

## Prayers for Community in a Time of Pandemic

13 March 2020

God of the good news that spreads faster than fear,  
God of the courage that comes from the heart:  
Be with us as anxieties rise  
and with us as uncertainty grows.  
Be with us when children ask difficult questions,  
And with us when parents seem farther away.  
Remind us that to be a community does not always mean  
to be physically present beside those we know well.  
It also can mean being spiritually present  
with those who feel very alone;  
and that you as our God, the God made flesh,  
are also the God who calls us from the tumult  
and tells us to be still  
and know  
that you are God  
with us.  
Amen.

14 March 2020

God of experts and amateurs,  
in a time of great uncertainty,  
we begin to realise how little we each know.  
Yet you have placed within our community  
those who speak from reason,  
who know the science,  
whose profession it is to protect.  
May we hear the voices of informed wisdom,  
and give thanks for what is already here:  
the knowledge that overcomes ignorance,  
the love that overcomes fear,  
the community that includes the grace we all need.  
Amen.

15 March 2020

God of new and renewed community,  
where two or three are gathered in your name,  
you promise to be there.  
You promise also  
to be in parishes that meet this week online,  
and in congregations that courageously keep on keeping on,  
and in churches that try something very different today,  
and even when we find ourselves alone.

Our children sing in Sunday school that the church is not a building.  
Let us be the church together, wherever we are,  
gathered by your Spirit, as only your Spirit can gather.  
And may we find you already in our midst,  
as we close our eyes in prayer.  
Amen.

16 March 2020

God of the desert and God of the garden,  
your son went into the wilderness.  
And there he sat.  
And there he prayed.  
And there he dreamed  
of a life more abundant for others.  
As we root down for an uncertain time,  
and sit with unanswerable questions,  
may sprout new thoughts  
for those less able to rest,  
so that when we do leave this desert,  
we join others in a garden that thrives.  
Amen.

17 March 2020

God of the widow and God of the prophet,  
you told us a story  
of how a little oil and a little flour,  
and the kindness of community,  
saw a family through.  
Jar after jar was filled and stored.  
Remind us how a drop and a speck,  
a tap on the door,  
the willingness to believe in response to a need  
made all the difference in that story,  
and can make all the difference in ours, too.  
Amen.

18 March 2020

God whose breath hovered over creation,  
God whose breath brought wet clay to life:  
Be in each grounding breath that we take,  
The rise of our belly,  
The fall of our chest.  
Be in the kind word we extend,  
the offer of help, the note of concern.

Be in the prayer that we whisper,  
and the laugh that we share,  
so that even in a time of chaos,  
we might breathe into life a new creation.  
Amen.

19 March 2020

God of the branches, God of the vine,  
God of the fruit that will last,  
when much of the familiar is pruned away  
-- the work routine, the school run,  
the certainty of our day –  
may we see what is good and true  
blossom in reassuring ways:  
colleagues working as one,  
children learning from home,  
families praying together.  
May these days of great disruption  
bear out what is always true:  
that we can reach others  
with the love you provide  
when our roots remain in you.  
Amen.

20 March 2020

God of the home and God of the pilgrim,  
we begin to dig in for an uncertain season,  
and embark on a journey together.  
This is a path we haven't been on.  
Yet we know in each step  
you are there alongside us:  
a guide, a protector, a friend.  
May each day on the road bring us closer together  
closer to a land of grateful reunion  
closer to the place you call home.  
Amen.

21 March 2020

God of stilled waters,  
God of calmed seas,  
on a night of a difficult crossing  
as your friends began to lose faith,  
you awoke and hushed  
the turbulent waves  
with the power of unearthly peace.  
May we respect the sheer force  
of what we cannot control

and believe in the strength  
that sleeps in this storm.  
Amen.

22 March 2020

God of the Sabbath,  
on this newest first day of creation,  
your people gather in creative ways  
to bear the image of God together.  
As we worship and worry,  
as we praise and pray,  
let us pause  
and acknowledge  
all that happened this week.  
And as we bring our fears and release our tears  
let us see more clearly  
that the world you have made  
is still good.  
Amen.

23 March 2020

God of the neighbour,  
God of the stranger,  
how many times have we left the house  
and passed the homes of those  
we barely know?  
Yet you have known them.  
And you know the people across the globe,  
who have gone through what we will soon go through  
and those who have yet to see what we now see.  
The stranger is our neighbour  
in this little world we've made.  
May we no longer estrange our neighbour  
in the world we build together.  
Amen.

24 March 2020

God of our going out and our coming in:  
each step we take today  
needs to make space for others.  
Each errand we run,  
each purchase we make,  
has to make sense for the whole.  
We must consider how our lives  
affect the lives around us.

This is not new.  
It has always been thus.  
But going forward, in this next step,  
may this truth finally come home.  
Amen.

25 March  
God of the fire and God of the wind,  
God of the silent sound,  
when you speak to us,  
you do so in ways we may not expect  
but cannot ignore.  
Allow us in this time of frantic noise  
and eerie stillness  
to listen again to the wind  
and the earth,  
to the gentle whisper of you  
calling our name.  
And may we hear in your voice  
words of love and hope,  
the good news of your presence with us  
still.  
Amen.

26 March 2020

God of the one and God of the whole,  
be with those who are working from home today  
and those whose work keeps them from home.  
Be with those who won't go beyond the front porch,  
and those who stay on the front line.  
Be with those who must choose between  
doing a job they know they can do  
and being the parent only they can be.  
May we each in our private worry  
hear your universal call  
to come, to lay down heavy burdens,  
and find a welcome rest.  
And then with our burdens lightened,  
may we help to hold the whole.  
Amen.

27 March 2020

God of honest emotions  
God of cathartic tears,  
it would be sadder if in these days  
we didn't need a good cry,

a release from the body,  
a moment to name how it feels.  
We thank you that these tears  
are not tears of weakness  
but of witness.  
They speak to a God  
who wept as we do, and showed  
human love is divine.  
Amen.

28 March 2020

God of the heartbeat, God of the pulse:  
every day we ring a bell  
to call us all to prayer;  
at 9am and 9pm,  
for years and years and years.  
Its surprising note cuts through our talk  
and breaks our scheduled plans.  
It interrupts our conflict  
and disturbs our fragile peace.  
Today, though there are very few  
who are close enough to hear,  
may its peel reach out to those whose lives  
need reassuring sound,  
and bring to all the shocking news  
that you are always near.  
We ring it as we always do  
to call us all to prayer.  
Amen.

30 March 2020

God of the seed and God of the branches,  
you promised that a grain of faith  
would be enough to move a mountain,  
or better yet,  
to make a nest for roosting.  
May we now see the ripe fruition  
of seeds planted long ago  
by grand, motherly types  
who sang us hymns we still can hum,  
who showed us kindness  
and quiet strength.  
May we then grow in this new season  
to plant a mountain-moving seed ourselves,  
a shelter for tomorrow's wings.

Amen.

31 March 2020

God of pan-demos, God of all-people,  
how odd that it takes a global disease  
to show us that we are all one:  
one species, one family  
one genomic form,  
one people dependent on you.  
There are some among us  
acutely at risk  
to an invisible, indiscriminate foe.  
We join in prayer for them and us,  
that in our shared vulnerability  
you would cure us of this sickness.  
And the other one,  
the one that divides us,  
so that in healing we might become whole.  
Amen.

1 April 2020

God of pastures and God of lambs,  
these new-born creatures of spring  
know nothing of the worry  
or anxiety of our last month.  
They know instead of  
the earth beneath them  
and the sky above,  
and a mother who cares for them daily.  
May we who are more experienced  
remind each other of  
the steadiness of your providence,  
the instinct in your protection,  
the simplicity of your love.  
And may we then with confidence  
find our footing in this new-born world.  
Amen.

2 April 2020

God of hills and valleys,  
the newsreader said  
the peak will come in mid-April,  
just as we are set to celebrate  
resurrection.  
We enter this shadowy valley

with verses half-remembered  
about your rod and your staff,  
and our not fearing.  
May the memory of your goodness  
follow us in these days;  
may your presence with us now  
provide a constant comfort;  
and may this darkened valley  
light up with the dawn of an Easter  
not bound by any chart or calendar.  
Amen.

3 April 2020

God who loves those we love,  
God who loves those we don't;  
it is easy to empathise  
with people who behave as we do,  
and face what we fear.  
But when the us means  
those who seem part of the problem,  
our Christ-like compassion is tested.  
Can our us include those  
who take short-sighted decisions?  
Can our we mean those  
who put others at risk?  
Can this community extend to those  
whose actions threaten the whole?  
We pray that it can,  
because it already does.  
Your compassion has included us all.  
Amen.

4 April 2020

God of believers, God of deniers,  
God of those who don't know:  
faith assumes uncertainty.  
The truth is hardly ever simple;  
the path ahead rarely clear.  
We turn to you in part because  
we know not where to go.  
Yet faith assumes assurance.  
Faith remains, with hope and love,  
when all else fades away.  
As we step forth with you today,  
grant us faith to trust ourselves,  
and let us believe in the good you provide



that is well beyond our knowing.  
Amen.

5 April Palm Sunday

God of crowds and God of crowns:  
in your humility,  
on the back of a donkey,  
at the start of a week of great pain,  
you showed a determination  
to save us  
not with overwhelming force  
but with self-giving, revolutionary love.  
May we see in your life and death,  
and in your resurrection,  
the way to face the foes within.  
May we overcome our fears,  
and put down our selfish wants;  
may we stop our tendency to blame,  
and fight for others first.  
As you shield us from what we can't control,  
save us from ourselves.  
Amen.

6 April 2020

God of Lazarus and God of Judas,  
your great love raises the dead,  
and condemns what is wrong in this life.  
During this holiest of weeks we see hatred  
and brokenness, and hypocrisy;  
but also beauty, and mercy  
and undying love.  
Your death made clear  
what must come to an end:  
our fear, our waste, our selfishness.  
Yet we rejoice that in this dying  
lies our rebirth  
and that you will bring the world,  
and all the grace-filled good in us,  
back to life.  
Amen.

