***Prayer Templates***

*Updated 10 August 2021*

This document contains a number of templates for use as a basis for the Prayers of the People at the Congregation of Mark the Evangelist.

Several of these are based on the structure of prayers in Janet Nelson’s Let us Pray. Copies of Nelson’s book, which links the prayers to the themes of Sunday readings, are also available for borrowing from the church. Prayer leaders are encouraged to modify the order of Nelson’s sections to prioritise the prayers for the church, as has been done in these models.

Other prayers here are taken from or based on an online prayer resource of the Church of England. These are a shorter, less wordy form.

**When leading the prayers, please remember the following:**

1. *Tell the congregation what we are doing!*

This can be done with a sentence like “Let us bring our concerns for the church, the world, and ourselves before God…” or simply “Let us pray”. Without this, the prayers will seem to begin very abruptly

1. *Finish the prayer with a collect, if there is not already one there (this “collect” is pronounced with the emphasis on the “o”: c­óllect).*

This rounds off the prayer, and indicates to the congregation where to join in on the final prayer. A series of collects for the Sundays of the year can be found [here](http://www.bcponline.org/Collects/seasonsc.html); you’ll need to hunt through to the appropriate Sunday, or choose one which seems appropriate to your prayer.

Another set of lectionary-linked collects can be found [here](https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/). To access these, click on the link for ‘READINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK’ (assuming you’re on the correct week!) and find the ‘PRAYER’ link on the right-hand side of the page (on a PC/Mac). Various opening and closing prayers are found on the page which appears.

**1.**

*(“Let us bring our concerns for the church, the world, and ourselves before God…”, “Let us pray”, or similar…)*

Loving God,

as you have taught us, we come to you in prayer

– send us mercy and grace.

We pray for your church:

for all who strive to live faithful lives,

for all who are persecuted for their faith;

for priests, pastors, deacons and all who minister to your people.

We pray for…

[specific prayers from the prayer cycle or life of the congregation; MtE: members’ names as per the pew sheet (first name only)]

Loving God, lead us in the ways of faithfulness,

that our lives might glorify you.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

We pray for the world, bringing before you

those whose lives are torn y war,

those whose hope have been dashed by injustice;

those who make political, economic and social decisions on our behalf.

We pray for…

[current affairs, ecumenical prayer cycle, as appropriate…]

Loving God, lead us in the ways of justice,

that peace and prosperity might be the experience of all your people.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for ourselves and those around us:

We bring before you the lonely and the isolated,

the fearful and the anxious

the sick and the dying

We pray for…

[specific pastoral prayers, if requested]

And we pray for ourselves…

Loving God, lead us in the ways of hope,

that not despair but confidence in you might be the mark of our lives.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*Conclude with a collect, from* [*here*](http://www.bcponline.org/Collects/seasonsc.html) *or* [*here*](https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/)

**2.**

*(“Let us bring our concerns for the church, the world, and ourselves before God…”, “Let us pray”, or similar…)*

Holy God our loving Father, hear the prayers of your people today.

We pray for Christ’s Body, the church:

may it seek faithfulness in serving you,

may it seek unity, to your glory,

may it serve freely and openly the world around it.

We pray for…

[specific prayers from the prayer cycle or life of the congregation; MtE: members’ names as per the pew sheet (first name only)]

Holy God, re-create us as a people of faith, hope and love.

Lord hear us, **Lord hear our prayer.**

We pray our world.

We pray for the preservation of the earth and the well-being of our environment.

We pray for justice in the sharing of its abundant riches.

We pray those who suffer from starvation or disease,

and for the victims of unjust oppression

We pray for…

[current affairs, ecumenical prayer cycle, as appropriate…]

Holy God, bring harmony to our world.

Lord hear us, **Lord hear our prayer.**

We pray our communities:

for the protection of the vulnerable,

for those without work,

for those without a place to live,

for the ill and those who care for them.

We pray for…

[specific pastoral prayers, if requested]

And we pray for ourselves…

Holy God, have mercy on your people.

Lord hear us, **Lord hear our prayer.**

*Conclude with a collect, from* [*here*](http://www.bcponline.org/Collects/seasonsc.html) *or* [*here*](https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/)*.*

**3.**

*(“Let us bring our concerns for the church, the world, and ourselves before God…”, “Let us pray”, or similar…)*

Trusting that you Lord, hear our prayer, we come to you today with the needs of your people praying,

Lord hear us, **Lord, hear our prayer**.

God of this church, you bring hope to all who believe in you.

We pray for your holy, catholic church:

for all Christians, sharing in Christ’s ministry;

for the ministry and mission of the church throughout the world;

for unity between Christians.

We pray for…

[specific prayers from the prayer cycle or life of the congregation; MtE: members’ names as per the pew sheet (first name only)]

Lord hear us, **Lord, hear our prayer.**

God of this world, you have brought into being a creation abounding with good things.

We pray for the fragile earth, and for its wise and just use.

We pray for the peoples of the world:

for all afflicted by war, oppression or poverty;

for wise, courageous and compassionate government;

and for peace and harmony among the nations.

We pray for…

[current affairs, ecumenical prayer cycle, as appropriate…]

Lord hear us, **Lord, hear our prayer.**

God of our lives, you have placed us in a community of care for each other.

We pray for those who inhabit the fringes of our society:

for the homeless and the unemployed;

for the mentally ill.

We pray for all who suffer:

for the lonely and the lost,

for those in sickness or in pain,

for all who grieve.

