond all knowledge or understanding  
you speak Peace  
you give Peace  
you are Peace.

*From the Maranatha Community*

## PEACE - PRAYERS FOR USE WITH CHILDREN IN A TIME OF CONFLICT

Lord God,  
let your peace rest so gently on our hearts and minds  
that we may have the strength  
to work for peace in our world  
today, tomorrow and for ever. *Amen*

Lord in heaven,  
please listen to all those who are praying to you now.  
Those who are sad and crying,  
those who have lost friends and family,  
those who are alone and frightened.  
Help them to remember, that you are there  
and you are listening.  
In Jesus? name, we pray: *Amen*

God of goodness and love,  
whom we can trust to be with us in every hour of need;  
watch over and protect all who are faced with the fears of fighting and war.  
Protect the children and their families keep them together and safe from harm.  
We ask that peace will soon return  
and that this war may bring about a new freedom and hope.  
where countries will once again live at peace with one another.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord, *Amen*

*From Prayers for Children compiled by Christopher Herbert*

*With acknowledgment to the Archbishops' Council of the Church of England and the Diocese of Chichester*

## PEACE - Among Nations

Almighty God our heavenly Father, guide the nations of the world into the way of justice and truth, and establish among them that peace which is the fruit of righteousness, that they may become the kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen*

## For Reconciliation

Gracious God,  
ruling the earth and its people  
not by terror but in love;  
we worship you.  
We confess that too often  
our words hurt others  
and our deeds are selfish;  
forgive us.  
In this time of uncertainty and fear,  
help us to love our enemies  
and do good to those who hate us,  
in the name of Jesus our Lord. *Amen*

## An Act of Dedication

We come to you, God Creator.  
You are the source of light and beauty and power.  
Your Son Jesus is the way of faith and hope and love.  
Your Spirit is the fire of love' the fount of wisdom? the bond of unity.  
You call us at all times to be people of the beatitudes,



witnesses to the Gospel of peace and love and forgiveness.  
Especially do you call us  
at this time of death and destruction and broken lives'  
of terrible violence and fierce hatred.  
We renew our acceptance of your call.  
We promise to work  
to bring the light of the Gospel to those living in darkness;  
to bring the hope of the Gospel to those living in despair;  
to bring the healing of the Gospel to the lonely,  
the disadvantaged, the marginalised:  
And to bring the peace of the Gospel to a divided world.

*Pax Christi*

### **PEACE AND WAR**

O Almighty God, who canst bring good out of evil and makest even the wrath of man to turn to thy praise: Teach us to live together in charity and peace; and grant, we beseech thee, that the nations of the world may henceforth be united in a firmer fellowship for the promotion of thy glory and the good of all mankind, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

O Almighty God, the refuge of all them that put their trust in thee: We turn to thee in this time of trouble. Direct the course of this world, we humbly beseech thee, in accordance with thy holy will; take away whatever hinders the nations from unity and concord; and prosper all counsels which make for righteousness and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

### **PEACE, AN INTER FAITH PRAYER**

God, you are the source of life and peace.  
Praised be your name for ever.  
We know it is you who turn our minds to thoughts of peace.  
Hear our prayer in this time of crisis.  
Your power changes hearts. Muslims, Christians and Jews remember, and profoundly affirm, that they are followers of the one God, children of Abraham, brothers and sisters. Enemies begin to speak to one another; those who were estranged join hands in friendship; nations seek the way of peace together.  
Strengthen our resolve to give witness to these truths by the way we live.  
Give to us: understanding that puts an end to strife; mercy that quenches hatred, and forgiveness that overcomes vengeance.  
Empower all people to live in your law of love. *Amen*

*Pax Christi*

### **PEACE: SORROW, RECONCILIATION AND REPENTANCE**

#### **An Act of Sorrow**

God our Father: your Son said Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.  
We confess that we have failed to keep the way of peace;  
we confess that we have marred your Kingdom here on earth;  
we confess that we have placed our fellow man in mortal danger.  
We lament our sins: Lord, have mercy.  
In your great goodness, repair what we have done in our fallen humanity; relieve all who suffer;

keep safe those in peril; and restore peace to your world. We ask this through your Son our Lord Jesus Christ, *Amen*

## **PEACE, FOR THOSE WHO SUFFER THE EFFECTS OF WAR OR DISASTER**

*These prayers are suitable for inter-faith use*

O God our creator, in Your great kindness, look upon our brothers and sisters suffering in war or disaster. Comfort those who are grieving and be with them in their pain. Help them to mourn and to move on. Bless them as they work to rebuild their lives. We thank You for the sign of Your Presence in all who come to their aid. *Amen*

O God our creator, we call upon You today to bless those people suffering in war or disaster. They have lost so much: family and friends, homes and land, and meaning. Let them know You are with them even in their shock and grief. Strengthen them to comfort one another. And in the people reaching out to help, may they see the face of Your love. *Amen*