7 April 2020, *John 12:20-36*

God of the fallen grain,  
God of the children of light:  
It was in your being broken down  
that you were lifted up.  
It is in releasing our lives to others  
that we bear your lasting truth.

As we head further into this week,  
a community dispersed,  
may our relinquishing of self,  
and our selfless love for others  
broadcast wide the great good news  
that even in death there is glorious new life,  
and that darkness will not overcome it.  
Amen.

8 April 2020

God of the shared bread  
and the common purse,  
You broke bread with those  
who broke your trust and took  
more than they needed for themselves.  
You still do.  
May our shared response  
to a common threat  
lead us each to reconsider  
what we need and what we want,  
and how we divide what we have.  
Break who we are  
so that we can be more for others.  
Amen.

9 April 2020

God who washes our feet,  
God who commands us to love:  
before the prayers in the garden,  
and the stations of the cross;  
before the tomb and the spices  
and the stone they put in place,  
there was this moment  
when you showed us what it meant  
to be divine.  
May we not forget  
that the power to defeat death  
was not what you wanted us to imitate.  
It was to lay aside all other things  
and to love.  
Amen.

10 April 2020, Good Friday

God of the crowds crying, 'crucify!'  
God on the cross crying, 'forgive them':

by doing and not doing,  
we have repeated that Friday scene  
in countless ways,  
in countless places,  
to countless sons and daughters.  
We know not what we do  
even when we know too well.  
We are now facing death in a new way.  
And human frailty. And human need.  
And human solidarity.  
Perhaps as we begin to see as you see  
the reality of who we are,  
we can finally begin to love as you love,  
answer compassionately the cries we hear,  
and be able to forgive, ourselves.  
Amen.

11 April 2020

God of grieving,  
God of silence,  
there is a strange gift in having time,  
one whole day this holy week,  
to sit with questions of why and how long  
and to hear no response at all.  
To rush from Friday to Sunday,  
from death to resurrection,  
wouldn't do either justice.  
Nor would it dignify the life of those  
whose daily pain and grief  
and constant pleas for justice  
go unanswered in the world's daily rhythm.  
Let your silence fill this silence,  
until our empty noise dies out.  
Amen.

12 April 2020

God of unbounded joy,  
God of undying love:  
the women went to the tomb  
to tend to the crucified dead  
and came back the first preachers  
of resurrection.  
As we come back from our tomb today,  
and begin to live again,  
may we deliver with unbridled joy  
what the world is dying to hear:

that death is never the end;  
that love remains what is most divine;  
and that you continue to live  
in the beating heart of our humanity.  
Amen.

13 April 2020

Risen and reconciling God,  
Your greeting after the grave  
acknowledged the trauma and turmoil  
of that time and our own.  
The message of peace  
was what your disciples needed to hear,  
and what the world needs now.  
When we are reunited  
with those from whom we've been separated,  
may our greetings, too, be of peace,  
and may we see all division in the light  
of your reconciliation  
and all crises in the context  
of your resurrection.  
Amen.

14 April 2020

God of princes, God of nurses:  
this disease is a great leveller.  
It has humbled our rulers  
and exalted your servants.  
As a prime minister recovers,  
because primary caregivers carried on,  
let us note this abnormal way of being:  
this proper appreciation of sanitation workers,  
and grocery clerks, and childcare providers;  
those in the field and those on the frontline,  
the ones packaging food  
and delivering medicine.  
And may we remember this abnormal  
is your normal  
so we don't return to the way it was.  
Amen.

15 April 2020

God who comforts, God who disturbs:  
for some your Easter message  
lands when spring is at its softest,

disrupting our anxiety  
with the gift of needed peace.  
For others, though,  
this season grows harsh;  
words of comfort become harder to hear.  
May we who can now absorb  
these rays of warming light  
store them up for darker days to come.  
And for those whose current climate  
keeps comfort out of reach  
may they find your presence in their midst,  
and with it the returning promise  
of a new and brighter day.  
Amen.

16 April 2020

God of constant change,  
God of steadfast love:  
so much of what is familiar  
is being put to rest,  
perhaps for a spell,  
perhaps for good.  
May we who believe in life after death  
have faith to lay aside tired ways  
and to trust that what is true  
and good and life-giving  
will re-emerge  
from this cocooning tomb, transformed  
into the fuller embodiment  
of what always was.  
Amen.

17 April 2020

God of the fertile earth,  
God of the scattered seed:  
there are many lessons  
that could take root right now.  
We give thanks  
that when and where conditions are right  
the truth lands in good soil and sinks in.  
Just yesterday a 100-year-old man,  
a captain in a textbook war,  
a sower of an ancient truth,  
walked the length of his garden,  
and on that path a long-held power  
burst open for the world to see.

May his example produce a crop a hundred-fold  
to wake a dormant spirit in us all.  
Amen.

(with reference to Capt. Tom Moore, who has raised over £17 million for the NHS by walking the length of his garden 100 times before his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.)

18 April 2020

God of rolling waters,  
God of ever-flowing streams:  
the skies do seem clearer,  
and the air cleaner,  
and the world less littered with our mess.  
The earth looks more itself these days,  
its resilience on fuller display.  
But human nature is also more evident  
and your warning rings loud in our ears:  
what comes out of our mouths can defile;  
what rots in our hearts can corrupt.  
May justice and righteousness bathe us,  
and wash out our self-serving sin.  
Let us then resume our part in creation  
and breathe out the joy we breathe in.  
Amen.

20 April 2020

Risen and revealing God,  
you walked with us for a long time  
before we knew who you truly were.  
We talked about this world  
as if we were the ones who saw it clearly.  
Now that we more fully recognise  
your continued presence with us,  
give us eyes to see the beauty  
that surrounds us,  
as well as the problems  
we have too long ignored.  
And may our hearts then burn  
with your illuminating and catalysing fire  
that we might see the world that you envision.  
Amen.

21 April 2020

God of every living creature,  
God of every creeping thing:

a bird came into our garden,  
and we didn't know its name.  
The common snipe, the internet said.  
'Common,' which suggests  
our grandparents would have known,  
and their grandparents, too.  
When did we forget it's normal  
to see and hear nature on our doorstep,  
and to appreciate the everyday?  
Now that we've been stopped  
by this common threat,  
may we never let such knowledge,  
or such birds, become so rare.  
Amen.

22 April 2020

God of the earth,  
God of each day:  
we pray  
that fifty years from now,  
this crucial moment we are in  
will be seen as the turning point  
when the world began to work  
not just to flatten the curve  
but to address the growing crisis  
that affects us all.  
May this fifty-first Earth Day  
be the first day of a new era  
when the only enemy we meet  
in the peoples of the earth  
is our apathy.  
Amen.

(With reference to Earth Day, first celebrated in 1970. It helped spur the modern environmental movement and featured the message: 'We have met the enemy, and he is us.')

23 April 2020

God of providence, God of surprise,  
if this virus had struck 25 years ago,  
who among us could have  
teleconferenced with our grannies,  
or homeschooled our children  
in online classrooms?  
Who would have dreamt of the conversations  
we've had with the man who brings groceries  
bought with the tap of a screen in our palm?

This is not to question the greed  
that has birthed such convenience;  
nor to ignore the suffering of those  
who don't have the luxury of asking.  
It is to give thanks  
that your providence adapts  
to the world we create,  
allowing human connection to survive.  
Amen.

24 April 2020

God of our daily bread,  
God of the crescent moon:  
as many on earth begin to observe  
a month of fasting and prayer,  
we all enter another month  
like none that have come before.  
In these irregular times,  
we will not break fast together,  
or commune around the same table.  
But we pray that you would unite us  
in our shared humanity,  
and that we would resolve to break our bread  
with those who are most in need,  
so that our chronic disease of division  
leads us not into a famine of compassion.  
Amen.

25 April 2020

God of rivals, God of scapegoats:  
we are quick to find someone to blame,  
even when no one deserves it.  
We look for ways to take care of our own,  
while ignoring those highest at risk.  
We manage to indulge in just enough empathy  
to make ourselves feel a lot better,  
but we rarely choose to sacrifice  
the idols we truly value.  
Scapegoated saviour, as we muddle along  
in this mess of being human,  
allow us to see ourselves in the ones  
we accuse or neglect,  
and your grace in the place of judgement.  
Amen.

27 April 2020



God of the protective fold,  
God of the abundant life:  
you did not form us  
to live in fear of others  
or in want of simple joys.  
In your keep may we find  
the abundance you came to provide:  
a constant supply of the love we need  
and an ever-opening expanse  
of a life that is ours to explore.  
Amen.

28 April 2020

God of those in plenty,  
God of those in want:  
this disease separates us  
one from another.  
It also exposes an underlying division  
that has been there all along:  
the difference between the haves  
and the have-nots.  
May the chasm finally close between  
those who will wait this pandemic out  
with stockpiles of reserves  
and the luxury of rest,  
and those who have been waiting too long  
for a voice at the table,  
a seat at the banquet,  
a prayer that isn't filled with pleas.  
Amen.

29 April 2020

God at the bedside, God at the graveside:  
in care homes and hospices,  
in hospital wards,  
your spirit remains present  
when family cannot be near.  
With a comforting word or silent prayer,  
in the final minutes of breath,  
you have spoken a message of peace  
through nurses and doctors,  
chaplains and priests:  
a Samaritan response at this roadside.  
We give thanks that even if a disease  
would rob us, through separation,

of a healing moment at death,  
you appear at our side, time and again  
with embodied, miraculous life.  
Amen.

