

5 April 2021

God of the courage
that comes from the heart;
God of the journey
that starts from within:
we pray
that this small step we take today
will lead us from our tomb
and along a path
of solidarity and peace.
As we come to you in prayer
as pilgrims in the dark
may your fiery, contagious spirit
resurrect a hope-filled life
so that we might be your people
with new courage in our heart.
Amen.

6 April 2021

God of the story we need to tell,
God of the story we need to hear:
if we only hear from one side,
we fail to hear the fullness
of your voice,
spoken through the lives of people
we think we know
but to whom we have not listened.
Give us courage to open our minds
by opening our eyes
and opening our ears
to stories you are waiting to tell us,
to stories that are already here.
Amen.

7 April 2021

God of the places
we know and love best,
God of the places
we've yet to discover:
so much of what we think
derives from what we see;
and so much of what we see
derives from where we sit.
Give us courage to move
from well-worn cushions

and dug-in positions.
Give us the foresight to believe
that the view from there is
just as illuminating as the one here:
a sacred spot where we will see
more in this world.
Amen.

8 April 2021

God of where an old church stood,
God in the spring that christens this field:
we pray for those whose frustration
becomes anger and violence.
We pray for those whose work it is
to convince the hope-starved
that we are close to something better.
We pray for peace.
We pray that in the space between
the old ways we thought were gone
and the new life still possible,
that you would stand
with those who stand
for peace. And hope. And a future
marked by what we share
rather than what divides us.
Amen.

9 April 2021

God whose voice brings new life,
God whose song recreates our world:
when the news discourages
and the scene before us
is one we wish we could turn off,
may we close our eyes and listen.
May the sounds you bring to our ears
and the landscape we create
within ourselves
with music and rhythm and beat
calm us when we need calmed,
inspire us when we need inspiration,
and encourage us when we need
new courage.
Amen.

12 April 2021

God of the change
that begins from within,
God of the difference
that starts with our learning:
Turn our discomfort
and our impulse to look away
into curiosity:
drawing us in safely,
leading us into better questions,
replacing our assumptions
with deeper understanding.
And then may we see a change
in ourselves
and in how this story
may play out.
Amen.

13 April 2021

God in the fist we relax open,
God in the release that comes
when we look ourselves
square in the mirror:
we confess
that violence is not
someone else's problem,
something we can lock away
or hold back behind a wall
far away from our innocence.
We confess
the hurt we ourselves have caused
with words, with neglect,
with held grudges and withheld love.
Help us recognise the stone we carry
before we scold others
for what they may throw.
Amen.

14 April 2021

God in our private prayers,
God in our corporate worship:
we give thanks that the work
of bringing before you our best
and bringing out our better selves
is not something we have to do alone.
We can attend to the divisions
of which we are a part

by setting them before you;
by naming and acknowledging
together
our hatred and our violence.
In so doing, may we magnify
the love and peace you name
as worthy of our devotion.
Amen.

15 April 2021

God who helps us
control our appetites;
God of the righteousness
we should be hungrier for:
you know we are creatures
whose minds and bodies,
emotions and behaviours
are deeply interconnected.
Help us to listen to the wisdom
beyond our rationality.
Help us to connect
our own basic needs
to the needs of others,
so we long for what is right
and work for what is shared.
Amen.

16 April 2021

God who calls us
to visit the imprisoned,
God who frees us
from the prisons we form:
reconciliation assumes
a new relationship with
those we kept away.
Give us courage
to believe in rehabilitation:
not just in others;
but in ourselves.
May we be part of the restoration
your grace makes possible.
Free us from the lie we tell
that people cannot change,
the cell we form around ourselves
when we say we can't be moved.
Amen.

19 April 2021

God in stories told without words,
God in pictures that move us:
we consume images
all day long.
Our wide-awake hours
have become like a dream:
with a constant stream
of the real and surreal
merging into our experience.
But we can still control this diet.
We determine the large portion
of what we see.
So may we fill our minds
with scenes envisioning peace.
And may we project
real lives of kindness, visible
with and without our words.
Amen.

20 April 2021

God who forgives us,
God whose forgiveness
leads us back into relationship:
with the grace we have received
from you
let us we work to mend what
forgiveness makes possible.
May we stress not a desire
to be proved right,
but a desire to make right
what still needs forgiven.
Amen.

