

# Prayer Book For Pastoral Visitors



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## **Prayers for Pastoral Visitors**

(From "A Handbook for Parish Callers", Fortress Press, 1977)

Gracious God, I'm nervous about making this call. I'm afraid I won't do it well or that I'll say something stupid or that the people I'm talking to will reject me. Give me courage and help me say the right things so that Christ may be honoured through this visit. Amen.

Lord, bless the people we are going to call on. You know their needs, their interest. You are concerned for their welfare. Give us a real concern for them too. Help us speak according to your will for them. Let the love of Christ shine forth among us so that together we may receive your blessings and your name be glorified in our lives. Amen.

Almighty God, you are in control. Whatever happens, let it be part of your great plan. You are great and glorious! May your kingdom come, and your will be done. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Lord, use my presence in this home as a way you come into the midst of those who live here. Use my voice as an echo of your loving Gospel. Use my willingness to be a friend as an offer of your friendship to those I visit healing, helping, strengthening them in their known and unknown needs. Amen.

Almighty God, we have received so much from you. We want others to have these blessings to, so we go out in your name. We are afraid our efforts may not be adequate, but we consecrate ourselves to your service and ask that you will guide our words, actions, and attitudes so that your will is done. We know that you can work miracles and we ask that you work miracles in our lives and in the lives of those we visit. Amen.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, The power and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.

### **For Peace of Mind**

Almighty God, You know our anxieties and fears. Help me to cast all my cares on you, And to know that you live in me. Give me peace of mind, and sure trust in you, Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Before Treatment or Surgery**

Lord Jesus, by the loneliness of your suffering on the cross, be near to me in my need. Banish my fears, increase my faith; hold me in your love and fill me with your peace. For your name's sake. Amen

God of grace and comfort, enfold *N* with your mercy. Strengthen *Him/Her* with the shield of faith, and enable *Him/Her* to accept what is to come; heal *Him/Her* and bear *His/Her* pain, keep *Him/Her* in peace, and fix *His/Her* heart on you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen  
(A Prayer Book for Australia, Anglican Church of Australia)

### **For Health Care Professionals and Other Caregivers**

God, our Healer and Redeemer, we give thanks for the compassionate care *N* has received. Bless these and all health care providers. Give them knowledge, virtue, and patience; and strengthen them in their ministry of healing and comforting through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

(Enriching our Worship 2,  
Episcopal Church of the United States of America).

### **For Someone in Pain**

Jesus, you knew pain, you knew the loneliness, the weakness and the degradation it brings; you knew the agony. Jesus, your suffering is the only hope, the only reconciliation for those who suffer. Be with *N* as *He/She* grapples with the pain *He/She* suffers now. Be a promise to *Him/Her* that this present suffering will cease; be the hand that *He/She* can hold; be present, Saviour, for we need you now. Amen.

(A New Zealand Prayer Book)

### **Thanksgiving for the Beginning of Recovery or Convalescence**

Gracious God, we give you thanks and praise for the healing *N* has already received. Continue your gracious work in *Him/Her*, that rejoicing in the knowledge of your love and goodness, *He/She* may be fully restored to health and strength, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Anglican Prayer Book, 1999  
Church of the Province of Southern Africa)

### **Difficult Times**

O God, you know we are often filled with fear and foreboding. Give us courage and deepen our trust. You are a rock which nothing can shatter. On you we can place the whole weight of our lives. Amen

(Richard Harris)

Lord our God, Father of all, you guard us under the shadow of your wings and search into the depths of our hearts. Remove the blindness that cannot know you and relieve the fear that would hide us from your sight. In darkness and in light, in trouble and joy, help us, heavenly Father, to trust your love, to serve your purpose and to praise your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

(The Daily Office Revised [adapted])

### **For Strength, Hope, and Confidence**

Gracious God, give *N*, the gift of hope amidst *His/Her* perplexity of pain, that in quietness and trust, *He/She* may find *His/Her* rest in you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

(Anglican Prayer Book, 1999  
Church of the Province of Southern Africa)

### **For Those Facing Depression**

Gracious God, in times of sorrow and depression, when hope itself seems lost, help us to remember the transforming power of your steadfast love and to give thanks for that new life we cannot now imagine. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen

(Book of Alternative Services, Anglican Church of Canada)