We pray for…

[specific pastoral prayers, if requested]

And we pray for ourselves…

Lord hear us,

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Conclude with a collect, from* [*here*](http://www.bcponline.org/Collects/seasonsc.html) *or* [*here*](https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/)*.*

The following prayers, being shorter and less wordy, allow for more use of silence in the prayer, if that seems appropriate to the time and space of a particular worship service. A great many other options of prayers like these are available from [the original online resource](http://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-worship/worship/texts/daily2/prayers/prayers.aspx) from which those below are taken or adapted. The online collection has a number of prayers suited to particular times of the year, in addition to the general ones given below.

When using these prayers, you can either have them printed in the order for the congregation to read and join in on the response (when there is no repeated “cue” for the congregation to respond), or use a simply line and response to conclude each petition in the set (e.g., Lord in your mercy, ***Hear our Prayer***).

If the congregational response you want to use is unfamiliar and not included in the pew sheet, introduce it and practice it before the prayer begins, thus:

1. “When you hear me say “God the Holy Spirit”, please respond “Have mercy on your needy people”
2. *THEN* Say this again, so the congregation can practice the response: “God the Holy Spirit”, “***Have mercy on your needy people***”
3. *Then begin the prayer*

These prayers should also be concluded with a closing collect so that the congregation can join in on the final Amen.

**1**

We pray for God's grace.  
Lord, receive our praise **All**  **and hear our prayer.**

Lord God, through your grace we are your people:  
through your Son you have redeemed us;  
in your Spirit you have made us your own.

We pray for … (*the Church*)  
Make our hearts respond to your love.  
Lord, receive our praise **All**  **and hear our prayer.**

We pray for … (*the world*)  
Make our lives bear witness to your glory in the world.  
Lord, receive our praise **All**  **and hear our prayer.**

We pray for … (*the sick and those in need*)  
Make our wills eager to obey, and our hands ready to heal.  
Lord, receive our praise **All**  **and hear our prayer.**

We give you thanks for …  
Make our voices one with all your people in heaven and on earth.

*Conclude with a collect, from* [*here*](http://www.bcponline.org/Collects/seasonsc.html) *or* [*here*](https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/)

**2**

For the unity of the Church in witness and  
proclamation of the Gospel …  
let us pray to the Lord: ***R***

For the peace and stability of all peoples  
and for the leaders of the nations …  
let us pray to the Lord: ***R***

For places of work, education and leisure …  
let us pray to the Lord: ***R***

For a blessing on our homes;  
for our relations and friends and all whom we love …  
let us pray to the Lord: ***R***

For the sick and suffering and all who minister to their needs …  
let us pray to the Lord: ***R***

Let us commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray,  
to the mercy and protection of God.

*Conclude with a collect, from* [*here*](http://www.bcponline.org/Collects/seasonsc.html) *or* [*here*](https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/)

**3**

Let us pray to God the Father,  
who has reconciled all things to himself in Christ:

For peace among the nations,  
that God may rid the world of violence  
and let peoples grow in justice and harmony …

For those who serve in public office,  
that they may work for the common good …

For Christian people everywhere,  
that we may joyfully proclaim and live our faith in Jesus Christ …

For those who suffer from hunger, sickness or loneliness,  
that the presence of Christ may bring them  
health and wholeness …

Let us commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray,  
to the mercy and protection of God.

*Conclude with a collect, from* [*here*](http://www.bcponline.org/Collects/seasonsc.html) *or* [*here*](https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/)

**4**

Watchful at all times,  
let us pray for strength to stand with confidence  
before our Maker and Redeemer.

That God may bring in his kingdom with justice and mercy,  
let us pray to the Lord: ***R***

That God may establish among the nations  
his sceptre of righteousness,  
let us pray to the Lord: ***R***

That we may seek Christ in the scriptures  
and recognize him in the breaking of the bread,  
let us pray to the Lord: ***R***

That God may bind up the brokenhearted,  
restore the sick  
and raise up all who have fallen,  
let us pray to the Lord: ***R***

That the light of God's coming may dawn  
on all who live in darkness and the shadow of death,  
let us pray to the Lord: ***R***

That, with all the saints in light,  
we may shine forth as lights for the world,  
let us pray to the Lord: ***R***

*Conclude with a collect, from* [*here*](http://www.bcponline.org/Collects/seasonsc.html) *or* [*here*](https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/)

**5**

In penitence and faith let us make our prayer to the Father  
and ask for his mercy and grace.

For your holy people,  
that they may triumph over evil and grow in grace,  
we pray to you, O Lord: ***R***

For candidates for baptism and confirmation,  
that they may live by every word that proceeds from your mouth,  
we pray to you, O Lord: ***R***

For the leaders of the nations,  
that you will guide them in the ways of mercy and truth,  
we pray to you, O Lord: ***R***

For the needy,  
that they may not be forgotten,  
nor the hope of the poor be taken away,  
we pray to you, O Lord: ***R***

For the sick in body, mind and spirit,  
that they may know your power to heal,  
we pray to you, O Lord: ***R***

For the poor in spirit,  
that they may inherit the kingdom of heaven  
and see you face to face,  
we pray to you, O Lord: ***R***

Let us commend the world, for which Christ suffered,  
to the mercy and protection of God.

*Conclude with a collect, from* [*here*](http://www.bcponline.org/Collects/seasonsc.html) *or* [*here*](https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/)