



 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Resources for Prayer Together

In this collection of materials, **Part 1** comprises a Prayer for the Nation and a form of intercession, both of which may be used in many different contexts including informal gatherings.

Part 2 collects passages of Scripture which can be used in services, informal gatherings, or as aids to Bible study.

Part 3 includes proper texts for services, including Holy Communion.

Part 1

A Prayer for the Nation

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

Intercessions

God of life and hope,
we pray for our nation and for the guidance of your Holy Spirit,
that you will give wisdom and courage to our leaders
that together we may work for the common good.

Lord, come to bless us,
and fill us with your Spirit.

We thank you for the peace that your Holy Spirit brings:
in these days of change protect us from anxiety
and keep us confident of your love.

Lord, come to bless us,
and fill us with your Spirit.

We thank you for the healing of your Holy Spirit:
where there is division or discord in communities,
we ask you to bring reconciliation and peace.

Lord, come to bless us,
and fill us with your Spirit.

We thank you for the gifts of your Holy Spirit:
as we move into a new chapter in the life of our nation
we ask you to equip us for all that lies ahead.

Lord, come to bless us,
and fill us with your Spirit.

New Patterns for Worship F63 (alt)

The Archbishop of York's Prayer for the UK Parliament

God of eternal love and power,
save our Parliamentary Democracy;
protect our High Court of Parliament and all its members
 from partiality and prejudice;
that they may walk humbly the path of kindness, justice and mercy.

Give them wisdom, insight and a concern for the common good.
The weight of their calling is too much to bear in their own strength,
therefore we pray earnestly, Father,
send them help from your Holy Place, and be their tower of strength.
Lord, graciously hear us.
Amen.

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The Archbishop of York's Prayer for the European Union

God of all Hopefulness,
Upholding and Renewing your Creation:
Give your Grace abundantly to our
European Union Leaders, that they may
Lead with Wisdom and Insight,
With a Willingness to Lead and be Led.

In your mercy cast out, in us, all fear,
godlessness, sin and love of money;
And help us to live Truth, Justice,
Peace, Compassion and Joy.
To the Glory of your Name.
Amen.

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Part 2

Passages of Scripture

Now this is the commandment—the statutes and the ordinances—that the Lord your God charged me to teach you to observe in the land that you are about to cross into and occupy, so that you and your children and your children’s children may fear the Lord your God all the days of your life, and keep all his decrees and his commandments that I am commanding you, so that your days may be long. Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe them diligently, so that it may go well with you, and so that you may multiply greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, as the Lord, the God of your ancestors, has promised you.

Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Deuteronomy 6.1–9

For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice for ever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight.

I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it, or the cry of distress. No more shall there be in it an infant that lives but a few days, or an old person who does not live out a lifetime; for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth, and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed. They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labour in vain, or bear children for calamity; for they shall be offspring blessed by the Lord—and their descendants as well. Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear. The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox; but the serpent—its food shall be dust! They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the Lord.

Isaiah 65.17–end

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me, says the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, says the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

Jeremiah 29.11-14

When you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift.

Matthew 5.23-24

Jesus called the disciples and said to them, 'You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.'

Mark 10.42-45

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why do you pass judgement on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgement seat of God. For it is written, 'As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.' So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Romans 14.7-12

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. *2 Corinthians 5.16-end*

You are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord. *Ephesians 2.19-21*

If there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus. *Philippians 2.1-5*

Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. *Colossians 3.14,15*

Lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint, but rather be healed. Pursue peace with everyone, and the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springs up and causes trouble, and through it many become defiled. *Hebrews 12.12-15*

Psalmody

Psalm 84 – How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!

Psalm 121 – I lift up my eyes to the hills

Part 3

Acclamation

This is the message we have heard from the beginning:

that we should love one another.

Christ is our peace, who has made us one:

he has broken down the barriers which divided us.

Jesus' Summary of the Law

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:

The first commandment is this:

'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord.

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,

with all your soul,

with all your mind,

and with all your strength.'

The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'

There is no other commandment greater than these.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Amen. Lord, have mercy.

Kyrie Confession

Lord Jesus, you came to reconcile us

to one another and to the Father.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you heal the wounds of sin and division:

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you intercede for us with your Father:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

CW: Times & Seasons – Unity B1

Collects

Heavenly Father,
you have called us in the Body of your Son Jesus Christ
to continue his work of reconciliation
and reveal you to the world.
Forgive us the sins which tear us apart;
give us the courage to overcome our fears
and to seek that unity which is your gift and your will;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

CW: Times & Seasons – Unity F1

Risen Christ,
for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred:
open the doors of our hearts,
that we may seek the good of others
and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace,
to the praise of God the Father.

CW: Alt Collect for Easter 2

For Intercessions see Part 1.

Introduction to the Peace

We are the body of Christ.
In the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.
Let us then pursue all that makes for peace
and builds up our common life.

CW: Times & Seasons – Baptism of Christ J3

Post Communion

Go before us, Lord, in all we do
with your most gracious favour,
and guide us with your continual help,
that in all our works
begun, continued and ended in you,
we may glorify your holy name,
and finally by your mercy receive everlasting life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

CW: 4 before Lent

Blessings

May the God of steadfastness and encouragement
grant you to live in harmony with one another,
so that together you may with one voice
glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ;
and the blessing ...

Go forth into the world in peace;
be of good courage;
hold fast that which is good;
render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak;
help the afflicted; honour everyone;
love and serve the Lord,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;
and the blessing ...

New Patterns for Worship J104

A Prayer for those who Govern

Eternal God,
fount and source of all authority and wisdom,
hear our prayer for those who govern;
give to Elizabeth our Queen grace
as the symbol of loyalty and unity
for all our different peoples;
give to the parliaments in these islands,
and especially to our Government,
wisdom and skill, imagination and energy;
give to the members of the European institutions
vision, understanding and integrity,
that all may live in peace and happiness, truth and prosperity;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

CW: Main Volume

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