

1-3 January 2021

God of this new year,  
God of this new breath:  
as we meet this day  
with relief and hope,  
with sorrow and with grief,  
may our bodies find the strength  
to endure an extended separation.  
May our eyes begin to see  
a coming season of reunion.  
And may our hearts provide  
the courage to create  
encounters shaped by joy  
and relationships filled with grace.  
Amen

4 January 2021

God of fresh starts,  
God of enduring truths:  
As we push out into this new year  
with a clinging caution  
and lingering trepidation  
give us the nudge  
to roll up our sleeves  
to meet our challenges  
with hope  
and courage;  
and with a renewed desire  
to see in each other  
the truth and joy of our  
inescapable interdependence.  
Amen.

5 January 2021

God of these twelve days,  
God of these twelve months:  
May our times of rest restore us.  
May breaks from work  
rekindle our passions.  
May changes of view  
replenish our imaginations.  
And may the hope, peace,  
joy and love given at Christmas  
sustain us throughout the year,  
so that the good news born to us

might live more fully in our flesh.  
Amen.

6 January 2021

God of the magi,  
God of the guiding star:  
we give thanks for the wisdom  
to see  
that you came not for one but for all;  
and that our salvation arrives  
from beyond ourselves,  
our private spheres of influence,  
the traditions we know by heart.  
May we be willing to step further out  
and become followers  
of something greater,  
worshippers of One born  
far away from realms  
we've personally mastered;  
asleep in the crèche of the whole.  
Amen.

7 January 2021

God of our fragile democracies,  
God of our peaceful transitions:  
be with us.  
Free us from divisive ideas of freedom;  
Empower a bravery that unites.  
May our lands and our homes  
Safely house dissenting views  
and welcome our better angels  
so that the fuller truth  
of a greater union  
might be secured.  
Amen.

8-10 January 2021

God of the resilience we build,  
God of the community we create:  
may what holds us together  
not push others away.  
May our finding a common purpose  
not rely on naming a common enemy.  
And may our held beliefs  
be not in what we want to be true  
but in what you reveal to be right:

a love that undoes us  
by leading us to love others  
as we love ourselves.  
Amen.

11 January 2021

God of our honest concerns,  
God of our lingering joy:  
as holidays become memories  
and our resumption of work  
falls back into rhythm,  
may we not forget  
the moments that restore us,  
nor put away the gifts that give  
a healthy balance to our life.  
May we bring into this new year  
a pattern of self-care  
that keeps Christmas continuing,  
as a glimpse of something better,  
as a way to live today.  
Amen.

12 January 2021

God of a deep and deepening peace,  
God of a calm that steadies our pace:  
may we  
take whatever moment we need  
to gather ourselves  
for the journey ahead.  
May we feel the rock  
of your presence beneath us;  
the assurance of shelter  
you provide in embrace;  
and the promise of company  
gathered close by your spirit;  
so that as we approach  
the unknown ahead  
we remember a strength  
that can never give way.  
Amen.

13 January 2021

God of tunnelling roots,  
God of winter growth:  
beneath the surface,

and when the light is less available,  
the trees and shrubs use their time  
to strengthen themselves.  
Reaching out and feeling forward,  
they connect themselves  
more assuredly to their surroundings.  
May we use this time  
in a similar way,  
so the spring that arrives  
finds us already in fuller bloom.  
Amen.

14 January 2021

God of a mother's instinctive compassion;  
God whose piety is an impulse to kindness:  
our societies are reflections  
of ourselves.  
The brokenness we lament  
out there in the world  
mirrors all the fractures within.  
May your maternal instinct to redeem us,  
through lessons of repentance  
and forgiveness,  
restore the bonds between us,  
so we can reveal both the hurt  
and the healing.  
And then, may a love  
like her love at our birth  
begin our new life together.  
Amen

15-17 January

God who calls us to follow,  
God who invites us to question:  
you allow us to come as we truly are  
and to see beyond  
our limited view.  
As we relocate ourselves  
within the reach of your grace,  
may our beckoning connections  
lead us from our set positions  
so we can gain a fuller sense  
of the good news  
we still can hear.  
Amen

18 January 2021

God in a stranger's hello,  
God in a raised hand of greeting:  
those simple gestures,  
be it a glance toward a passer-by  
who looks back with a nod  
or the friendly question about  
what breed of dog you've got there,  
give us moments of connection  
and remind us of days to come  
when instead of passing by  
or getting only as far as small talk,  
we will be able to draw close  
and learn more from each other.  
Until then, we give thanks  
for that stranger's hello  
and the greeting we offer in kind.  
Amen.