### **Journey Through Life**

Gracious God, in our journey through life, Teach us to look back with gratitude and count our blessings, To look around with compassion and serve those in need, To look forward with confidence and trust for all that is to come, In the faith of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **For Family and Friends**

Gracious God, watch over those we love. Remove all anxious fears from them. Teach us to know that you are always near, and that we are one in You for ever; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **For the Aged**

Lord God, the giver of eternal life, look with mercy on all whose increasing years bring loneliness, distress, or weakness: give them understanding helpers and the willingness to accept help and, as their strength diminishes, increase their faith and assurance of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

All praise and glory are yours, O Lord our God, for you have called us to serve you in love. Bless all who have grown old in your service. Strengthen your servant *N* with your Holy Spirit, and keep *Him/Her* firm and serene in hope; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

God of all grace and power: Behold, visit, and relieve this your servant *N*; look upon *Him/Her* with the eyes of your mercy, give *Him/Her* comfort and sure confidence in you, defend *Him/Her* in all danger, and keep *Him/Her* in perpetual peace and safety; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Book of Common Prayer, Anglican Church of Canada)

### **Prayer at Night**

Be with us, merciful God, and protect us Through the silent hours of this night, That we who are wearied By the changes and chances of this fleeting world, May rest upon your eternal changelessness; Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Aaronic Blessing**

May the Lord bless you and keep you;  
May the Lord make his face to shine upon you;  
May the Lord lift up the light of His countenance and give you peace.  
Amen

## Suggested Psalms and Scriptures

Psalm 23: The Lord is my Shepherd

Psalm 27: 1, 3-5: The Lord is my light and my salvation

Psalm 46: God is our refuge and our strength

Psalm 56: 3-4: In my hour of fear, I will put my trust in you

Psalm 71: 18: Forsake me not, O God, in my old age

Psalm 91: He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High

Psalm 120: 1-6: When I was in trouble, I called to the Lord

Psalm 121: I lift my eyes to the hills, from where is my help to come

Psalm 130: Out of the depths, I have called to you

Matthew 11: 25-39: You will find rest for your souls

Matthew 11: 28-30: Come to me all you that are weary and heavy-laden

Mark 9: 24: Lord, I believe, help me in my unbelief

Luke 2: 29: Lord, now let your servant depart in peace

Luke 4: 40

Luke 9: 1-2, 6

Luke 17: 11-19

John 6: 47-51: I am the bread of life

John 10: 14-15, 27-28: I am the good shepherd

James 5: 13-16: Are any sick among you?

## **Jewish Prayers**

### **Prayer of Healing**

Heal us, Lord, and we shall be healed; save us, and we shall be saved; for it is You we praise. Send relief and healing for all our diseases, our sufferings and our wounds; for You are a merciful and faithful healer. Blessed are You Lord, who heals the sick. Amen

### **General Words of Comfort**

Loving God, Your healing power has saved me. You have sustained me in my weakness, supported me in my suffering, and set me on the road to recovery. By Your grace, I have found the strength to endure the hours of distress and pain. God, give me patience and peace of mind. Help me, after I have recovered, to express gratitude for all your mercies by greater devotion to Your service.

We praise You, O God, healer of the sick.

O God, who provides us with processes of healing, I am grateful for your tender care. Help me to regain my health completely. Strengthen my body during its recovery, and ease my burdens of anxiety and pain. May I be blessed with your comforting presence now and let my soul ever show forth my gratitude for the divine gift of life. Amen

### **A Jewish Prayer**

Blessed are you, O God of the Universe,  
For you have bound us together in a common life on this fragile planet.  
We confess and offer before you our misperceptions,  
Our hatred, our bigotry, and our deceit.  
Grant us understanding that is grounded in love,  
And reconciliation that grows out of humility.  
Open our hearts to the possibility and newness of your Covenant word.  
In the Name of the One God who is Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier,  
world without end.

Martin Bell



## **Prayer for the Dying**

Everlasting God, Creator of all that lives: although I pray for healing and continued life, still I know that I am mortal. Give me courage to accept my kinship with all who have come before me.

Alas, over the years, I have committed many wrongs; I know, too, I left much undone. Yet I also know the good I did or tried to do. That goodness imparts an eternal meaning to my life.

And as You are with me, so, I know, are You with my loved ones. This comforts my soul, O God my Rock and my Redeemer.