30 April 2020

God of tumult, God of peace:  
more will change  
in the weeks and months to come.  
Further landscapes of our normal  
will be shaken to the ground.  
Gradual movements will accelerate,  
market trends will shift,  
and they will sweep away  
much of what we know.  
And so we pray for what we need:  
the reassurance of your strength  
in the midst of our community;  
and the life that returns  
in fuller resurrection  
after what we love is laid to rest.  
Amen

1 May 2020

God of the humbled, God of the hopeful:  
as the first nations emerge from lockdown,  
they present a vision of a future  
of people in parks  
and restaurants and schools.  
They also remind us of a reluctance  
to adopt the measures they took.  
Those who have learned respect  
for what humans cannot control were ready:  
stockpiled with equipment;  
trained in procedures.  
Those who relied too much on the myth  
of our own invincibility were ill-prepared.  
And so, as we work to join others in recovery,  
may we meet them in understanding  
the limits of humanity's power,  
and the hope that comes from humility.  
Amen.

2 May 2020

God of the weary,

God of the burdened:  
after six straight weeks,  
it would be stranger  
if fatigue didn't set it,  
not only for those  
who fight for breath,  
or are working countless shifts,  
but for all those whose minds  
are occupied with stress and worry,  
laden with concerns for the future.  
Turn our ear to your invitation  
to come and rest a while.  
Give us again what we struggle to hold:  
the strength to let go of control.  
Amen.

4 May 2020

God of the world we create,  
God of the world you reveal:  
may our way be not of escape,  
but of further connection.  
May our life be not for ourselves  
but for you and others still.  
May our truth be not  
what we shape it to be.  
Instead may we accept  
the stranger and more glorious truth  
of what already is:  
a greater world available  
through your divine and selfless love.  
Amen.

God of the banquet  
God of the

5 May 2020

God of those on the frontline,  
God of the ones they must leave behind:  
this separation is hard enough as we're kept  
from normal routines,  
and interactions with friends,  
the freedom to do as we please.  
Especially for those who go to work  
to be at risk, and stay away,  
may your spirit provide what phones cannot,

what screens only attempt to project  
and what pixels fail to capture.  
May your spirit be known in our flesh today,  
so that an earthly father  
might be present with his son,  
and the mother on the ward  
can hold tight to her child.  
Amen.

6 May 2020

God of the blossoming tree,  
God of the laurels of spring:  
some should be branching out right now,  
embarking on first careers.  
What a time to be told  
this time is 'yours.'  
As we hold this rising generation,  
we know there is a type of grief  
for a life we thought we'd have.  
And so we pray especially for those  
looking to step out on their own.  
May our communities support their reach;  
may their ventures grow more certain;  
and may their prospects be evergreen.  
Amen.

7 May 2020

God who speaks from out of the whirlwind,  
and hears sighs that are too deep for words:  
as we come to terms  
with what we do not know –  
a timeline for return,  
a safe social distance –  
as we struggle  
to make sense of the world around us  
and imagine what life will be like,  
ground us in our kindness.  
May a gracious word  
begin our next encounter,  
a patient thought  
accompany our coming breath,  
so that with little left in our control,  
we may control ourselves  
with grace and faith and compassion.  
Amen.

8 May 2020

God of our greatest generation,  
God of our rising generation:  
may this moment,  
this hinge in history  
this date to give thanks  
and take courage  
see an heroic spirit of sacrifice  
and can-do confidence  
join a growing passion for justice.  
Strengthen our determination to  
meet again some sunny day  
with a fuller of sense of 'we'  
so that our reunions will not be  
simply the end of separation,  
but the start of reconciliation  
with those who have not gained  
from our victories.  
Amen.

9 May 2020

God of our finite selves,  
God of our inward life:  
unable to venture out,  
our worlds could grow much smaller.  
And yet  
our path with you  
can also lead  
deep into our inmost parts,  
to knitted secrets  
we have not yet unwound,  
to hidden thoughts  
that you have loved.  
Give us courage to explore  
these darker, personal realms,  
so that the broader peace  
we hope to build  
might rest upon a peace within.  
Amen.

11 May 2020

God of the common ground  
God of the space between:  
a renewed spirit of community  
has been at work these many weeks.

We rejoice in this even as we know  
that conflict remains part  
of what it means to be human.  
As we arrive at honest disagreement,  
may we not seek  
blindly to impose  
our solutions upon others  
(even if we know we're right).  
Instead, may we listen and learn  
from those we oppose  
and look for more of  
your answer  
in the ground we give way.  
Amen.

12 May 2020

God of this latest moment,  
God of this lifelong path:  
we are meandering through  
unbounded time  
without clarity of an endpoint.  
Like Samuel in the night,  
or Mary in the garden,  
we remain lost until we know  
the voice of the one calling our name;  
the voice of one with an end in sight,  
the one who tells us that life has won.  
Take our fear and confusion.  
Give us purpose and peace.  
Replace anxiety with joy.  
Place us again in a world that you love  
so this moment can reopen our eyes.  
Amen.

13 May 2020

God of our hearts and minds,  
God of our nervous systems,  
as our eyes and ears try to take in  
another day of news,  
our little bodies absorb the shock  
of the biggest event of our lives.  
Help us make sense  
of what we honestly feel.  
Fear. Loneliness. Exhaustion. Anger.  
And in naming what lives in  
our most inner selves,

may we grow more human  
with each other:  
warm-blooded and social,  
communicative and relational,  
present to nurse, eager to soothe  
the people we more fully can be.  
Amen.

14 May 2020

God of the spoken and unspoken,  
may this separation  
cause us to crave  
the joy of human closeness.  
May our face-to-face  
on-screen meetings remind us  
that no-one is fully realised  
in two dimensions.  
May our careful, scheduled  
encounters that relay  
only the necessary materials  
lead us to appreciate  
the power of unplanned  
togetherness,  
those conversations that drifted,  
the pauses that linger  
for another round.  
Amen.

15 May 2020

God with us  
and God within us:  
just because  
we're all going through it  
doesn't mean this is normal.  
Every body's a little stressed out,  
'out of our comfort zone.'  
So we need to find a reserve of patience  
with ourselves and everyone else.  
We all could use a bit more compassion,  
and the time to take a deep breath.

---

Help us draw out our more tolerant selves,  
the ones who can cope with this mess.  
Give us the space to centre ourselves  
and find you. At peace. In our midst.  
Amen.

16 May 2020

God who commands us to love,  
God who remains God with us:  
your answer, your solution,  
your remedy for our ills  
is not a product we can hold  
or a lesson we can recite.  
It is a life,  
a story,  
an ongoing relationship.  
It is a life that lives on for us.  
It is a story we can be a part of.  
It is a relationship we enter with you  
and with others.  
Help us remain together in love,  
responsive to one another's needs,  
and changed by our one-ness in you.  
Amen.

18 May 2020

God who searches;  
God who finds:  
the ninety-nine  
may have wondered where you went  
when you sought the one alone.  
Did they feel lost themselves  
without you there?  
Or did they know that you remain  
right where you always are:  
with each and all of those you love,  
wherever they may be.  
If we should feel your absence  
may we sense it as  
a movement towards  
the others who belong,  
so that one's assurance of being safe  
is tied to the whole's recovery.  
Amen.

19 May 2020

God of hidden roots,  
God of deeper wells:  
how marvellous to see  
the blossoms, not just of this spring,



but those of seeds  
planted years ago.  
Friends have rung and reconnected  
not just because there's time,  
but because friendship  
and community have been revalued  
in this economy.  
We give you thanks  
for experiences that were never  
isolated, but shared, and which have grown  
through intervening years to silently provide  
an ecosystem in which to live,  
fertile soil in which to thrive.  
Amen.

20 May 2020

God of the heavens above,  
God of the earth below:  
a killer whale  
stopped traffic when  
its dorsal fin was spotted  
cutting through the startled waves  
of our strong and stranger fjord.  
It pointed to the realms that we  
humans float between:  
the anxious world we occupy,  
and the murkier depths of meaning  
that we navigate with you.  
As it gulps air then dives below,  
reappearing to surprise,  
may we learn to emerge, as well,  
as those who join our deepest faith  
with the matters of this earth.  
Amen.

With reference to the sighting of orcas in Strangford Lough, 15 May 2020;  
additional inspiration from a sermon by Harry Emerson Fosdick

21 May 2020

God of hopeful signs and careful plans:  
as our initial panic subsides  
and the itch to get back to normal  
replaces a fear of spiking fevers,  
keep us wary and alert.  
May we carry a parcel of humility  
to remind us we are human.

We are still not immune to the dangers  
of overconfidence and impatience.  
We are just as susceptible now to  
the invisible sway of hubris,  
and the make-believe of thinking  
that we've done all we can do.  
May your enduring presence  
provide the stamina we lack  
so our confidence can increase  
with grounded joy.  
Amen.

22 May 2020

God of David, God of Ruth:  
the heroes you chose  
from among the people  
were time and again the ones  
pushed past the margins or forgotten  
or forced to prove their own worth.  
We pause to remember  
the frontline workers who  
gave their lives for the national health:  
Tariq and Afua and Onyenachi,  
Jennie and Norman and Lill; and  
all those whose families now grieve.  
And we pray in this silence  
that our sense of family and  
hero and nation extends  
beyond our inherited traits.  
Amen.

23 May 2020

God of our earthly tents,  
God of our guiding light:  
you led your people through a desert  
and resisted a permanent home.  
You knew that a life made together  
is a life on the move,  
on roads we'd rather not choose.  
Follow me, you said.  
Come and see, you said.  
Be with me, my people forever.  
As we travel along through this

'land of unlikeness,'  
a terrain of unsettling truths,  
your city of reunion awaits.  
May the strangeness we face  
and the people who change us  
assure us we're on the right path.  
Amen.

25 May 2020

God who gives life,  
God of all who give life to others,  
we are never alone in our sorrows,  
and never alone in our joy.  
Being human means to know  
a tethered link to one another.  
The pretty world we look upon  
remains an empty vessel  
if we do not fill our landscapes  
with the memory of each other.  
And so we give you thanks  
that even in separation  
and past the final cut of death  
we remain your co-creators,  
making life with those we love.  
Amen.