19 January 2021

God of life,  
God of a child's questions about God:  
let us take comfort in the fact  
that we  
do not have all the answers.  
Allow our lack of knowledge  
and our dependence on faith  
reassure us.  
If we could understand it all,  
it wouldn't be worth knowing.  
If we could contain all that is,  
there would be less room  
for hope  
and no room for curiosity.  
And it's through the curious questions  
that we grow. And find your life.  
Amen.

20 January 2021 (repost from 3 November 2020)

21 January 2021

God in catharsis,  
God in the part of us we call soul:  
when we find a spirit of gratitude,  
joy is not far away.

May we, as we give thanks  
for the goodness still within us  
and in the lives of those around us,  
return to states of unity,  
and in the work of  
being with and for one another,  
may we weep with those who weep,  
and rejoice with those who rejoice,  
and find ourselves again,  
out of many, one.  
Amen.

22-24 January 2021

God in our prayers for Christian unity,  
God in our prayers for human unity:  
in the humbling of yourself  
we were exalted;  
in seeing equality with others  
we approach something more divine.  
May we discover  
in the emptying of ourselves  
a way to come together  
in a fuller human likeness.  
Amen.

25 January 2021

God in the comforting blanket,  
God in a new day's adventure:  
we give thanks for reminders  
of your perennial grace,  
and the surprising joy  
that can greet each morning.  
We pray for those  
whose reserves are low  
and whose anxieties are high,  
and ask that today  
we might lend as we are able,  
receive as we need,  
and arise with a sense  
of what is newly possible together.  
Amen.

27 January 2021

God who is older than then,  
God who is newer than now:

we give thanks that you  
and your truth do not need  
our protection.  
We do not need to preserve  
or defend  
what is always true,  
and forever discovered:  
that in our life and in our death  
we belong to you;  
that in our life and in our death  
we belong with each other.  
Amen.

28 January 2021

God who sees through our weaknesses,  
God who sees through our strengths,  
this constant becoming  
is something we learned from you.  
You love us not as a perfect treasure  
held firm in time,  
but in a relationship  
that changes and surprises,  
disappoints and perseveres.  
Help us to see  
each other's strengths as shelter  
and our own weaknesses as invitation.  
Amen.

29-31 January 2021

God of our spirits, clean and unclean;  
God whose authority heals:  
as this Sabbath comes,  
let us sit and consider  
what teaching still astounds us.  
Is it the lesson of disappointment?  
A cautionary tale of unmet hopes?  
By your grace may it be  
the good news of life;  
a power that can silence our fears.  
And in being drawn out  
from the places we hide,  
may your healing amaze even us.  
Amen.

1 February 2021

God of the home we know,  
God of the home we seek:  
we give thanks  
that a part of the human condition  
is the hope, the sense,  
the lingering feeling  
that even though this world  
is not as it should be,  
a better world exists,  
a different future is available,  
a home for all of us  
waits for all of us,  
and today can be a part  
of getting there.  
Amen.

2 February 2021

God in the turning to spring,  
God in the waiting together:  
we give thanks that even  
in separation;  
even in this drawn out distancing,  
we make sense of this life  
and mark the passing of time  
not only as individuals  
in our own situations,  
but as part of a greater collection  
of your people, alive and alert  
in this world.  
May we enter this season  
all the more aware  
of fellow travellers;  
of other pilgrims on the road.  
Amen.

4 February 2021

God who is found  
in the Word become flesh,  
God who is found  
in what words won't express:  
we give thanks that silence  
and art and movement  
help us make sense of life  
in ways that thinking



and reasoning  
and masterful theses  
will always fail to achieve.  
Help us balance ourselves  
between creating and consuming  
so we can find deeper wisdom  
in the gift of simplicity,  
in the work of being fully alive.  
Amen.

