

A Season of Repentance

Prayers for Repentance and Reconciliation

**Resources commended to the Churches of
the Anglican Communion by the Primates'
Meeting**

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Introduction

In 2018 the Task Group established by the Archbishop of Canterbury at the request of the Primates' Meeting asked the International Anglican Liturgical Consultation (IALC) to draft liturgical resources for the Anglican Communion.

In 2020 the Primates' Meeting commended two sets of liturgical material to the Churches of the Anglican Communion.

Praying with One Voice contains prayers and readings around Anglican unity, to be included in any service. It also has a Eucharistic Prayer which may be used in any Church of the Anglican Communion.

A Season of Repentance originated in work offered in draft to the Primates by IALC.

The Primates suggest that the Fifth Sunday in Lent is a suitable time to focus on a season of penitence, using some of the material provided here within an act of worship.

Use of all liturgical materials in each Church of the Anglican Communion is determined by canon.

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Both texts may be found [at anglicancommunion.org/prayer](http://anglicancommunion.org/prayer).

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Collects for the unity of the Anglican Communion

Almighty God,
who has called us
to be members of the Anglican Communion;
grant we pray,
that we may understand the mission
which you have entrusted to us
and our responsibility to those separated from us;
that, confessing our failings in the past,
we may go forward in unity, truth and love
to the fulfilment of our common calling as your disciples,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen

Faithful God,
you have called us to belong together
in the Anglican Communion:
bless us with gratitude for our heritage,
joy in our diversity,
and confidence that you hold us in one embrace
in the love you share
with your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ
and the Holy Spirit,
one God, in glory everlasting.

All Amen.

Holy Trinity, one God,
in baptism you have made us your beloved sons and daughters:
have mercy on your Church,
and on our Anglican Communion.
When we are divided by history, habit or sin,
forgive us, and restore us to mutual love,
united in your Spirit,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

Prayers of confession

It may be important to use the General Confession after a time when those who will be praying it together have individually had the opportunity for one or more of:

- a. *silent reflection on personal failures of unity*
- b. *one-to-one conversation and informal confession of personal failures of unity*
- c. *formal, sacramental Confession / Order of reconciliation of a penitent*
- d. *anointing with oil with prayer for healing*

The text may be adapted to a responsive form with a leader and voice response and / or silences.

General Confession

Let us confess our sins, trusting in God's forgiveness,
as we pray together:

**All Lord Jesus Christ,
you prayed for your friends
that they would be one
as you and your Father are one.**

**We confess our resistance to your prayer.
We have failed to maintain the unity of the Spirit.
We have broken the bond of peace.**

**For the times we have not listened to each other,
when we have spoken in anger, haste or fear,
we are sorry.**

**For the times we have not loved each other,
when we have competed, or insulted or judged each
other,
we are sorry.**

**For the harm that our disunity has done
to our witness to the Gospel,
we are sorry.**

**Have mercy on us, we pray.
Restore us to friendship with you
and with one another,
through the power of your Spirit. Amen.**

A responsive Confession

For being quick to see the sins of others,
and slow to repent of our own,

All forgive us, Lord.

For clinging to remembered hurts,
and brushing off gestures of kindness,

All forgive us, Lord.

For the divisions among us
that damage our mission to the world,

All forgive us, Lord.

For the work we have not done
because we refused to do it together,

All forgive us, Lord.

**All For these and all our sins, O God,
we weep in sorrow
and ask for your forgiveness,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

A Prayer of Confession and Lament

O Christ,
your body is stretched and torn
by your friends who cannot befriend each other.

We bring long-held grudges
and recent grievances,
and we chew them over,
even at the foot of your cross.

We tiptoe around chasms of misunderstanding,
we pick our way anxiously
among stumbling-blocks
of language and culture,
and blame each other
for every mis-step,
even while singing of your Spirit.

We tremble to name the troubles we see
in the Church and the world,
for fear of our own sins finding us out,
for fear that we will become easy targets
for everyone's hostility.

Have pity on us,
for our hands are not strong enough
and our hearts are not big enough
to hold all together in love.

When will you come to us,
foolish as we are,
downcast and despairing?

When will you send us a breath of your Spirit
with the perfume of resurrection and hope?

