



A Collection of Prayers

SPARK
HOUSE

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Introduction

This is a book of prayers that you can use on your own or with your congregation. The prayers cover a variety of topics, from one's personal relationship with God to world leaders and issues of justice for all people. Use these when you are looking for inspiration or are having trouble putting words to what you would like to say to God, and rest in the knowledge that God hears not only the words of our mouths but also the words of our hearts.

Prayers

Prayer 1 Serving one God

Lord, you have searched me, and you know me. You gently peel back the layers of deception and despair and delight in my days. Direct my heart to worship. Free me from my own egotistical idols. Let me serve only one God. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Prayer 2 Doing God's will

Lord, you know when I sit and when I rise. You are familiar with all my ways. Unclench my hands. Unleash my limbs. Strengthen my spirit that I may move unencumbered into your presence and do your will. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Prayer 3 Joining voices

Before a word is on my tongue, you know it completely, O Lord. You hear the language of my heart and lay open your ear to my requests. Make my words gentle. Join my voice to others who worship that our prayers may be one as you have made us one. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Prayer 4 Moving into the Presence

Move with me, O Lord. Direct my desires and draw me into your light. Guide me with your hand. With your righteousness hold me fast. For your presence is my path and your Spirit sends me into your service. Guide me, gentle shepherd. Show me your ways. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Prayer 5 Praise for God's work

Your works are wonderful, O Lord. I say to my hand, "Move," and it does. I whisper to my feet, "Walk," and they do. I laugh with a God-given breath and my heart continues the rhythm you gave me before I was born. I am, I am, I am, I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Amen.

Prayer 6 Praise for God's faithfulness

Lord, if I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I descend to the depths, you are there. You refuse to depart and leave me in my despair. You sit as a friend in the silence of my sin and cover me with a blanket of blessing. I appear at your altar and you do not send me away. Great is your faithfulness, O Lord. Amen.

Prayer 7 Awakening

Worship with me, O Lord. Come open my heart and let me sing harmony to your tune. Let your voice vibrate a new string and your words awaken a lost language. Worship with me, O Lord. Stir me from my slumbers. When I awake, I am still with you. Worship with me, O Lord. Amen.

Prayer 8 Travelers and seekers

Dear God, Creator of the whole Earth, thank you for sharing yourself with us so that we might know your great story. Help us open our minds and our hearts to learn the stories of all your people everywhere as we travel this great world, and strengthen us so that we might not be afraid to share how your love has changed our lives. Amen.

Prayer 9 Leaders

Almighty God, One-in-Three, you are mysterious, and yet you let us know you intimately through your Son, Jesus. We lift up our leaders today, from those around us who keep us safe at home, to those of our nation who guide our country. But mostly we pray for the leaders of the world that you might give them heads filled with wisdom and hearts full of mercy. May all leaders everywhere be strong and courageous and work together toward your vision for Creation. Amen.

Prayer 10 Christian community

Gracious God, we confess one Lord, one faith, one baptism. Grant us the grace to reach out to all the members of the body of Christ with arms of understanding and love. Empower us to work together to serve you, and to bring your love to bear against fear. Use us who belong to you in whatever way you see that the world needs. Amen.

Prayer 11 Understanding and discovery

O God of wisdom and knowledge, incline your ear to hear our prayers and teach us to listen to your Word. Use each of us in the body of Christ to teach and encourage each other as we seek to understand your will and discern your call to us. Enrich our lives through the discovery of the treasures of your Holy Scripture, and nourish us with your visible Word in the sacraments of water, bread, and wine. We stand at the ready to do your will. O God, send us today. Amen.

Prayer 12 Mother Earth

Creator God, you whose fingers fashioned the universe and who spoke the world into being with the Word of life, teach us to care for the world which you have made and so graciously given to us. As stewards of the Earth, use us to preserve the ecological balance that you intended at the beginning, and strengthen us to make wise choices as we consume only what we need and renew and sustain our resources so that all of your children may have what they need for abundant life in you. Amen.

Prayer 13 Economic justice

Great God of justice and compassion, you have always had a special heart for the lost and those on the edges of acceptance. Teach us the art of loving those who are different from us and understanding those who do not fit into the boxes society has created. Use us to work to share the riches of the earth among all your children, to reduce the abuses of racism, sexism, and classism, and to work for justice and peace wherever we are and whatever we are doing, so that you may be glorified by your creation. Amen.

Prayer 14 Thanks for the Bible

Author of all creation, we give you thanks for inspiring the writers of the Bible, your holy Word, to share your word. Help us to turn to it through all the many days of our lives so that we may find guidance for our living. Amen.

Prayer 15 Help in discerning

Loving God, as we read your word, help us to discern its meaning for the life of our congregation in this community. May it empower us to witness to your love in the world in many new ways. Amen.

Prayer 16 Comfort in the Bible's message

O God, when we are uncertain or struggling with life, help us to turn to the Bible for guidance and for comfort. May we find within its pages hope and strength for our daily living. Inspire us to recognize the relevance of your word for all times and places. Amen.

Prayer 17 Promise to witness

God of all ages, help us to read the Bible and recognize that we are part of its continuing story, connected to it through your Son, Jesus Christ. May we come to know that he is truly the vine and we are the branches. May we be empowered to bear much fruit in him. Amen.

Prayer 18 Recognition of our call

O God, may we be like Samuel who, when you called him, said, “Here I am!” Empower us to listen to your word and to hear your call to us so that we might more fully live out our vocation as your disciples in the world. Amen.

Prayer 19 Deepen our relationship

O God, you are our loving parent who gave everything for us so that we might come to know the depth of your love for us. As we read your word and meditate on it, use it to deepen our relationship with you so that we might truly grow in faith. Amen.

Here are the rest of our resources in this series of creative ideas for worship