5 February 2021  
(with reference to Mark 1:29-39)

God in the healing of Simon's mother-in-law,  
God in the city gathered close at the door:  
free us from our fever,  
cure us of our disease.  
When we return  
from our deserted places,  
may it not be into patterns of inequality,  
but into habits of mutual service.  
And in silencing divisive voices within us  
may we not quiet that searching plea  
for justice and peace and connection;  
for the healing your message proclaims.  
Amen.

8 February 2021

God of the psalms of joy,  
God of the psalms of sorrow:  
we note that part of being human  
is acknowledging the brokenness,  
in the world and in ourselves;  
and that part of being human  
is to love ourselves as you do,  
and to recreate with  
from all the broken bits  
a new us and new world.  
Amen.

9 February 2021

God of bursting early bulbs,  
God of links to last year's growth:  
stored within us  
are lessons and corrections,  
a-ha revelations and  
moments still taking on meaning.

As we open ourselves up  
to a brand new spring,  
may we display the colours  
we've hidden inside;  
and may the rooted life  
we hold in our cores  
ground us well for all  
coming seasons.  
Amen.

10 February 2021

God of the exposure that protects us,  
God of the vulnerability that heals us:  
We give thanks for boundaries  
that keep us healthy and safe  
particularly at times of great risk.  
Yet we know that our bubbles  
present their own kind of harm.  
When we find ourselves  
cocooning in comforts  
and withdrawing from difference,  
may we free ourselves  
from the traps of contentment.  
Move us to the edge of ourselves,  
where notions of self-sufficiency  
can be popped,  
and our interdependence with others  
can be restored.  
Amen.

12-14 February 2021

God in the silence that speaks of grief,  
God in the silence that speaks of awe:  
we acknowledge the loss that comes  
when teachers and friends disappear  
from our view.  
The agony of Elisha is felt to this day.  
But we acknowledge, as well, the gift  
of the mantle that falls to us:  
the gift of learning;  
the life of service that is ours  
to take on.  
May we see as the clouds clear,  
your presence remaining with us,

preparing us for a message  
still to be told  
of life rising up from the dead.  
Amen.

22 February 2021

God who knows that even  
our good intentions can lead us astray;  
God who shows how the voices  
of others will call us back:  
we have come to a point  
when the choices seem to be  
yelling our opinions  
just to be heard,  
or keeping quiet in hopes  
of drawing no attention.  
Help us find a better way  
and a space shared by all of us  
where we can listen and be heard,  
where we can learn and add value,  
where the way forward draws  
from experiences we gather together.  
Amen.

23 February 2021

God who continues to call for justice;  
God whose justice is linked to mercy:  
we have wrongs to be righted,  
and corrections to be made.  
May they never be pursued  
with an eye that glorifies punishment,  
but with minds that envision  
restoration and reconciliation.  
May justice fully arrive  
not with fear or with threat,  
but in the hope  
of our own wrongs being made right;  
our desires corrected toward kindness  
Amen.

24 February 2020

God of those who lead by learning,  
God of those who guide by helping:  
we give thanks for things settled,

for hurts that have healed;  
but the end of an ordeal for one  
can mean its continuation  
for another.

If and when a peace is imposed  
rather than co-created,  
it may be called a peace by some,  
but is truly a peace for none.

And so we pray for rest,  
not in a sense of completion,  
but with the hope that, rested, we  
can continue forward together  
toward your lasting shalom.

Amen.

25 February 2021

God in daffodils waiting to burst,  
God in lambs coming close to their birth:  
there is pent up excitement,  
a year's worth of release,  
so many are long to see.

But such times are not  
for us to control.

The miracle of spring  
arrives not on our watch.

So even if the end  
of this pandemic winter  
disappoints us with further delay,  
may we know of the life  
still at work deep within us  
waiting for our moment to emerge.

Amen.