Silence is kept

A minister may say

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.
The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness did not overcome it.

All Thanks be to God.

Responsive Confession, based on the Five Marks of Mission

Loving God,
we confess our failure to share
the good news of your saving love.

All Forgive us and renew us in discipleship.

Guiding God,
we confess our unwillingness to invest
in growth of faith and Christian teaching.

All Forgive us and renew us in our commitment to education.

Enriching God,
we confess our greed and failure
to share our gifts
of time, talents and wealth.

All Forgive us and renew us in generosity.

Compassionate God,
we confess our fear, prejudice and hatred
which lead to cruelty and injustice.

All Forgive us and renew us in love.

Creator God,
we confess our sins of selfish indifference
to the welfare of your creation.

All Forgive us and renew us in care for our world.

**All Merciful God, renew us in your mission:
help us to tell your good news,
teach your truth,
treasure and share your gifts,
transform patterns of injustice,
and tend your creation.**

As you call us to your service,

All make us worthy of our calling.

Kyries

A. Unity in faith and love

Lord Jesus,
you call us into one family,
as your sisters and brothers:
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus,
you have commanded us to love one another
as you have loved us:
Christ have mercy.

All Christ have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you look for the day when true worshippers will
worship in spirit and in truth:
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

B. Unity in baptism

God sends his Spirit into our hearts,
and so we call him Father:
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

In the waters of baptism
we die and rise with Christ:
Christ, have mercy.

All Christ have mercy.

In the one Spirit
we are all baptised into one body:
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

Words of assurance or absolution

Words of assurance

These may also be used as an introduction to the Greeting of Peace at the Eucharist.

No powers, no height nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation
can separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Christ offers us the gift of peace,
peace that the world cannot give.
Christ calls us back into communion with him
and with each other.
May the peace he breathes on us
become our gift for the world he loves.

All Amen.

Jesus said, 'Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.'
Through his death and resurrection,
our sins have been forgiven.
The Holy Spirit restores us
to communion with God and with each other.

All Thanks be to God.

Absolution

Jesus said, 'Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.'

I declare to you:

according to God's promise,
through the death and resurrection
of our Lord Jesus Christ,
your sins are forgiven.

Live from now on
as people restored by the Holy Spirit
to communion with God and with each other.

All Thanks be to God.

Intercessions

Intercessions based on the ‘Five Marks of Mission’

In these intercessions, Korean and Japanese writers have included a petition for victims and victimisers, based on their national context. The writers recognise that in situations of abuse, especially sexual abuse within the church and society, different terminology (eg perpetrator / survivor) is often used, and that it is not appropriate for survivors of abuse to be pressured to forgive their abusers. In these prayers, however, victimiser / victim points to cycles of national and international exploitation and violence, not situations of unequal personal power. The particular petition may be omitted in circumstances where it is considered inappropriate.

Let us pray for the church and the world.

The first mark

‘To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom’,
let us pray for the Church.

Silence

Lord, inspire your Church continually
with the grace of unity and truth.
May the leaders and peoples
of the Anglican Communion
be at peace
so that the Gospel of your glorious reign
can be proclaimed throughout the world.

Lord, hear our prayer.

All Lord, hear our prayer.

The second mark

‘To teach, baptise and nurture new believers’,
Let us pray for all believers,
members together of the body of Christ’.

Silence

Lord, give your great mercy and blessings
to all who are baptised and made one body in Jesus Christ.
Nourish us, with wisdom and courage from your pure heart,
to persevere in all good works.

Open our hearts to welcome people from their wandering
and make us walk together into the paths of your love and
peace.

Lord, hear our prayer.

All Lord, hear our prayer.

The third mark

‘To respond to human need by loving service’,
let us pray for the poor, the sick, and all who encounter
difficulties in life.

Silence

Lord, in the midst of this ever-changing world,
we ask your comfort and healing
for all who are troubled or ill.
Make us disciples who serve the people,
showing your love and mercy in action.

Lord, hear our prayer.

All Lord, hear our prayer.

The fourth mark

‘To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence
of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation’,
let us pray for justice and peace in the world.

Silence

Lord, grant peace to this world.
Guide the leaders of the nations in your ways,
bring evil, vice and falsehood to an end.
Empower us to transform unjust structures of society,
challenge violence of every kind,
and pursue peace and reconciliation.