26 May 2020

God of justice, God of mercy:  
outrage at a smug politician  
can be satisfying;  
shining a light  
on the powerful when  
one assumes the rules don't apply  
can clarify what is just and unjust.  
But keep us from turning  
our search for fairness  
into a hunt for a villain.  
Remind us that outrage  
will not comfort the mourning,  
and can't cure a mindless disease.  
Our kindness will serve as the  
best equaliser,  
offered to both the great  
and the good.  
Amen.

27 May 2020

God of daily bread,  
God of simple pleasures:  
we ask for enough for today.  
Help us give ourselves  
the very thing we need:  
a walk to clear the head,  
a phone call that draws a familiar voice,  
a brief exchange with a passer-by,  
a gentle word of encouragement.  
These little things and their significance  
can be easily dismissed,  
but it is often the non-grand gesture,  
or an everyday routine,  
or an in-the-moment whim  
that reminds us that our God  
was always there.  
Amen.

28 May 2020

God of the lilies,  
God of the ravens:  
the wildflowers are having  
an absolute field day;  
the rabbits can't believe their luck.  
Left to do what she does best,  
nature certainly shows off.  
We, too, may see  
which root emotion  
will rise and come to flower.  
We pray that instead  
of the worry the world  
has tried to plant,  
it may be the hope  
you sow inside.  
Amen.

29 May 2020

God of refining fire,  
God of softer light:  
there is a harshness in the news,  
stories of acute pain and grief;  
anecdotes of increasing hardship.  
And beneath the headlines

there grows a realisation  
of deep systemic brokenness:  
original sins of division on lines  
of race and class and power.  
As the sun rises on a gentle  
May morning, may we remember  
its burning heat, which should  
consume this hateful mess,  
but also that it shines with  
the light and warmth we need  
to face our broken world.  
Amen.

30-31 May 2020

God of descending fire,  
God of Pentecostal streets:  
transform us into your people.  
May we listen to those who speak  
in the global language of protest --  
shouts that are mistaken as foreign.  
Their tongues/our tongues  
tell of pain and fear  
in words we all know by heart.  
Send us out from our hiding  
to speak about love,  
to demonstrate the power of justice.  
And may we see  
the new community you make  
in the admission  
and forgiveness  
of sin.  
Amen.

1 June 2020

God of righteous anger,  
God of rippling peace:  
somewhere, far from sight,  
the tempestuous sea and  
this quiet bay connect  
in one great body of water,  
linked to rivers and streams  
that extend a backward reach  
to headwaters far beyond our shore.  
May we on this earth, separated  
by vastly different experiences,

kept apart by distance and  
the barriers we make,  
be united by your spirit,  
that the pain of one  
might be borne by all  
through the channels of your peace.  
Amen.

2 June 2020

God of law,  
God of order:  
sometimes there are no words  
for the vanity on display.  
Remind us that when we use your name  
for loveless purposes that divide,  
we speak a clanging noise  
and your voice cannot be heard.  
Amen.

3 June 2020

God of one and God of all:  
from our many  
may a unity appear.  
Help us find a way to hold  
our differences together.  
Bring us to the recognition that  
to be most fully human  
is to champion the  
full humanity of others.  
Your earthly image  
cannot be found in the mirror,  
but in the eyes of varied faces that  
reflect the incarnated divinity  
in our own.  
Amen.

4 June 2020

God of spring and God of summer:  
the first cutting has occurred  
and the crows are picking through  
the heaps, looking out for harvesters

who will arrive to scoop this up.  
The beauty of these long rows draws  
our eyes up and our minds back  
to what has happened  
these last few months.  
We ask that you would be with us  
as we consider what we've lost  
and also what we've found.  
May we mark these moments well.  
The birds see now the value  
of what will feed many  
through the winter.  
Amen.

5 June 2020

God of grace and beauty,  
God of the crooked shore:  
we give you thanks for those  
who reveal your grace with  
a wisdom they wear so lightly,  
in a strength they only use  
to lift up other people.  
The generosity that some show  
in conversation, and in lessons  
they impart through open silence,  
provides a glimpse of  
divine light to be found  
in stories yet to be told,  
in questions we still want to ask.  
Amen.

6-7 June 2020

God of holy relationship,  
God of distinct inclusion:  
with you and in you  
togetherness matters.  
Remind us that ours  
is not a life  
of living for ourselves.  
In being with  
and for each other,  
may we discover that  
how we relate to  
how we are different  
shows the essence  
of who we each are.

Amen.

8 June 2020

God of cathartic tears,  
God of embodied joy:  
how good it is has been  
to see a familiar face,  
to hear comfort  
in a dear friend's voice,  
and to share our grief  
with someone who knows.  
As we move through this unbounded  
and exhausting time  
may we note the moments  
when we've been our most human:  
when our bodies  
instinctively responded  
to the truth of being alive  
and a part of something greater.  
Amen.

9 June 2020

God of the scales held in her hands,  
God of the scales that fell from his eyes:  
we pray for those who have waited  
far too long for justice;  
and for those who have taken  
far too long to see  
that systems said  
to be balanced and blind  
work for some but not for all.  
May repentance come quick,  
not from a fear of being condemned,  
but in the hope of being set free  
from the see-saw of us-them, win-lose,  
and from the blindness of seeing  
only what we want to be true.  
Amen.

10 June 2020

God of each moment,  
God of all time:  
years from now  
2020 will still be present



in our collective memory;  
not just for ourselves  
or our families  
or this town, or this nation,  
but for all people, everywhere.  
May this shared experience,  
with its sorrow, its anxiety,  
its lessons and revelations  
be the beginning  
of a new 'we,' the us  
you've been with  
from the start.  
Amen.

11 June 2020

God who weeps with us,  
God who rejoices with us:  
as we mark the seriousness  
of this pandemic,  
and lament the extent  
of our brokenness,  
give us the faith to see  
that the power that lies beneath us  
and that holds us fast to you  
is the power of justice.  
Remind us of the presence of joy  
in the hearts of those who know  
that love and beauty  
and kindness will last  
when all that is empty  
fades away.  
Amen.

12 June 2020

God of our healthy fears,  
God of our courage and faith:  
there is a strengthening pull  
wanting to carry us  
back to what they call normal.  
But there is also cautious resistance  
and a reluctance to embrace all that was.  
Help us in this in between.  
As we venture out  
and relax restrictions,  
may we not forget the dangers,  
nor lose sight of what we've gained  
in a time of self-imposed limitation.  
Strengthen our patience  
to let this play out;

and may the lessons we carry  
help us all to pull through.  
Amen

13-14 June 2020

God of the plentiful harvest,  
God of the shaken-off dust:  
there is enough work to be done  
and enough good to be found  
that no defeat can be final,  
no success a time to stop.  
As we set out  
to help heal this world,  
remind us that our own power  
will always be insufficient,  
but that your limitless spirit can speak  
through the words we proclaim  
of the good news of heaven  
come near.  
Amen.

15 June 2020

God of the community well,  
God of our individual needs:  
we will draw from these days  
a shared experience for years and years.  
Yet each of us balances  
this pandemic's challenge  
with private struggles and  
dissimilar circumstances.  
May we take into account  
the additional weight  
that we and our neighbours will carry,  
so that as we lend (and accept from)  
each other support  
we can draw out more lessons  
from this well of community,  
and bring home all that we can.  
Amen.

16 June 2020

God of constant assurance,  
God who is forever new:  
a life of faith is  
not without risk.  
There is no telling what  
lies ahead when we choose

to let go of what has been.  
But as we set off on this next adventure  
of finding our newer and truer selves,  
remind us that it is in becoming  
that we remain  
the people you created us to be.  
Amen.

17 June 2020

God of revelation,  
God of unveiling:  
the truths that many would  
pretend to discover  
are truths that others  
could never avoid.  
May this time be the time  
of conversation about  
matters that have laid  
underneath fears and prejudices,  
and beneath a wilful blindness.  
May your revealing of  
what has always been  
change us and what is to be,  
so that in acknowledging each other  
and the sins brought to light  
we might never find such cover again.  
Amen.

18 June 2020

God of sisters and brothers,  
God of growth through conflict:  
we see raw heartbreak  
when our children realise  
how elusive fairness can be.  
We gasp with them  
as they learn that even childish pranks  
and playful teasing can draw real blood.  
Young tears can signal a realisation  
that words and actions born from fear  
can harm the ones we love.  
May our growth in this time  
reassure each other.  
And as members of a family  
you maternally adore,  
may an unquestioned bond now hold us  
as when a sibling seeks forgiveness.

Amen.

19 June 2020

God we see in familiar faces,  
God in the strangers we think we know:  
as we meet again and see each other  
on the street or on a screen,  
give us a moment to look again  
and discover how people can change.  
There are worlds within  
each person we love,  
and also within those we don't,  
and steps to take from point a  
to point b that we can walk together.  
As we set out to reach the good ahead  
may we greet what's new inside us.  
Amen.

20-21 June 2020

God of uncovered secrets,  
God of fearless truth:  
to have faith in your goodness  
is to trust  
that after all we would hide  
is revealed,  
and all of our whispers are heard,  
your undying love will remain,  
and your truth will stand unchanged.  
May we forgo our protection of self,  
and find life made whole in shalom.  
Amen.

22 June 2020

God of midsummer light,  
God of midwinter snow:  
as our tilted earth  
rounds the bend and turns  
along its course,  
we note the connection we have  
with those around the world,  
whether they are basking  
in the fullness of the season  
or rejoicing in the sun's return.  
May we know that even though  
our highs and lows will rarely coincide,  
the story of this year

and the shared rhythm of this life  
provides a commonality with all,  
even those to whom we are opposed.  
Amen.

