

EVENING PRAYER

Pause

As I enter prayer now, I pause to be still; to breathe slowly; to re-centre my scattered senses upon the presence of God.

(Mark 4:39) '**Peace, Be Still**'

Prayer of invitation

Eternal Father thank you that you are 'my rock and my salvation' (Psalm 62). Speak with me now as I spend this time with you. May your presence be peace to me, your promises fuel faith in me, and your purposes be fulfilled in me.

The Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son,
our Lord and Saviour.
He was conceived by the power of the
Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day He rose again,
He ascended into heaven,
And is seated at the right hand
of the Father.
He will come again to judge
the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
The communion of Saints,
The forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body,
And the Life everlasting.
Amen.

(Psalm 62:1-2, 5-8)

**I wait quietly before God,
for my victory comes from him.
He alone is my rock and my
salvation,
my fortress where I will never be
shaken.
Let all that I am wait quietly
before God,
for my hope is in him.
He alone is my rock and my
salvation,
my fortress where I will not be
shaken.
My victory and honour come
from God alone.
He is my refuge, a rock where no
enemy can reach me.
O my people, trust in him at all
times.
Pour out your heart to him,
for God is our refuge.**

Intercessions

Before interceding for others take time now to hand any worries or concerns that may be troubling you over to God, inviting him to be Lord over these things

(Philippians 4:6-7) **Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.**

A prayer for national repentance (based loosely on Daniel chapter 9)

Lord, your word says that, ***“If your people, will humble themselves and pray, seek your face and turn from their wicked ways, then you will hear from heaven, forgive their sin and heal their land.”*** (2 Chronicles 7:14)

So we, your people are humbly asking for your forgiveness; for us as individuals and as a nation. We have rebelled and turned away from you and have not worshipped you with all our heart, with all our soul and with all our strength. As a nation we have turned to other gods, and have blatantly ignored and rebelled against your laws and commands.

We confess our pride in thinking that we are in control, we confess our selfishness, greed and wickedness in this land. Lord please forgive us.

Thank you Lord, that you are merciful and forgiving, even though we all have rebelled against you again and again. We know from your word that you are an all-powerful God, that you have rescued your people time and time again despite their unfaithfulness. So Lord, in keeping with all your righteous acts, we pray, look with favour on your creation, and on our nation. We do not make requests of you because we are righteous, but because of your great mercy.

Lord please listen and forgive us, turn this nation back to you. Please pour out your Spirit on this land; transforming hearts, that we all may be filled with the love and compassion of Christ; so that you will be glorified once again throughout your church and this land. Amen

A prayer for the nation's healing and deliverance

Thank you that the coronavirus, and all the frightening circumstances popping up around it, are not frightening to you. Thank you that you know everything there is to know about this virus. Thank you for this desperately needed reminder that we need you. Lord, I confess that I spend so much time thinking and acting as if I were self-sufficient. Forgive me. Help me to remember that I depend on you for everything I need, whether I feel healthy or sick, whether the global economy is healthy or sick. Use this time to teach me to trust you more during good times and bad. Father, please pour out your common grace on our world to halt this virus in its tracks. All things are possible for you, Father. And so I ask for healing for this sick world.

A prayer for our government

Almighty and eternal God, you teach us in your word that the hearts of rulers are under your sovereign control, and that you incline and turn them according to your godly wisdom: so Lord we pray that you would guide our government, may they make wise decisions with pure and selfless motives. May you give them endurance, integrity and courage to do what is right in your sight and for the good of all.

A prayer for the church

Father of all, we come before you as your church. Anoint us afresh with your life giving Spirit; may we abide in you and you in us so that we can bear much fruit for your glory. Give us your Spirit of Love, Wisdom and Power that we will be worthy ambassadors of your Kingdom. May we be the church you call us to be in this season; shining like beacons of hope and love to our communities. Please strengthen us, corporately and individually, to minister your grace and love at this time. May our words of hope and truth; and our deeds of love and kindness speak volumes to all you place before us. Keep us 'joyful in hope, patient in affliction and faithful in prayer' (Rom 12:2).

Praise

Take a moment to praise God using one of the following two scriptures

Psalm 86:9-13

**All the nations you made
will come and bow before you, Lord;
they will praise your holy name.**

**For you are great and perform
wonderful deeds.**

You alone are God.

**Teach me your ways, O Lord,
that I may live according to your truth!**

**Grant me purity of heart,
that I may honour you.**

**With all my heart I will praise you,
O Lord my God.**

**I will give glory to your name forever,
for your love for me is very great.**

Psalm 145

**I will exalt you,
my God and King,
I will praise your name
forever
and ever.**

**I will praise you
every day;**

**Yes, I will praise
you forever.**

**Great is the Lord!
He is most worthy
of praise!**

**No one can measure
his greatness.**

Yielding

Finish by using one of the prayers below as you yield your life to God once again

A prayer of yielding (A)

Lord, I choose to yield myself to you again, and humble myself before you and others.

I determine to seek your face, and turn my affection and attentions to you and not the lesser things of life.

A prayer of yielding (B)

Help us, O Lord, by your grace, to fulfil the purposes for which you have created us and redeemed us.

May all our days here on earth be of service to others and accomplish something of worth for your kingdom and your glory; Through Christ our Lord and Saviour, Amen.