

Prayers of Creation

Here are some of our prayers which can be used in church services or personal devotions, preferably when out of doors. While we always retain copyright, you are welcome to copy and use them in services. We are available to help with constructing services if you so wish.

These prayers should be read very, very slowly. You should not be afraid of making long pauses at colons, semi-colons and full stops so there is time to absorb the inner simplicity of these prayers and to grasp any deeper meaning. We hope you find them useful and include suggestions for Bible readings which you might read and meditate on beforehand.

A morning prayer

Suggested reading: Psalm 95 v1-6

We praise you:

For the rising sun that warms us and brings life and growth to the cold earth;
For the morning dew that freshens the grass and flowers of the fields;
For the gathering light by which to work to earn our daily bread.

We bless you:

For the light of Christ that casts out fear and gives us hope;
For the love of Christ that gladdens our hearts and brings us cheer;
For the strength of Christ so we may overcome the challenges of this new day.

And we thank you:

For those we love; for all we will receive of your bounty; and for your presence with us every hour; this day and always.

A prayer at a holy well or by running water

Suggested reading: John 4: v13-14 & 23-24

Creating Spirit, our lives are but a barren desert without you;
Redeeming Spirit, we yearn for you as dry fields yearn for rain;
Holy Spirit, you offer new life to souls made dry and weary by this world's woes;

O Holy Trinity, pour your grace into our hearts so we may be refreshed and renewed;

Enrich and enliven your Church so it may be to this world a true spring of water welling up to eternal life with you forever.

A prayer on a hill or mountain

Suggested reading: Matthew 17: v1-8

Lord Jesus Christ, you led your disciples up on to a high place to see you radiant in your glory;

We praise you for the splendour of Creation which here surrounds us.

Help us to see your beauty in every tree and flower, your death and glorious resurrection in the rhythm and seasons of the earth;

Inspire us by your Holy Spirit to work together to protect all you helped to create;

This day and always.

A prayer where ashes have been scattered or at a funeral

Suggested readings: Psalm 8, 65, 100 or 148

In the sun we feel the warmth of your great love for us;
In the moon we see the gentle radiance of your glory;
In the stars we catch a glimpse of your infinite majesty and greatness.

Yet in the dew we can see the sparkle of sweat on your brow;
In the grass of the fields run our fingers through your hair;
And in the streams we hear your voice softly speaking words of love to us.

In every flower we smell your fragrance;
In each bird's song hear your sweet call;
In every tree we can touch your face and hold you close;

And in the earth be made one with you again one day forever.

A litany before a crucifix

Suggested reading: Mark 15: v1-39

With arms outstretched and in penitence, let us pray to the Lord.

My Lord and Saviour, confronted by the wounds of your passion, we pray for the world you died to redeem.

For your wounded hands in yet more new roads driven through fields and woodlands;
For your tortured feet in ever-more sprawling cities;
For your piercéd side in smoking chimneys and land fill sites.

For company directors who betray you and condemn you for greater profits;
For politicians who shout "Crucify him!" in the name of progress;

For property developers who play dice to build on fields that clothe you in their beauty.

Forgive them, Lord, for they know not what they do.

Hold your cross before them; hold them with your wounded hands; let them touch your tortured feet; let them kiss your pierced side.

Then may they too see you crucified in your Creation and turn from sin and be saved.

Prayer before a tree in winter

Suggested reading: Psalm 22, Isaiah Ch 53

Lord Jesus, I come to you in humility and sorrow;
Shorn too of beauty and devoid of hope;
Denuded by the cold winds of this vain world;
Surrounded by the dead leaves of my foolishness and pride.

May your sun rise again and warm my heart;
The sap flow in my veins that I may grow once more;
Your Spirit burst forth in my life so I may be fruitful.

Then shall I offer shelter to those who need peace;
Shade for the weary;
Nourishment for all that hunger for you.

Then will I smile and praise you when the summer comes again.

A prayer as night falls

Suggested readings: Psalm 4, 46 or 91

As the setting sun reddens the western sky, we bless you;
As the moon rises in the east to greet the coming night, we worship you;
As another day draws to an end and the evening stars appear, we praise you.

This night the seas will rise and sweep clean sands whose beauty has been marred by restless footsteps;

Restore your image in us, Lord, as we sleep, which we have wounded by our foolishness and greed;

Bless and protect us, Lord, and those we love; grant us a quiet night and a perfect end, so may we greet you, come the dawn, with hearts and minds made new.

Pebble prayer

Suggested reading: Psalm 1

To be said meditatively while holding a pebble from the beach.

This stone has ground against others for many years to be made this smooth thing of beauty;

I ask forgiveness for hurting those who love me;
I repent of the harm I have done to others;
I am sorry for marring your image in me.

Rub away my hard edges and shape my personality;
Smooth the roughness in my heart;
And dull the sharpness of my tongue;

Fashioned me into the likeness of Christ so I too may become a thing of beauty.

Caim prayer

Suggested reading: Psalm 91

Such prayers are said traditionally when drawing a protective circle around oneself in times of danger

Mighty One, you are my faithful companion on the path I walk; my stout staff to lean on; a firm rock on which I can rest:

Surround me now with your great power;
Encircle me with your love;
Defend me on every side from all the assaults of my enemies.

So keep me safe within your ramparts until I reach my journey's end and I am safe with you forever.

Beach prayer

I pray for those this world has crushed and defeated; those who now cling to life as the dry, knotted seaweed clings to these rocks.

Cover them by the tide of your concern;
Immerse them in the waves of your love;
Drown them with the sea of your presence.

Then may they then dance to and fro once more in the clear, sparking waters of your Spirit and be made new.

A prayer in the autumn of life

Strong One, protect me as I grow older:

From the demons of despair when I am lonely;
From the spirits of those whose hearts are false;
From the Adversary, the Evil One, who would make me fall.

And Mighty Michael, Protector of Cornwall, captain of the angelic host, defend me too on every side.

Send forth my guardian angels, the holy ones appointed to defend and protect me through the dark nights of my soul.

So may I rest in peace this day, this night and always, and rise one day in light eternal.