23 June 2020

God of human touch,  
God of spiritual embrace:  
this biggest event of our lives  
will live on in our tissues,  
something our bodies  
are actively learning to hold.  
And so the kindness we show  
to ourselves,  
and the support we offer each other,  
is not just for right now.  
May the soothing techniques we practice  
and the centring breaths we take  
hold us in this moment  
and train us for moments to come,  
so that without thinking  
we can find ourselves  
again, in your presence.  
Amen.

24 June 2020

God of honest conversation,  
God of ever-listening saints:  
how we wish we'd found the words  
and the courage in the moment  
to say what needed said  
when loved ones were much closer,  
and the time was almost right.  
Remind us of the time we have  
alive with you right now.  
Yours is an ear alert for prayer;  
ours a communion in which to listen.  
Help us  
in silence with you, in words for others  
convey both love and concern,  
and may those who hear  
and those who speak  
receive the message of your peace.  
Amen.

25 June 2020

God whose face is never seen  
God whose image shall not be made:  
you knew – even before we  
melted our gold to worship a beast—  
that we would be quick to put  
our face, our skin, our accent, our culture  
up on a throne and call it your name.  
Save us from this idol that we want.  
Remind us that you are not  
the best version of us, so that we might  
rank ourselves in second place.  
Show us again that to be divine is not  
to reign supreme, but to relinquish power,  
to empty one's self in love.  
May we find you again alive in community  
rather than lifeless in our reflection.  
Amen.

26 June 2020

God of caught breath,  
God of welcomed pause:  
so much has happened so quickly,  
that we can lose a sense of time.  
As we continue to pace  
and prepare ourselves  
for more unknown to come,  
we are grateful  
for the faithfulness you promise:  
the 'strength for today and  
bright hope for tomorrow'  
that we find morning by morning.  
Give us that song.  
Have us hum it by heart.  
May we share the new mercies we see.  
Amen.

27-28 June 2020

God of prophets at the door,  
God of cool cups of water:  
justice is hard to define,  
and harder to apply,  
but love lived out in public  
is never out of reach.  
Help us all to welcome

the instinct in ourselves  
to do the right thing  
in the moment we're in.  
As we greet the one before us  
with a kindness we'd expect  
may our reward be no stranger  
than an offer of a drink.  
Amen.

29 June 2020

God of the second mile,  
God of the turned cheek:  
some who receive more hardship  
respond with greater love.  
Their faith runs all the deeper,  
and their hope becomes like rock.  
With acquired humility they keep  
accumulating lessons  
and accomplish more  
beyond a terminal sentence  
than those who barely start.  
We give you thanks for saints  
whose shortened lives contain  
enough for several books;  
whose every thought and  
prayer and pause  
deserves an extra page.  
Amen.

30 June 2020

God of eternal life,  
God of letting go:  
throughout this long season  
and over a century of days,  
you have remained constant  
as we've rediscovered ourselves.  
There is more change ahead.  
This pandemic is not finished.  
Nor are we.  
As we continue to be transformed,  
may we cling to kindness and mercy;  
to courage and trust;  
to faith and hope;  
to undying selflessness.  
May divine love be made flesh  
and given breath

in the life that changes with you.  
Amen.

1 July

God of the prodigal's return,  
God of the rivals' reunion:  
when the son neared his father,  
he bowed as a servant  
and relinquished all familial rights.  
It was the same gesture Jacob made  
when he came near Esau in fear.  
Their repentance and humility  
were immediately engulfed  
in a full-bodied embrace,  
into a restoration of what was lost,  
and a fuller celebration of what was found.  
As we return to patterns  
of work and life, and find ourselves  
face to face again,  
may we be restored with all  
our humility and repentance intact.  
Amen.

2 July 2020

God of extraordinary kindness,  
God of ordinary folk:  
as we reform ourselves  
in these rebuilding days,  
we are bound to mimic  
the behaviour we see in others.  
May we not get distracted  
by those whose sound and fury  
signify nothing.  
Remind us of a divine potency alive  
in those who quietly carry on  
with compassion;  
whose simple goodness,  
their gift from you,  
can recreate the world.  
Amen.

3 July 2020

God of community,  
God of our deepest self:  
in this time of isolation



and protective separation,  
the truth of our connection  
has risen to the fore.  
Although our fear-based  
structures are  
more fragile than we thought,  
the bonds of human kindness  
contain the strength of godly love.  
We give you thanks  
that beneath this worldly tumult  
and within our beaten hearts  
we know that God is with us  
and will be with us still.  
Amen.

4 July 2020

We have been deeply moved by the response this series has received over the past 100 plus days, particularly as individuals and faith communities have incorporated them into their spiritual practice. Thank you so much for your comments and encouragement. The writer of these prayers will be on holiday for the bulk of July. During this break, we encourage you to share these posts and to review the collection, which can found in its entirety at our website: [www.corrymeela.org](http://www.corrymeela.org).

3 August 2020

God of gardens we never noticed before,  
God of the time we didn't know we had,  
we give thanks for weeks of renewal,  
for changes of scenery,  
for hours set to a different clock.  
We rejoice in the eyes we have to see  
this beautiful, hurting world again.  
We pray that as we return  
to scheduled patterns,  
we will continue to note  
the realms of glory all around us,  
the saints who have struggled on,  
and the joyful, urgent work we have to do.  
Amen.

4 August 2020

God of our growing hope,  
God of a learned caution:  
guide us now as our experiences diverge.

Some are eager to move forward,  
with a certain degree of risk;  
others continue to rely  
on the shield of our collective response.  
Grant us patience. Increase our courage.  
Give us the sense to know  
when we're being overly careful,  
and when we're being cavalier.  
But keep us united,  
so we might find our hope together.  
Amen.

5 August 2020

God of those who make good trouble,  
God of those who prize peace:  
we have been blessed  
by two who testified to the light  
just like their namesake before them:  
one Baptist, one Catholic, both fearless.  
We give thanks  
that on bridges in Selma and Derry,  
in marches and decades of politics,  
they continued to press  
with their own sweat and blood,  
so that love would overcome hate,  
and to show that a struggle,  
if righteous and just,  
should never have to be armed.  
Amen.

6 August 2020

God of our protective impulses,  
God of the common good:  
help us  
as we make decisions in the dark  
that will affect not just ourselves  
but those we love  
and those we should love.  
Give us the courage to trust  
not just our primal instincts,  
but the good news  
that what is best for the whole,  
for the neighbour and the stranger,  
is what protects the best in ourselves.  
Amen.

7 August 2020

God of deeper conversation,  
God of deepening relationships:  
with so little known  
about what lies ahead,  
may we now take the time  
to meet ourselves again,  
and to encounter anew  
the people we say we know.  
These strangers who may be close to us  
have more to share when we  
open ourselves to renewed curiosity  
and trust that undiscovered joys  
lie within  
the connections we already have.  
Amen.

8-9 August 2020

God who withdraws into quiet,  
God who returns with reassurance:  
after you took time for yourself  
you approached the disciples  
with a calming power.  
May we, even as we fail  
to match your miraculous ways,  
find peace like yours  
in the care we offer ourselves.  
And then may we,  
in the midst of new storms,  
quiet the fears that unsettle our hearts.  
Amen.

10 August 2020

God of receding tides,  
God of rising waters.  
more has become exposed  
from around us and within:  
beauty and ugliness,  
and resilience and hurt.  
May we hold what we discover  
from these pools of hidden life  
with gentle curiosity.  
And may what we find  
lead us into a daily rhythm  
of extending your grace further

across near and distant shores.  
Amen.

11 August 2020

God of this shared earth  
and this shared experience:  
may this great leveller of a disease,  
this reminder of our common fragility,  
our mortality,  
and our recognisable fears,  
be also the great correction  
in our collective story.  
May this be the moment  
when we start again  
with clearer eyes and kinder hearts,  
and with a renewed resolve  
to do justice, love mercy  
and walk humbly  
together.  
Amen.

12 August 2020

God of childhood summers,  
God of lifelong memories:  
these present days are unlike  
any that have come before,  
but remind us a little  
of surprising moments that appeared  
when we were growing up;  
days of discovering ourselves  
for the first time  
in the context of others;  
seasons of actively figuring out  
who we thought we were.  
May we all renew our license  
to explore again who we can be,  
so that when this crisis is over  
we're each a little more grown up.  
Amen.

13 August 2020

God who holds us in our brokenness,  
God whose healing makes us whole:  
the biggest event of our lives

is still unfolding.  
It is not something to be  
outmanoeuvred or outwitted.  
This story is still incomplete,  
and our recovery has yet to begin.  
That unknowing is part of our pain.  
There is wisdom in accepting  
the things we cannot change.  
But there is strength  
in remembering that nothing,  
not even what we can't control,  
will separate us from your embrace.  
Amen.

14-16 August 2020

God of friends we've lost,  
God of friends we've kept:  
these surreal days we're sharing  
do not meet us all equally;  
the private agonies  
that some are experiencing  
can be obscured by  
our universal ordeal.  
Remind us that today  
may be more difficult for others  
for reasons we do not fully see.  
May our solidarity in one experience  
not desensitize us to others' pain,  
and may we be for them  
in ways that meet their needs.  
Amen.

17 August 2020

God of the guest house  
God of the room we prepare:  
the ones we welcome  
and the ways we welcome  
will reveal a great deal  
about how we receive  
your good news.  
May we, in this time  
of social distancing  
and human longing,  
accept your invitation  
to meet you again in the stranger,

and to meet ourselves in the  
emotions we house,  
and at the doors we either open  
or close.

Amen.

18 August 2020

God of the people,  
God of the daoine,  
God of the Rén,  
God of the ashkhas,  
God of the bobl,  
God of the personas,  
God of the Menschen,  
God of the log,  
God of the lydui,  
God of the watu,  
God of the dhaoine:  
may our glorious human diversity,  
which we confuse with babble,  
be the way our spirits unify  
in your incarnate love.  
Amen.