Into your hands I commend my spirit, both when I sleep and when I wake. Body and soul are Yours, O God, and in Your presence I cast off fear and am at rest.

Eternal One: You reign, You have reigned, You will reign for ever. Praised for ever be God's glorious majesty. The Eternal One alone is God.

Hear, O Israel: The Eternal One is our God, the Eternal God is one! Amen.

## **Prayer Before Surgery**

God, you are with me in my moments of strength and of weakness. You know the trembling of my heart as the turning point draws near.

Grant wisdom and skill to the mind and hands of those who will operate on me, and those who assist them. Grant that I may return to fullness of life and wholeness of strength, not for my sake alone but for those about me. Enable me to complete my days on earth with dignity and purpose. May I awaken to know the breadth of Your healing power now and evermore.

My spirit I commit to You, my body, too, and all I prize; Both when I sleep and when I wake, You are with me; I shall not fear. Amen.

## Bahai Prayers

### Times of Testing and Difficulties

O Thou Whose tests are a healing medicine to such as are nigh unto Thee, Whose sword is the ardent desire of all them that love Thee, Whose dart is the dearest wish of those hearts that yearn after Thee, Whose decree is the sole hope of them that have recognised Thy truth@ I iplore Thee, by Thy divine sweetness and by the splendours of the glory of Thy face, to send down upon us from Thy retreats on high that which will enable us to draw nigh unto Thee. Set, then, our fee firm, O my God, in Thy Cause, and enlighten our hearts with the effulgence of Thy knowledge, and illumine our breasts with the brightness of Thy names. (*Baha'u'llah*)

### In Times of Sickness

Thy name is my healing, O my God, and remembrance of Thee is my remedy. Nearness to Thee is my hope, and love for Thee is my companion. Thy mercy to me is my healing and my succor in both this world and the world to come. Thou, verily, art the All-Bountiful, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise.

(*Baha'u'llah*)

### Prayer for the Dying

O Lord! Thou art the Remover of every anguish and the Dispeller of every affliction. Thou art He Who banisheth every sorrow and setteth free every slave, the Redeemer of every soul. O Lord! Grant deliverance through Thy mercy, and reckon me among such servants of Thine as have gained salvation. (*The Bab*)

### **Prayer Before Surgery**

O God, my God! I beg of Thee by the ocean of Thy healing, and by the splendors of the Daystar of Thy grace, and by Thy Name through which Thou didst subdue Thy servants, and by the pervasive power of Thy most exalted Word and the potency of Thy most august Pen, and by Thy mercy that hath preceded the creation of all who are in heaven and on earth, to purge me with the waters of Thy bounty from every affliction and disorder, and from all weakness and feebleness.

Thou seest, O my Lord, Thy suppliant waiting at the door of Thy bounty, and him who hath set his hopes on Thee clinging to the cord of Thy generosity. Deny him not, I beseech Thee, the things he seeketh from the ocean of Thy grace and the Daystar of Thy loving-kindness.

Powerful art Thou to do what pleaseth Thee. There is none other God to save Thee, the Ever-Forgiving, the Most Generous. (*Baha'u'llah*)

### **General Words of Comfort**

O God! Refresh and gladden my spirit. Purify my heart. Illumine my powers. I lay all my affairs in Thy hand. Thou art my Guide and my Refuge. I will no longer be sorrowful and grieved; I will be a happy and joyful being. O God! I will no longer be full of anxiety, or will I let trouble harass me. I will not dwell on the unpleasant things of life.

O God! Thou art more friend to me than I am to myself. I dedicate myself to Thee. O Lord. (*Abdu'l-Baha*)

## First Nations' Prayers

### A Prayer for Peace

Let us know peace.  
For as long as the moon shall rise,  
For as long as the rivers shall flow,  
For as long as the sun will shine,  
For as long as the grass shall grow,  
Let us know peace.

Yellow Hawk, Sioux Chief

### Prayer

O Great Spirit, whose voice I hear in the winds, and whose breath gives life to all the world, hear me. I come before you, one of your children. I am small and weak. I need your strength and wisdom. Let me walk in beauty and make my eyes ever behold the red and purple sunset. Make my hands respect the things you have made and my ears sharp to hear your voice. Make me wise, so that I may know the things you have taught my people, the lesson you have hidden in every leaf and rock. I seek strength not to be superior to others, but to be able to fight my greatest enemy; myself. Make me ever ready to come to you, with clean hands and straight eyes, so when life fades as a fading sunset, my spirit may come to you without shame.

