

Call to worship

We have come together into the presence of our Lord.
So, let us quieten our hearts and minds,
put aside our concerns and distractions.
Let us open ourselves to listen for God's voice,
for the word God has for his people.

A gathering prayer

Almighty God, you speak to us in so many ways.
Help us, in our worship today, to hear your voice and
know it is you.
Speak to us in the silence, through Scripture and by the Spirit.
Speak through others and through your creation,
through images, experiences, music and encounters.
Speak in ways that we can understand.
So, speak, Lord – and help us to listen.
Amen.

A prayer of adoration

Creator God, how awesome you are!
Our lives were known to you before we came into being.
Marvellous Lord,
Everything we do, think and say – you know about.

Such infinite wonder!
Eternal, loving Lord,
Ever helping us to see and be more like you.

How awesome you are, glorious Lord.
Everywhere we go your hand is with us,
Always guiding and
Revealing your blessings – as we praise, listen and act.
Amen.

Prayers of penitence

A prayer of confession

Lord, we come before you to say sorry. Sorry for all the times we've let you, ourselves and others down. Sometimes, Lord, we're so busy talking and doing that we fail to hear you. We miss the still small voice saying, 'Stop. Listen.' Lord, we're sorry for being too busy to hear you. You speak in so many different ways, Lord, one being through other people – but very often we take no notice and continue in our own way. Help us to tune in to your voice.

Lord, as you use others to speak to us, so you use us to draw people to you. But speaking does not always require words. People see our lives, our attitudes and character. Lord, we're sorry for the times we've let you down in these areas – when we pressurise others to conform to our ideas, or fail to listen and give others the space to draw closer to you.

Lord, as we spend these few moments in personal reflection, we ask you to speak to us. Show us anything for which we need to say sorry – and change our ways.

Lord, we lift our confessions to you, in your precious name.

Amen.

Assurance of forgiveness

Father God, we thank you that we don't have to earn your forgiveness.

It is not based on how worthy we are.

We are forgiven through Christ Jesus.

It is by grace that our sins are forgiven.

Amen.

A prayer of praise and thanksgiving

Thank you, Lord, that you know us and can see our potential – for you know who we are created to be. We thank you for all the people you have placed in our lives – parents, teachers, guardians, friends, whoever they may be – people who have made a real difference. We thank you for the blessings of relationships, but most of all for our relationship with you.

Help us to bless others in your name. Thank you, Lord, that when we are hurt, confused or unsure about something or someone, we can come to you – thank you for the gift of your Holy Spirit's wisdom and guidance.

Lord, our hearts are lifted by your presence in our lives.

All glory to you with thanks and praise.

Amen.

Prayers of intercession

Come and see,
and join in praying for the people of the world waiting to hear good news.

Loving God, we pray for the states of America to be united in the days and weeks ahead.

We pray for an end to violence,
for wisdom and protection for President-Joe Biden and all who have taken office.

We pray for those threatening disruption, and for the police force and those entrusted with keeping the law and peace.

Lord, hear our prayer and draw us all closer to you.

We pray for those around the world at the mercy of extreme weather conditions.

We pray for the people of Japan, of Indonesia,
especially those rescue workers who died trying to save others, for those bereaved in the plane crash.

We pray for those affected in our own country by Storm Christoph without power and heat.

We pray for those tackling the climate change challenges of our time and for our own response in our day to day lives.

Lord, hear our prayer and draw us all closer to you.

We pray for all who are pushed to their limits at work and at home, for Intensive Care Staff, for all in the emergency services, for GP's, teachers and school staff, for parents and students, for all whose mental health is at breaking point. We pray for our Government and all whose decisions affect millions of lives. And we pray for one another as we respond to the restrictions locally and nationally.

Lord, hear our prayer and draw us all closer to you.

We pray for those whose businesses are closed,
whose shops are locked up,
whose rooms have no guests, for those whose money is running out,
for those on the brink of despair.

Lord, hear our prayer and draw us all closer to you.

We pray for your church, entrusted with the good news of Jesus,
and charged with serving all those in need.

We pray for hospital chaplains, for those ministering to the bereaved,
and for one another as we seek to share our faith and our hope in Jesus Christ.

Lord, hear our prayer and draw us all closer to you. Amen.