19 August 2020

God of empathy,  
God of embrace:  
your image rests in all of us,  
even those we push away.  
As we find the courage to welcome ones  
we have seen as other,  
may we find a clearer glimpse  
of your eternal presence with us,  
and discover in our encounters  
our truer, better selves.  
And then may we,  
despite our brokenness  
be received into your wholeness,  
into a family where no difference  
can deny that we belong.  
Amen.

20 August 2020

God of welcome,

God of boundary:  
we give thanks that  
each of us can be our full selves  
in the community you create.  
And we pray  
that with your grace,  
our way of being our true selves  
will never harm others or  
prevent them  
from being their true selves.  
May we welcome one another  
as you have welcomed us,  
so that the lines we draw together  
trace the image of your love.  
Amen.

21 August 2020

God of opening possibilities,  
God of grace at the table:  
faith in you  
is faith in humanity.  
You have loved us enough  
to remain with us through death.  
You see in us is what  
we fail to see ourselves:  
that each person we encounter is  
a child of a loving God,  
a partner for a better world,  
a voice that adds meaning to this prayer.  
May we be freed  
to be ourselves,  
to live the life you want,  
and in that freedom find communion,  
and your presence in our midst.  
Amen.

24 August 2020

God of humility,  
God of courage:  
each conversation we enter,  
if honest and meaningful,  
will expose a vulnerability.  
We share our life experiences,  
the good and bad, and open up to pain.  
We reveal our ignorance of things,  
both consciously and not.

And so we pray for your grace  
to be with us  
in these imperfect conversations.  
For acknowledging our weaknesses  
will reveal your loving strength;  
and facing of our fears together  
will lead to something better.  
Amen.

26 August 2020

God of honesty, God of grace:  
opening up to others  
raises a fear of being judged,  
for reasons both  
legitimate and imagined.  
And so we pray that you  
would let us love ourselves  
the way you do:  
to recognise another child of God.  
May we also find you alive  
in those who listen to us  
and hear our story,  
so that instead of judgement  
we are given compassion;  
and instead of rejection  
we are offered embrace.  
Amen.

28-30 August 2020

God of friends, God of enemies:  
perhaps the great act of faith these days  
is not a belief in you,  
but a belief that you are present  
in the people we want to turn away.  
Help us discover  
that there is always more to love  
when we see others as you do;  
there are differences not just to tolerate,  
but to celebrate.  
As you have remained with us and for us  
despite all we have done to withdraw,  
may we remain with and for others,  
judging not as you could judge,  
but loving more than we deserve.  
Amen.



31 August 2020

God in our conflict,  
God in our learning:  
to be human is to find ourselves  
in relation to those  
with different goals, different needs,  
different ways of being.  
Remind us that our disagreements  
are not the end of our connection.  
May our differences  
inspire our curiosity.  
May our questions lead us  
to better conversations,  
letting us to see the world through  
others' eyes.  
Amen.

1 September 2020

God of our knowing selves,  
God of our inquisitive selves:  
when we stop being curious,  
our relationships wither.  
May we encounter others today  
not with our minds made up,  
but with our ears pricked up  
with interest and fascination.  
May we form questions still open  
to the possibility of surprise,  
finding something wonderful  
in answers we weren't expecting,  
and discovering how  
everyday experiences  
can still change us,  
when we let them.  
Amen.

2 September 2020

God of new lessons  
God of old truths:  
this faith of ours is  
in what lies beyond us,  
not just within us.  
As we release ourselves  
from the trap of thinking  
we have it all figured out

and turn to you  
and others for help,  
for strength and insight  
we don't possess,  
may the fear of not  
being in control  
be replaced by the assurance  
of never being alone.  
Amen.

3 September 2020

God of form and frame,  
God of tension and resistance:  
to grow we need something  
to push against.  
We need conflict to reveal  
what we think, how we feel,  
and for whom we're willing to fight.  
We need conflict to train us  
how to be kind  
when we really don't want to;  
how to make room for others  
because we simply have to.  
and because it makes  
a better space for us all.  
As we struggle and strain  
may we hold our own  
but always in connection with others.  
Amen.

4 September 2020

God of the spaces between us,  
God of the fractures within us:  
in the gap between what is  
and what should be  
there is room  
for empathy and learning.  
There are truths there we don't yet see  
but could come to understand  
if we care enough to ask,  
if we imagine the reality of others,  
if we have the courage to change.  
May we enter that space  
knowing well you are there,  
waiting for us to join you

in a recreation of what was empty  
into a garden full of life.  
Amen.

7 September 2020

God of incremental changes,  
God of seismic shifts:  
this year has seen the world  
transformed, even if we sometimes feel  
that we have barely moved.  
As we assess where we are now  
in this strange, familiar place,  
may we take heart in knowing  
that the simple acts of kindness  
and compassion we extend  
help shape the world that's yet to form  
and affect what happens next.  
Amen.

8 September 2020

God of changed minds,  
God of changed hearts:  
sometimes a good argument  
can affect our thinking,  
and in turn affect our behaviour.  
But more often, it's a better relationship  
with someone we thought  
we'd figured out  
that reveals what our mind had missed,  
exposing the flaw in our certainty.  
No matter how we come to know that  
your truth is different to what we imagined,  
may this revelation lead  
to a gentle revolution,  
and may our turning around  
bring us closer to you.  
Amen.

9 September 2020

God of a long hard look in the mirror,  
God of steadfast love:  
the knowledge of your undying love  
does not give us permission  
to do what we want,  
or license to act with overconfidence.

Instead, may it give us the courage  
to address what is broken in ourselves  
and the will to change what we can.  
May our faith in your grace reassure us  
that no matter what we find  
staring back at us,  
it will be accompanied  
by your ever-loving presence.  
Amen.

10 September 2020

God of righteous anger,  
God of unsettling compassion:  
even if do not seek it,  
we can find ourselves with much  
that could leave us upset.  
Too often we choose to dwell there,  
taking residence in resentment.  
We pray that you would move us,  
and unseat us from this state  
with a grace we hope  
that we can carry forward.  
May we take the lessons gathered  
and change direction as is needed,  
so we end up in a new place  
on the path of peace you show us.  
Amen.

11-13 September 2020

God of our distinct identities,  
God of our shared possibilities:  
if we want the world to change,  
and if we ask others to change,  
we must be willing to change ourselves.  
We give you thanks  
for the faith to believe  
that what is true and good in us  
will remain and be revealed.  
Through this transformation,  
and even in our letting go  
of what we want to protect,  
may we trust that we will find you  
holding on  
to who are meant to be.  
Amen.

14 September 2020

God of long walks with friends,  
God of the longer walk of friendship:  
we give thanks  
for the accidental encounters,  
the weekly catch-ups,  
the second cups of tea.  
We give thanks  
for the desire to pick up the phone,  
the thought to send a line,  
the time we make when we have none.  
We give thanks  
that humans are relational creatures,  
begun before birth in contact  
with another,  
and forever after made  
not for efficient productions,  
but for deeper connections.  
Amen.

15 September 2020

God of lifelong companions,  
God of sudden discoveries:  
We know that to be honest with others  
risks pushing them away;  
we know that their honesty with us  
will show what we'd hide.  
Let our relationships be  
the process of our becoming,  
so that we are shaped  
by laughter and tears,  
by squabbles and smirks,  
by courage and comfort,  
by another who sees us  
better than we can.  
Amen.

16 September 2020

God of our great ideas,  
God of our better angels:  
when we are sure that we are right,  
and that our solution is the best,  
warn us of the danger that we pose.  
Often, the insistence on one way

will make it harder for others to agree,  
particularly when we think  
it's the only answer that makes sense.  
Help us as we choose to let go  
of what we might want to impose  
so that in the space that opens up,  
a co-created possibility might emerge.  
And then help us see  
that what is mine  
is hardly ever as nice  
as what is ours.  
Amen.

17 September 2020

God of risky love,  
God of divine courage:  
to be ready to listen  
we should know what it's like  
to be heard;  
to be good at giving support  
we should know what it's like  
to be held.  
We give thanks that our best relationships  
not only provide additional strength;  
they help us practice the skill  
of being human  
by being vulnerable.  
And, therefore, strangely  
of being more like you.  
Amen.

18 September 2020 (Spirituality of Conflict 20 Sept 2020)

God of justice,  
God of grace:  
in trying to make sense  
of this world  
and our place in it,  
we train ourselves to expect  
reward for our work,  
and that our worth will correspond  
to our effort.  
As you give us today what we need,  
may we consider not  
where we stand in relation to others,  
but how we might stay  
in communion with those who,

like us, are dependent  
on divine generosity.  
Amen.

21 September 2020

God beneath the encompassing sky,  
God above the hardening earth:  
in this thin space between,  
the great human drama plays out  
with deep and deepening pains  
and endless moments of joy.  
Even as we take note  
of how small our part may be,  
may we take heart  
that our next breath can hold  
a message of light and love,  
like the one  
that brought your creation to life.  
Amen.

22 September 2020

God of earth's effortless turning,  
God of this cycle of seasons:  
one day on the calendar marks  
both the beginning of autumn  
and the beginning of spring;  
the end of the north's summer  
and the end of the south's winter.  
While distant from each other,  
we are connected by a rhythm,  
a push and pull of light.  
May it remind us that our journey  
is not one we take alone,  
and that the darkness that we enter  
cannot stop the coming dawn.  
Amen.

23 September 2020

God of persistent widows,  
God of eventual justice:  
as some sit with the luxury  
of reflecting on how much  
can be taken for granted,  
others add their weight and their voice  
to causes that may never

benefit them directly,  
but can make it more likely  
for rising generations to  
experience what all should enjoy.  
May we see privilege not  
as a reward, deserved or not,  
but as a tool in hand  
to build a better world.  
Amen.