O God, who hast taught us in thy holy Word that thou dost not willingly afflict the children of men: Grant that in the present time of warfare and distress of nations our people may know thy presence and obey thy will. Remove from us arrogance and feebleness; give us courage and loyalty, tranquillity and self-control, that we may accomplish that which thou givest us to do, and endure that which thou givest us to bear; for his sake who was lifted up on the cross to draw all men unto him, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

O Lord God Almighty, who from thy throne dost behold all the dwellers upon earth: Look down with pity upon those on whom have fallen the miseries of war. Have compassion on the wounded and dying; comfort the broken-hearted; assuage the madness of the nations; guide our rulers, make war to cease; give peace in our time, O Lord. We ask it in the name of him who is the Prince of Peace, even thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

Lord God Almighty, who hast brought thy judgments upon all the earth, that the inhabitants of the world may learn righteousness: We entreat thy divine Majesty so to turn the hearts of the people of this land, that sorrowing for our sins with true repentance, and trusting in the hope of thy salvation, we may be renewed to do thee service and show forth thy praise from one generation to another; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

O Lord of hosts, stretch forth, we pray thee, thine almighty arm to strengthen and protect the forces of our Queen in every peril of sea and land and air. Shelter them in the day of battle, and in time of peace keep them safe from all evil; endue them with loyalty and courage; and grant that in all things they may serve as seeing thee who art invisible; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

O Merciful Father, look with thy tender compassion upon all prisoners of war. Supply all their needs, and hasten the time of their release; let thy love protect them and thy presence cheer them, that day by day in weariness and hardship they may have strength to endure patiently, and may find peace in thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

O Almighty Lord God, the Father and Protector of all that trust in thee: We commend to thy fatherly goodness the men and women who through perils of war are serving this nation by land or sea or in the air; beseeching thee to take into thine own hand both them and the cause they serve. Be thou their strength when they are set in the midst of so many and

great dangers. Make all bold through death or life to put their trust in thee, who art the only giver of victory and canst save by many or by few; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

Lord Jesus Christ, before whose judgment seat we all shall stand, we pray as thou hast taught us for our enemies; so turn their hearts to thee that they may truly repent; and grant that they and we and all the peoples of the earth, being cleansed from sin, may know and do thy will, who wast lifted up upon the cross to draw all men to thyself, our Saviour, our Lord and our God. *Amen*

O Almighty God, who canst bring good out of evil, and makest even the wrath of man turn to thy praise: We beseech thee so to order and dispose the issue of this war that we may be brought through strife to lasting peace; and that the nations of the world may be united in a new fellowship for the promotion of thy glory and the good of all mankind; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

O God, who by thy Son Jesus Christ hast set up on earth a kingdom of holiness, to measure its strength against all others: Make faith to prevail over fear, and righteousness over force, and truth over the lie, and love and concord over all things; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

God of our fathers, on whom our confidence is set, who hast delivered us from of old, and wilt still deliver: Support with thy whole might this people in the day of their proving; that they fear not the threatenings and strokes of the enemy, but stand to maintain thy cause, in the faith of thy Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen*

## **PERSEVERANCE**

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon us your servants the forgiveness of sin, and have raised us to the new life of grace. Sustain us, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give us an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. *Amen*

*ECUSA, BCP*

## **POLICE**

### **For serving officers**

Grant us, O God,  
In all our duties your help,  
In all our perplexities your guidance,  
In all our dangers your protection, and in all our sorrows your peace;  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

### **The Royal Ulster Constabulary GC**

O Holy Trinity as symbolised by the humble shamrock we give thanks for the love of the Father, the sacrifice of the Son, and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. As Christ Jesus has shown us that the reward of love may be a cross, so we praise you O God for Your faithfulness through times of prosperity and of adversity.

Like a harp that sounds forth in glorious tunefulness so we give Honour and thanks to those in the policing family who served gallantly and sacrificed dutifully for the harmony of our Communities. Steadfast to the legacy and mindful of Continuing needs, may our eyes shine with the light of hope as we embrace the future.

Lord, grant us the perseverance to faithfully finish the race that we may receive the crown of righteousness to which we have been called heavenward. Equip us with the spirit of peace, an Abundance of your grace, and the wisdom and strength to meet the challenges that may lie before us.

All this we ask in the precious name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. *Amen*  
*Derived from the RUC GC Crest*

### **POOR AND NEGLECTED**

Almighty and most merciful God, we remember before you all poor and neglected persons whom it would be easy for us to forget; the homeless and the destitute, the old and the sick, and all who have none to care for them. Help us to heal those who are broken in body or spirit, and to turn their sorrow into joy. Grant this, Father, for the love of your Son, who for our sake became poor, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

### **PRISONS**

Lord Jesus, for our sake you were condemned as a criminal: Visit our jails and prisons with your pity and judgement. Remember all prisoners, and bring the guilty to repentance and amendment of life according to your will, and give them hope for their future. When any are held unjustly, bring them release; forgive us, and teach us to improve our justice. Remember those who work in these institutions; keep them humane and compassionate; and save them from becoming brutal or callous. And since what we do for those in prison, O Lord, we do for you, constrain us to improve their lot. All this we ask for your mercy's sake. *Amen*