26-28 February 2021

God in truth's open declarations,  
God in truth's quiet rebukes:  
it is in our private relationships  
and in the wider connections  
that we we lose our life  
and find yours.

When we pull others aside  
may it not be to convince them  
we are right;  
may it instead help us to turn  
our minds to higher things:

to the divinity at work  
in the life of the whole.  
Amen.

1 March 2021

God of this twelfth month,  
God of this next minute:  
may our warped sense of time,  
be it sped or slowed,  
never prevent us from  
counting each moment  
as the open chance to be  
in communion with you  
and with our neighbours;  
May this lifetime be marked  
not by days or years  
but by gestures of kindness  
that grow stronger with age.  
Amen.

2 March 2021

God of a familiar light,  
God of a heavy familiarity:  
as we return to days  
like last year's days,  
so much seems eerily the same  
and everything slightly different.  
This mix of comfort and discomfort  
highlights the change in ourselves,  
the power of our perspective  
and the difference our attitude makes.  
Help us turn our weariness  
into readiness;  
our hesitance into curiosity;  
our ending into beginning;  
so this heaviness becomes light.  
Amen.

3 March 2021

God of those in love again  
with their own home towns;  
God of those coming to terms at last  
with home-grown divisions:  
In the work of bringing  
more peace to the world

we begin with peace in ourselves.  
Remind us that where each of us starts  
affects what we see,  
and who we will meet,  
and what obstacles there are to overcome.  
May we never forget that  
when we come together,  
we have travelled different roads;  
and may we then have a greater respect  
for where we all have been,  
and what feeling at home can mean.  
Amen.

4 March 2021

God of early morning birdsong,  
God of creatures creating their future:  
there is a seasonal rhythm  
and a yearly pattern  
that points to a continual cycle.  
We give thanks that this  
is more than simple repetition,  
or perpetual sameness.  
There is this forward drive,  
a pull into coming days  
fuelled by hope and possibility,  
a desire to be a part of something more;  
the instinct to build a nest  
for a life that's yet to come.  
Amen.

5 March 2021

God of temples and houses,  
God of markets and bodies:  
we have crowded our lives  
with a clutter of desire.  
If zeal and anger can be righteous,  
may they drive us to clear out  
the tangled mess that we house  
of religion and faith,  
of money and worth,  
of purity and holiness.  
And then may we find  
an undying presence  
at home once in ourselves;  
a temple that needs no protection.  
Amen.

8 March 2021

God of the histories we tell,  
God of the histories we don't:  
on either side of a border, you are there.  
May we, in living out our faith,  
never pretend that there is a way  
to make ourselves purer,  
or more righteous,  
or holier  
by separating ourselves from those  
that you  
will never stop loving.  
Amen.

9 March 2021

God in the welcome  
that lets all feel at home,  
God in the courage  
that lets us let go:  
if and when we know we are loved,  
we can feel comfortable  
in our own skin;  
at peace in whatever turmoil arises;  
and able to step out  
into the unknown.  
We will know that no matter  
what may occur,  
what is true will endure:  
God will be.  
Love will win.  
And we will belong with God.  
Amen.

10 March 2021

God who teaches in infinite ways,  
God who listens with a desire to know:  
we communicate imperfectly,  
with words misunderstood,  
with thoughts not fully formed,  
with incomplete views  
from our narrow perspective.  
But you have taught us  
a language of kindness,

a practice of empathy,  
a vision of people  
living with and for each other.  
Let us come alongside and learn.  
Amen.

11 March 2021

God of those who remain  
separated from loved ones;  
God of those who feel split  
in their emotions of 'home':  
we pray for ourselves,  
divided from each other,  
not only by distance,  
but by borders and histories,  
by politics and identities.  
With your help, may we find ourselves  
more at home with each other.  
May we close this separation,  
through a grace we extend,  
through the love we ourselves  
have received.  
Amen.

12-14 March 2021

God with us in a year of separation,  
God with us in a future of reconciliation:  
you tell us that your story  
is incomplete without our story.  
So may we resist the temptation  
to separate our story from others',  
or to listen only to tales that make us  
hero or victim.  
May we gladly hear a fuller story,  
told as much in the lives  
of those we call other:  
those we have hurt without knowing,  
those whose hurts we have failed  
to acknowledge.  
And then may we see ourselves  
and as part of the life  
you alone can bring to completion.  
Amen.