24 September 2020

God of changing winds,  
God of steadying hands:  
be with us on the days  
when we find ourselves in doubt,  
so that we can be for others  
when we they need some reassurance.  
Give us extra strength  
when we are feeling weak,  
so we can lend a little muscle  
to those who need support.  
Grant us a double portion of your grace  
so that when we are lacking enough  
for ourselves, we can still extend  
the peace that comes  
from resting in your steadfast love.  
Amen.

25-27 September

God who knows our fears,  
God who knows our hearts:  
we've taken your world  
and created an endless game  
of winners and losers.  
We've set up a ladder  
that gets us nowhere  
but up and down.  
Bring us down to earth.  
Free us  
from this hierarchical nonsense,  
so we can see each other  
face to face  
and respond to real needs  
without the fear of falling.  
Amen.



28 September 2020

God with those on the margins,  
God with those on the edge:  
as we confine ourselves to what we know  
and retreat into spaces we deem safe,  
remind us that we are less likely  
to find you there.  
We will find ourselves alone  
with the idols we carve and coddle,  
and miss the chance to  
touch your hem  
as you head out to those in need.  
But even as we fold ourselves  
into our comfy pockets,  
your grace doubles back to find us  
and, with a cut, reveals  
the edge we stand against  
when we see ourselves as central.  
Amen.

29 September 2021

God with us in difficult conversations,  
God with us in difficult silences:  
each moment and every mistake  
gives us the chance to learn,  
to understand and to change.  
Before we react in fear or anger,  
may we steady our breath  
and calm our minds  
to remind ourselves  
that your love for us  
is not in jeopardy.  
And with that reassurance,  
may we seek the truth  
we need to hear,  
and receive the grace  
we mistook as threat.  
Amen.

30 September 2020

God of the truth beneath our truths,  
God of the foundation beneath our facades:  
we give thanks that there is something  
beyond our control

firmly devoted to our wellbeing.  
We give thanks there is strength  
available to us  
in the moments when we want to give up.  
We give thanks that sounding clear  
through the noise and the distraction  
is a whisper from you  
calling our name  
with the promise that you'll  
always be with us.  
Amen.

1 October 2020

God who was there before all the chaos,  
God who will be in the Eden to come:  
set us down in this moment  
with our boundaries fixed.  
As we look to each other  
to make sense of this world,  
remind us that there is no horizon  
that will not lead us to you;  
our spirits will not find a place  
to hide from your searching love.  
So may that knowledge inspire new courage  
to build again structures of justice,  
and bring out anew from an unsettled state  
a community whose heart  
is steadied by you.  
Amen.

2-4 October 2020

God of this full moon,  
God our of eyes that cannot see  
the moon is always full:  
so much of reality is hidden from us  
because of where we stand.  
As this season turns  
and our attention naturally wanes,  
may we not forget  
what we have seen  
or try to cloak in shadow  
what we pretend was never there.  
And may we start to recognise  
how our positions blind us  
to what is really there.

Amen.

6 -5 October 2020

God of power that is not brute strength,  
God of connections that empower us all:  
when will we learn  
that not every obstacle  
demands that we force our way through?  
When will we see  
that admitting our limits  
will not leave us in want or at risk?  
When will we trust  
that our dependence on others  
is not a symptom of weakness,  
but the glory of humans  
made complete in relationship?  
May that understanding,  
that insight, that faith  
be part of our being today.  
Amen.

7-8 October 2020

God of the billions alive on this earth,  
God of the one who feels most alone:  
we all share this crisis, this moment;  
we all hang on this hinge in our history.  
Yet we know that some  
are more affected than others:  
more vulnerable to disease,  
more at risk from injustice;  
who can't afford a return to the normal.  
As this pandemic has exposed  
a common fragility,  
may it reveal a common desire  
to learn and to change,  
restore and protect,  
so that all may enjoy a sense of belonging,  
and know that what comes  
will be good.  
Amen.

9-11 October

God of pilgrims who share this journey,  
God of travellers upon this road:  
This path changes us.

The conversations we have,  
and the views we've gained;  
the hurt we've endured,  
and the muscles we've trained:  
they bring us to a new place,  
and to a newer sense of us.  
As we unpack  
the things we've carried  
and recount the things we've lost,  
may we marvel again  
at the journey itself,  
the gift of walking with others  
along a path that takes us  
into and beyond ourselves.  
Amen.

12 October 2020

God of narrowing autumn light,  
God of branching autumn colours:  
as we hunker down  
for these darker months,  
may we wrap ourselves up  
in memories of days together.  
May our homes house the laughter  
of visits from friends,  
and sounds from a kitchen  
in the midst of a party.  
May our cosier moments  
in the season ahead  
give us the feel  
of company we keep  
even in our separation,  
even in our waiting for  
spring to arrive.  
Amen.

13 October 2020

God of the strength  
that lifts us each morning,  
God of the weight  
that drops us down in our beds:  
this constant fight against gravity,  
this struggle to push up and away –  
is a marker of life.  
It is our daily battle of no and yes.  
No, we will not lie still. Yes, we will live

and move and have our being.  
We give thanks for the rest  
that preserves our life for tomorrow,  
so that as we rise from our night's slumber  
we begin again and gain a victory  
in each waking, determined moment;  
and see a glimpse, if only faintly,  
of an endless rising dawn.  
Amen.

14 October 2020

God with us in our policies,  
God with us in our politics:  
there are rarely easy answers  
to the problems that confront us.  
We do our best and make mistakes  
and fix the damage done.  
We try and fail and try again  
but remain connected with each other.  
We pray for those who represent us,  
as well as those who don't.  
May we find new ways to compromise  
without compromising what's essential,  
so that in fighting for what we need in life  
we include the needs of others.  
Amen.

15 October 2020

God of prudent precautions,  
God of corrective adjustments:  
in community,  
we make decisions based  
not on personal convenience  
or private preference,  
but on what is best for the whole.  
As we pull back  
from a desired outcome,  
and let reality have its say,  
give us the grace to accept  
what is right for the many,  
so that life is more than survival,  
but a harvest that continually thrives.  
Amen.

16 October 2020

God of the chaos we fear,  
God of the day we create:  
the eternal nature of your love  
is something greater than permanence.  
We don't so much rest upon it  
because it is fixed and unchanging  
as we continually discover it:  
surprising and true.  
Morning by morning new mercies we see.  
Give us faith not in what  
we hope can still last  
from the first breath of creation,  
but in what arrives  
in this newborn moment:  
your voice bringing light  
with news that is good.  
Amen.

19 October 2020

God of waking children,  
God of ageing parents:  
right now, our worlds contain  
those we've known for all our lives,  
and those whose lives are just beginning.  
In this moment, as surreal as it is,  
we can still hold together a family  
of friends and companions  
with lines of communication,  
and daily short connections.  
We give thanks  
for these domestic and digital bonds.  
But may we also, through your spirit,  
extend our reach to actively commune  
with others still unknown to us  
who likewise dwell with you.  
Amen.

20 October 2020

God of cleared fields,  
God of replenished stores:  
the season that passes from  
seeding to harvest  
does not bring us to our destination.  
It brings to us all  
the substance we need  
to carry ourselves further along.

As we look back  
at how far we have come  
and see the journey ahead,  
let us give thanks for our progress  
and the produce of time,  
so our growth may continue  
each day.  
Amen.

21 October 2020

God of the hope we cling to,  
God of the hope that won't let us go:  
be with us as we push forward  
and as we pull back.  
Be with us as we loan courage to friends  
and receive some back in return.  
Be with us as we proclaim  
a truth with certainty,  
and when we harbour real doubts;  
Be with us as we dream up crazy new plans,  
and when we are brought to our senses.  
Be with us this moment  
as you always have been  
with a hope  
that never has faltered.  
Amen.

22 October 2020

God of a welcomed pause,  
God of a calming exhalation:  
we can move so fast  
in our thoughts, our actions,  
our reactions and our whims,  
we can't quite catch up with ourselves.  
Even in lockdown, even on days  
cleared of scheduled tasks,  
we can fail to stop and accept from you  
a moment's gift of rest.  
When time seems both to barrel on,  
and hardly move at all,  
may we catch our breath,  
and settle in to your unhurried pace  
so that we might then  
with steady minds  
approach the task at hand.  
Amen.

23-25 October 2020

God of the friends who change our minds,  
God of friendships that change who we are:  
we give thanks  
that in being with and for others,  
we become something different ourselves.  
Instead of pretending to know  
another's experience, or believing  
the worst of what we've heard;  
we can assume that what's best in us  
is also true for others.  
To lead with trust instead of fear  
is to have the faith  
that you are God not just with one,  
but with all; not just for us  
but for everyone.  
In finding you in the lives of others,  
we find more of you within.  
Amen.

26 October 2020

God of late night chats,  
God of early morning thoughts:  
the time we make with friends,  
and the time we devote to friendship  
restores and rewards us.  
We pick up the phone  
or join up for a stroll,  
or simply look in the eyes  
of those closest to us.  
As creatures of connection,  
we come alive as we relate our place  
and our own story to others,  
to shared memories and dreams.  
So help us to dream ourselves  
into a fuller and richer humanity,  
with those we already know we love  
and those who are always loved by you.  
Amen.

27 October 2020

God of healthy disagreements,  
God of principled stands:  
we need not have the same mind  
to sit around the same table.  
We need not share precise beliefs



to fit within a home.  
We need not speak the same dialect  
to be a part of a loving family.  
And we need not see the world the same  
to know it's big enough for all.  
As we hold firm  
to what we know is right  
may we honour the ground  
where others stand  
so that more of the earth,  
and more of our imagination,  
may be hallowed in your name.  
Amen.

28 October 2020

God of serenity and courage,  
God of serenity and wisdom:  
may we know the difference  
your promise makes  
as we struggle to be patient;  
as we steel ourselves for disappointment,  
and speak our will out loud.  
We pray that in a raw  
and honest vulnerability,  
as we wait and fret and hope,  
we remember that the truth  
you ask us to accept  
is the good news brought  
by the better angels of our nature:  
news of justice and mercy and peace,  
of those left out brought in.  
Amen.