21 April 2021

God who is never enshrined
by one culture;
God who lives
in the exhibition of community:
lead us to hear your voice
in the stories and values
of others.
Help us to trust that
exposure to different narratives

will not distance us from you,
but can bring us closer
to a truth you help to write
in lives we don't yet know.
Amen.

22 April 2021

God of old acquaintances,
God of renewed friendships:
we pray for peace on a grand scale,
for breakthroughs through negotiation,
for brokered talks and systemic change;
but we know that peace comes also
in the hand-written note,
the courage to pick up the phone,
the long-awaited acknowledgment
of an unintended harm.
May we attend to these little wounds
so that in their healing
we may discover
the joy and power of reconnection.
Amen.

23-25 April 2021

God of those we call enemies,
God in prayers we mean to pray:
nothing in life or in death
can separate us from your love.
Your divine love. Your human love.
Your divinely human love.
May it be that nothing
in life or in death
will separate us from
the humanity we share
with others. With our enemies.
Even when we cannot live together,
may we remain connected
by prayers offered for fellow humans,
for those you continue to love.
Amen.

26 April 2021

God of those we consider a sect,
God of those we consider a threat:
we can slip

into thinking that those
who are different
are not simply different
but wrong
or dangerous
simply because they are not us.
May our differences
display a diversity of beauty
rather than a danger of division.
And may we rise together
to see that because you and I
are different, there is something
to celebrate in what is not me.
Amen.

28 April 2021

God who sees our invisible scars,
God who helps heal hidden wounds:
many of us carry pain
stored not in tissue,
but in memories;
held there by
coping mechanisms that
keep us carrying on.
May we in our interactions
be gentle and respectful,
showing dignity to each other.
And may our inner strength
and others' outer grace
meet at the point of need
to apply the balm our souls still seek,
the relief you help us find.
Amen.

29 April 2021

God of neighbours
you call us to love,
God of neighbours
we know only as strangers:
the knitting together
of our frayed social fabric
starts with threads close to home.
From door to door
may we stitch a society
of friendly exchanges,
of glances that become real hellos.

In a shared cup of sugar,
or the lending of hands,
may we make the connections
and widen the circles that let
more and more know
love is near.
Amen.

30 April 2021

God of the people who serve,
God of the power we share:
in representative governments,
we ourselves are responsible
for what is done in our name.
And so we pray for those who,
holding the power we give them,
have stood against violence
and stood with and beside those
who are vulnerable.
May they and we
know that what is right
may require courage,
but is accompanied
by the resolve of the people;
by an unworldly power
that holds firm and secure.
Amen.

3 May 2021

God of victims,
God of offenders,
God of communities with justice:
may your restoring power
be at work in our work of repair.
Be with us as we name harms,
as we hear grief,
as we reach a place we agree
holds truth.
And be with us then
as we replace our impulse
for retribution or vengeance
with a desire for restoration,
with a new sense of what power is for.
Amen.

4 May 2021

God in the midst of good books
and good chats;
God in the swapping of ideas
and what ifs:
it's the connection we're after,
the a-ha moment we know
others will have.
Sometimes we need
someone else's keen eye
to see what is on the page
right before us.
Whether in person or online,
in a group of ten or just us two,
be with us as we create
within separate imaginations
a story we unfold as we share.
Amen.

5 May 2021

God of courageous hellos,
God of grace-filled responses:
as we emerge from behind
these masks
and find ourselves in the company
of people we hardly know
but with whom we share
the story of a year,
may we, with proper pacing
and spacing,
make and remake connections
that last,
even those that start
with a fleeting exchange
of passing and hurried hellos.
Amen.

6 May 2021

God in our dearest friendships,
God in the first moments that create
lasting friendships:
the bonds we cherish most
began with newness
and unfamiliarity.
So may we approach
each new encounter with hope.
May we trust our ability

to overcome first impressions;
our power to lean in with curiosity;
and the sense that we can become
even more of ourselves
in friendships
we have yet to begin.
Amen.

7 May 2021

God who can be found
in our peace;
God who can be found
in our conflict:
to be human means to disagree;
to have difference experiences
and different needs.
The more we understand
our conflicts,
the more we understand
each other.
So bless us as we deal honestly
with our divisions
so that we can find your peace
together
rather than impose our own.
Amen.