15 March 2021



God of big hills to climb,  
God of little steps of courage:  
help us light a candle in the darkness  
and begin this journey  
with renewed hope.  
You know of the valleys  
and the false summits ahead,  
and the pasture that waits  
with still waters.  
Lead us on through the night  
though we know there be danger,  
for we cannot remain where we are.  
Amen.

16 March 2021

God in this long, overdue cry;  
God who can break our cycle of tears:  
as we allow ourselves the freedom  
to make sense with emotions  
the madness of an abnormal year,  
may we also confront  
what we allowed to seem normal  
in the years that have led us to now.  
May the honesty in tears join  
your river of justice:  
a stream of righteousness  
that flows to a city  
where the vulnerable are safe,  
where we measure strength  
by its kindness,  
and where you will be waiting  
to wipe tears from our eyes.  
Amen.

17 March 2021

God of Patrick, who was born in Britain;  
God of Patrick, who died in Ireland;  
God of Patrick, whose life continues  
to lead us into conversations about  
where and to whom we belong,  
and how you surround us  
with your presence,  
and how you yourself  
are defined by relationship:  
as we continue this life  
together, bound by story

and enlivened by myth,  
may we find more to say  
about a divine power that lies  
within every one.

Amen.

18 March 2021

God of long and good lives,  
God of new and good life:  
there are creatures now stirring  
who will continue to breathe  
long after some here are gone.  
And so we give thanks  
not just  
for our unpredictable years,  
but for our part in a steadier  
hum of activity:  
the life that exists on this planet.  
It is the only place we are sure  
this can happen.

Amen.

19-21 March 2021

God of the grain that falls to earth,  
God of the fruit that grain will bear:  
you have created us to create life,  
even as we lose it;  
you have given us a gift of love  
that grows the more we share it.  
May we, as single grains of life,  
not hold our love within,  
but cast it wide  
and lose ourselves  
so new life can begin.

Amen.

22 March 2021

God of those who always expect  
a happy ending;  
God of those who no longer do:  
our faith is not here  
primarily for the good times.  
to assure us we deserve  
whatever life we have.  
It is always here

so that it also here for moments  
when the ending is in doubt,  
when answers are not clear,  
when what seems truly certain  
is an uncertainty in this world.  
Give us faith to believe, not  
in the guarantee of a happy ending  
but in the continuation of a story  
which always answers with good news.  
Amen.

23 March 2021

God in the inches  
our children have grown;  
God in the extra ring  
tree trunks now include:  
people are celebrating  
a second birthday in lockdown.  
We are approaching a second Easter  
still in this tomb.  
With your help,  
may this span of time  
which we only fully see  
once past,  
remain with us  
as a strengthening inner core.  
Amen.

24 March 2021

God of those made to feel  
they somehow don't belong;  
God of those who may actually  
believe it:  
change our hearts,  
our minds, our ways.  
We are different:  
wonderfully and fearfully made.  
There is no actual connection  
between difference and danger,  
but for the imaginary monster  
we create in ourselves.  
Change our hearts,  
our minds, our ways,  
so all are made to know  
we belong.  
Amen.

25 March 2021

God of a better together,  
God of our better being as one:  
there are structures and systems  
we don't know how to replace.  
Assumed to be fair,  
and meant to empower,  
they continue to stick people  
in the same stuck positions.  
And so there is fear of others' power  
rather than true power-sharing.  
There is an official recognition  
of only one voice –  
one speaking with false certainty,  
as if one voice could speak for all.  
Or for you.  
God of a better together,  
God: may we be better being like you.  
Amen.

26-28 March 2021

God of Bethphage and Bethany,  
God of triumphs marked by humility:  
as we enter a holy week,  
we note how you entered a village.  
As we set time aside  
we note how each moment  
can be sacred.  
Help us on this journey  
and in this work  
of blessing the ordinary,  
of anointing our days each day.  
Amen.