Lord, hear our prayer.

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for reconciliation, and for the healing of hearts
among victims and victimisers in our history.

Silence

Lord, grant your grace for repentance to the victimisers,
and give your power to the victims
for forgiveness of their enemies,
so that all of us together may strive to break the chains of
oppression
and show the peace of Christ in the world.

Lord, hear our prayer.

All Lord, hear our prayer.

The fifth mark

‘To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and
renew the life of the earth’,
let us pray for all the goodness of God’s creation.

Silence

Lord, enlarge within us the sense of fellowship
with all living things in your whole creation,
who share this earth as a home in common with us.
We acknowledge with shame
that we have harmed the earth and broken its wholeness.
Free us from the bondage of decay
and drive us to safeguard the integrity of your creation.

Lord, hear our prayer.

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Let us remember those who have died.

Silence

Lord, we give thanks for all those who have died
awaiting the resurrection.
We remember all in the Anglican Communion
who have offered their lives for unity, peace and reconciliation.
May we, with them,
see your light shining on our souls,
and celebrate our communion
with the saints in heaven and earth.

Lord, hear our prayer.

All Lord, hear our prayer.

**All Almighty God,
we earnestly pray this
in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

A General Intercession

For the life of the Church,
for this Anglican Communion to flourish,
for unity among Christians,
and for every community of faith
to be fed with Scripture, sacraments
and the truth that sets us free,
we pray to you, O God.

All Lord, hear our prayer.

For the peace of the world,
for justice to be done,
for unity among the nations,
and for every child on earth
to grow up with freedom, dignity,
and enough to eat,
we pray to you, O God.

All Lord, hear our prayer.

For the health of our communities,
for our partners in work, study, rest and play,
and for every home
to be a place of friendship, forgiveness,
and care for neighbours and strangers,
we pray to you, O God.

All Lord, hear our prayer

For the weary and the grief-stricken,
for the sick and the prisoners,
and for each step of every journey
to lead us towards healing,
comfort and light,
we pray to you, O God.

All Lord, hear our prayer.

In unity with all the saints,
in thanksgiving for those who have gone before us,
and trusting that Christ will keep his promise
to bring us home to God
at our life's end,
we pray to you, O God.

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Holy God, we bring you
our half-formed hopes
and our glimpses of your plans for us:
give us all the blessings your heart desires,
with grace to receive them,
and to be transformed,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. All Amen.

A lament

The following prayer was written by The Most Revd Ng Moon Hing, Bishop of West Malaysia and Primate of the Church of the Province of South East Asia at the request of the Anglican Communion Primates' Task Group. It is in the spirit that was the hallmark of the Primates' Meeting in 2016 which led to the creation of the Task Group – a spirit of self-sacrifice and the honouring of others.

At the heart of this prayer is the recognition that all of us fall short of the glory of God. We need to acknowledge what we have done wrong and turn from it. We recognise that in Jesus Christ, our relationship with God and with one another is healed and restored.

Almighty God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
Sovereign Lord of the universe,
Creator of humankind,
we, your unfaithful children,
are truly sorry for our sins
and the lives that we have lived.
We sincerely believe and confess in our hearts
that only through the precious blood
of our Lord Jesus Christ on the cross at Calvary,
can we obtain your forgiveness.

We repent that:
in thought, word or deed,
we have committed serious offences against you
and our neighbours.

In laziness, despair and lust for power,
we have provoked hatred, division and hurt
within our communities.

In greed, deceit and indifference,
we have caused serious damage,
unnecessary conflict
and aggravated destruction
to our refugee and migrant brothers and sisters.

In selfishness, insensitivity and bias,
we have encouraged and emboldened
those who inflict hurt, pain and sorrow
on our loved ones and families.

In the name of religion, doctrine
and even of Christ himself,
we have wounded believers and pursuers of holiness and faith.

In stubbornness, pride and arrogance,
we have caused division and strife within your church
and among your children.

Mercifully send Your Holy Spirit,
the Spirit of order and comfort,
and cleanse us from all unrighteousness;
restore in us true faith in Christ
which brings truth, peace and harmony;
and help us to walk together
with our brothers and sisters
in the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
to the glory of your name.

All Amen.