## **Celtic Spirituality**

### **Deep Peace**

Deep peace pure white of the moon to you.  
Deep peace pure green of the grass to you.  
Deep peace pure brown of the earth to you.  
Deep peace pure grey of the dew to you.  
Deep peace pure blue of the sky to you.

Deep peace of the running waves to you.  
Deep peace of the flowing air to you.  
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you.  
Deep peace of the shining stars to you.  
Deep peace of the Son of Peace to you.

Fiona MacLeod

### **Buddhist Reflection**

Now under the loving kindness and care of the Buddha, each believer of religion in the world transcends the differences of religion, race, and nationality, discards small differences and unites in oneness to discuss sincerely how to annihilate strife from the earth, how to reconstruct a world without arms, and how to build welfare and peace of mankind, so that never-ending light and happiness can be obtained for the world of the future. May the Lord Buddha give his loving kindness and blessing to us for the realisation of our prayers.

## **A Hindu Prayer**

May the winds, the oceans, the herbs, the nights and days, the Mother Earth, the Father Heaven, all vegetation, the sun, be all sweet to us. Let us follow the path of goodness for all times, like the sun and the moon moving eternally in the sky. Let us be charitable to one another.

Let us not kill or be violent with one another.

Let us know and appreciate the points of view of others.

And let us unite. May the God who is friendly, benevolent, all-encompassing, measurer of everything, the Sovereign, the Lord of speech, may he shower His blessings on us . . .

Oh Lord, remove my indiscretion and arrogance; control my mind.

Put an end to the snare of endless desires.

Broaden the sphere of compassion and help me to cross the ocean of existence.

(Excerpted from Hindu Prayer in “Religion for Peace”, 1973 WCRP)

## **Islamic Prayer**

O God, You are Peace.

From You comes Peace,

To You returns Peace.

Revive us with a salutation of Peace,

And lead us to Your abode of Peace.

(A saying from The Prophet, used in daily prayer by Muslims)

## A Jain Prayer

May my thoughts and feelings be such that I may always act in a simple and straight-forward manner. May I ever, so far as I can, do good in this life to others.

May my heart be overflowing with love at the sight of the virtuous, and may I be happy to serve them so far as possible.

May I never be ungrateful (towards anybody); nor may I revolt (against anybody). May I ever be appreciating the good qualities of other persons and may I never look at their faults.

May my mind neither be puffed up with joy, nor may it become nervous in pain and grief. May it never be frightened even if I am in a terrible forest or strange places of cremation or graveyards.

May my mind remain always steady and firm, unswerving and unshaken; may it become stronger every day. May I bear and endure with patience the deprivation of dear ones and occurrences of undesired evils.

May disease and pestilence never spread, may the people live in peace, may the highest religion of Ahimsa (non-injury) pervade the whole world and may it bring about universal good.

May all become “heroes of the age” heartily and remain engaged in elevating the Cause of Righteousness. May all gain the sight of Truth called Vastuswarupa (Reality of substance) and may they bear with pleasure, trouble, and misfortunes. Amen

(Excerpts from A Jain Prayer)

## **A Sikh Prayer**

May the kingdom of justice prevail!  
May the believers be united in love!  
May the hearts of the believers by humble, high in their wisdom,  
And may they be guided in their wisdom by the Lord.  
O Khalsa, say Wahiguru, Glory be to God! . . .  
“Entrust unto the Lord what thou wishest to be accomplished. The  
Lord will bring all matters to fulfillment: Know this as truth  
evidenced by Himself.”

(Excerpted from “Sikh Prayers” in Religion for Peace)

## **A Zoroastrian Prayer**

With bended knees, with hands outstretched,  
Do I yearn for the effective expression  
Of the holy spirit working within me:  
For this love and understand, truth and justice;  
For wisdom to know the apparent from the real that I might alleviate  
the sufferings of men on earth . . .

God is love, understand, wisdom and virtue.  
Let us love one another, let us practice mercy and forgiveness,  
Let us have peace, born of fellow-feeling . . .

Let my joy be of altruistic living, of doing good to others.  
Happiness is unto him from who happiness proceeds  
To any other human being.

**Response: We will practice what we profess.**

(Excerpt from the Avesta Prayer)