10 May 2021

God in the earth
that can soften hard stone;
God in the love
that can soften our hearts:
a rock we pick up
and hold in our hand shows
we can weaponise anything.
Yet the same rock put down
or put to good use shows
another outcome is possible.
May the weight of the stone
we feel in our hands
bring the load of that burden to mind,
and may its release
as we lay it aside
bring softness to the roughness
we hold.
Amen.

11 May 2021

God of creative thinking,
God of win-win solutions:
be with us in the seriousness
of our disputes,
and in the possibility
of outcomes that
resolve problems
without picking a side,
without going to court,
without turning to violence.
May there be power
in our intervention,
in our listening, in our empathy,
and in our desire to find a path
that leads us all
to a better place.
Amen.

12 May 2021

God in the Gospel
according to Mark;
God in good news
we're unsure how to share:
the story of your reign
speaks truth to our violence
and forces us to struggle
with the uses of human power:
to include or exclude;
to speak or keep silent;
to bind or release;
to obey or resist;
to follow or flee.
Be with us, crucified Christ,
as we wrestle with fears;
as we wonder without certainty
but with faith.
Amen.

13 May 2021

God in the agendas we set,
God in the habits we keep:
often the important
is obscured by the urgent
and our attention is spent
on the crisis at hand.
Remind us that the ongoing work
of peace and justice remains essential.

Our tending to relationships
in society and in everyday encounters,
our care and empathy,
is the message of reconciliation
that remains the priority
of your people.
Remind us that this good news
is always more than AOB.
Amen.

14-16 May 2021

God in the question
of who is my neighbour;
God in the question
of how close we might be:
may our love for you be known
in our love for strangers.
And may our faith in you
be found in the search
for beauty and truth
outside of what we call
our own.
Amen.

Loving and challenging God,
you have brought us here together,
not just for this meeting,
but in this life together.
May the way we work together
reveal the trust you have in us,
the hope you have for us,
the love you have given
to those we represent
and those we seek to reach.
May our togetherness
display the welcome and respect
the courage and the hope
that has drawn us to community
and may we know as we pursue
a path of reconciliation
your presence alive within our midst
with your challenge and your love.
Amen.

17 May 2021

God of victims and survivors,
God who helps us hold our grief:
our mourning and our trauma
will take its own time.
Some fifty-year wounds
will still feel raw;
and emptiness is not something
that simply fades away.
May we be part of a community
that helps recover truth
and supports families
as they seek wellbeing.
May we responds to pain
with kindness, with therapy,
and with advocacy,
so that as our grief continues,
our hope lives on.
Amen.

18 May 2021

God in deepening relationships,
God in continuing conversation:
may we welcome each other
with courage,
knowing that being together
changes who we are.
We pray that through
respectful relationships
we transform the imbalances
of power
to allow each one of us
to fully belong.
And may it be that in
holding silence and in
listening well to each other,
we hear your voice
in the midst of us.
Amen.

19 May 2021

God of carefully chosen words,
God of unfinished truth telling:
be with us
as we do the work

of talking with ourselves.
Before we go out
to address a conflict
or offer peace,
or seek reconciliation,
may we engage
in an inner conversation
of challenge and honesty,
deep in a private humanity
we discover we share.
Amen.

20 May 2021

God with us as we make
courageous choices,
God with us when we need
more courage:
may we
be filled this Pentecost
with your Spirit
to stand up and speak out;
to make a better future
for friends and strangers,
for neighbours and enemies.
May the grace we receive
inspire new life
so our message of hope
out-voices our fears.
Amen.

21 May 2021

God with communities locked down,
God with communities opened up:
those first believers in resurrection
gathered in fear behind closed doors,
until
a spirit of fire and connection,
tongues of everyday language,
Pentecost courage,
came to be a part of who we are.
Emerging from our fears,
may we find words for the message
we have to share.
And may we gather
separated people together
in wonder of the good news

this courage will spread.
Amen.

24 May 2021

God in our courage,
God in our caution:
on this beautiful day
may we greet each other
as companions
on a shared journey.
We acknowledge what we
and others have carried:
gratitude and sadness,
excitement and concern;
private struggles and
collective hopes.
As we take
this next step forward,
may we do so in the knowledge
that we do not walk alone.
Amen.