29 October 2020

God of the long to embrace,  
God of the reunion to come:  
so much of what you told us  
about separation and waiting,  
about sons and brothers  
and widows rejoicing,  
takes on new meaning these days.  
As we note how part of ourselves  
is aching for connection and completion,  
for ghost limbs of a shared humanity,  
may the bone of our bone  
and the flesh of our flesh

return in the form of those among us  
we had not fully counted before.  
Amen.

30 October – 1 November 2020

God of the dust to which we return,  
God of the ash that enriches the soil:  
there are seeds from trees  
that open  
only after a fire has passed through.  
They push the tips of their roots down  
when the sunlight above has space.  
May we remember  
that after all we see passes away,  
the gifts you promise remain.  
Faith. Hope. Love.  
And the greatest of these  
is taking root now  
in the soil of compassion and kindness.  
Amen.

2 November 2020

God of childhood stories,  
God of grownup concerns:  
democracies are about faith.  
We choose to believe,  
not just in ideals,  
but in people.  
We choose to trust  
something as unpredictable  
and unreliable as ourselves.  
Democracy rests on the faith  
that we ourselves can rule ourselves  
not only when we get what we want  
but also when we don't.  
Be with us in this test  
as you have been with us in the past  
so that we might reward the faith  
you place in us.  
Amen.

3 November 2020

God of charity for all,  
God of malice toward none:

be with us.

Be with us as we 'strive to finish  
the work that we are in  
to bind up a nation's wounds.'

Be with us

as we 'do all which may achieve  
and cherish a just and lasting peace  
among ourselves and with all nations.'

Be with us on this and every day.

Be with us all.

Amen.

5 November 2020

God of those who agree with us,

God of those who don't:

keep us from dividing the world  
into us and them,

for or against,

good and bad.

Remind us that humans

and human systems are always  
more complex than the binary  
choice of on/off, up/down.

As you have met us in the reality  
of a living, breathing human life,  
may we meet each other again  
as three-dimensional people  
and not as another yes or no.

Amen

6-8 October 2020

God of our exposed divisions,

God of your uniting spirit:

there is a rawness to democracy,

A revelation occurs as we see  
more of who we really are.

And with that clarity comes a choice  
to stand with or against  
each other.

Remind us that you stood with us,

when you knew we were wrong,

when you didn't agree with our choices,

when we were quick to turn against you.

So may we now choose to stand  
with all those we can,

and in the choice to be together,

may we find new ways to thrive.  
Amen.

9 November 2020

God of those we call enemies,  
God of those you call family:  
may we learn that democracy  
is not about outnumbering the opposition  
in a struggle for dominance.  
It is about learning more about those  
with whom we disagree,  
our fellow citizens;  
so that instead of drawing more to one side  
or the other  
we can co-create a greater whole.  
Amen.

10 November 2020

God of hope-filled trials,  
God of a cautious release:  
as we begin to imagine  
good news arising  
from the measured process  
of labs and computers,  
of heroes and scientists,  
of incomplete successes  
and instructive failures,  
may we allow ourselves  
a sigh of relief,  
but draw in more strength  
so that a winter of waiting  
may bring a spring of renewal.  
Amen.

11 November 2020

God of sacrifice,  
God of silence:  
after years of battle,  
the moment came  
to quiet the guns  
and acknowledge the loss.  
That moment, extended now  
for over a lifetime,  
continues to witness

to others' valour and honour,  
and also to our madness  
of turning to war again and again.  
May we in this silence  
do more than remain still.  
May we commit to lives lived  
worthy of peace.  
Amen.

12 November 2020

God of our faith,  
God in our uncertainty:  
in our shock and in our lack of shock;  
in our constant surprise,  
and in our numbed sense that  
nothing may surprise us anymore;  
you have been present.  
You remain with us,  
giving reassurance  
when things seem lost;  
reinvigorating us  
when we grow complacent;  
telling us it's okay to be tired  
when we need a break.  
May we find the balance  
of neither doubting your steadiness  
nor take it for granted.  
Amen.

13-15 November 2020

God of those in acute need,  
God of those in chronic need:  
months and months in,  
we still struggle to know  
how cautious to be,  
how much risk to accept,  
how 'normal' we safely can act.  
As hospitals fill up  
and shops remain shut;  
as political postures blur  
into policy decisions,  
may we gain wisdom from you  
so that our cures may not do  
more harm than disease,  
and our wants not outweigh

neighbours' needs.  
Amen.

16 November 2020

God of each breath,  
God of this next breath:  
may this moment we're in  
be a moment now filled  
with reassurance and grace;  
with kindness and patience  
for ourselves and for others.  
May it be marked by hope  
and compassion,  
by learning and unlearning.  
May it be a moment unencumbered  
by mistakes we've made  
or results we fear.  
May it be a moment of peace  
and renewal; a breath of new life.  
Amen.

17 November 2020

God of the stories that include us,  
God of the inclusions that restore us:  
we need each other to thrive.  
Without the other we are incomplete.  
In our fiercer independence we  
grow smaller and less true.  
It is our inter-dependence  
that reveals what's best within us all.  
If we should be cut off from our fullness,  
stunted by a sin of self-assurance,  
show us that the lack in ourselves  
is the space for something greater:  
and our work with others a discovery  
of the holy in ourselves.  
Amen.

18 November 2020

God of Martha,  
God of Mary:  
in opening our homes to you,  
in opening our lives to you,  
may we also open ourselves,  
so we are able to simply receive.

May we quiet our need to impress  
and allow ourselves to be moved;  
May we still an impulse to stay busy,  
and turn to the task of being still.  
And then may we find a better thing,  
in the company of loved ones and rivals:  
new purpose in the things we attend to.  
Amen.

19 November 2020

God of the softness of night,  
God of the brightness of day:  
the change that comes  
at twilight and dawn  
arrives with no fuss,  
yet is reliably revolutionary.  
In a matter of moments  
what was hidden is exposed,  
and what we wrestled with  
can be put to rest.  
May we, in these daily transitions,  
find comfort and solace,  
and learn how to ease into  
transformation with a grace  
you build into each day.  
Amen.

20-22 November 2020

God of those who hunger and thirst,  
God of the ones we imprison:  
you meet us in the lives of others.  
Too often we seek you by pulling away,  
by retreating into ourselves  
or by assembling some body  
of like-minded souls. And yet,  
the way to find you  
is not in separating ourselves  
one from another,  
but in seeking your presence  
alive in encounter;  
in meeting the needs  
of the people before us:  
the ones in your family  
we've sought to exclude.  
Amen.

30 November 2020

God of days with multiple arcs.  
God of the stars in the sky:  
there are countless reminders and signs  
of your grace,  
your promise to always be near.  
May we in our habits  
and the stories we tell  
remember the truth underneath.  
May we notice and witness  
to a steadying strength:  
the love that cradles us all.  
Amen.

1 December 2020

God with us in our individual struggles,  
God with us in our common ordeals:  
there is a freedom that comes in knowing  
that life is simply hard;  
not because we've done something wrong,  
or because we fail to see  
something obvious to others,  
but simply because life itself is hard.  
May that never become the licence  
to devalue another person's hardships  
or the invitation to let our fears  
fill the space that opens up.  
May it become instead a moment  
to marvel at your gift  
of unconditional love;  
the security that provides us with  
a confidence not our own.  
Amen.

2 December 2020

God of a lowering December sun,  
God in the early morning watch:  
be with us in this work of waiting  
in keeping alert;  
in the practice of not being  
the one in control.  
May we find beauty  
in the quiet acceptance  
of being dependent  
on a promise of returning light  
as we watch the days grow shorter;



on an Easter dawn  
as the hours grow dark.  
Amen.

3 December 2020

God of separated families,  
God of grace-filled reunions:  
as we turn to go home  
or imagine how we might,  
may a clearer sense  
of how far we are  
not diminish the extent  
of your welcome.  
May an extended season of  
distant togetherness  
not obscure the view  
or lessen the excitement  
of an expectant parent  
who longs for the return  
of one, until now, thought lost.  
Amen.

4-6 December

God of the songs our parents taught us,  
God of the songs our children make up:  
if lucky, we get to see  
one generation reappear in the next,  
with ourselves in the midst  
of a much fuller chorus.  
As we welcome another Advent season  
may we rejoice in an ongoing arrival  
of a strangely familiar refrain.  
May we find our homes again filled  
with the presence of those far off,  
whose lives linger on in held moments  
and whose voices are blended with ours.  
Amen.

7 December 2020

God of watchers in the night,  
God of lanterns lit:  
our waiting turns  
from anxiety to anticipation  
when what is hoped for  
feels like a sure thing.

May the lamps we raise  
and the light we cast  
cut the gloom around us,  
so that we become a beacon  
for your brighter day to come.  
Amen.

8 December 2020

God of friends in hospital,  
God of families of friends in hospital:  
be with those who  
are receiving care, and those  
who wait to hear the news.  
Be with those who offer care, and those  
who wait for them at home.  
May we know your presence with us.  
And may those of us held together  
in a moment both critical and routine,  
be embraced by a community  
more aware of the extraordinary gift  
of those who tend to us  
on each and every day.  
Amen.

9 December 2020

God of those we've lost this year,  
God of what we've found:  
our grief speaks to the beauty of life  
and the toll that comes  
at the end of each connection.  
Death can offer a lesson  
to the lasting goodness of life,  
a pain that means that love is real.  
May we never forget  
that our grief gives proof of something  
that was and continues to be true:  
that our hope endures  
in being held by your undying love.  
Amen.

10 December 2020

God in the return  
to a simplified Christmas;  
God in the advent  
of extravagant joy:

may we, who are so accustomed  
to connecting happiness  
with an accumulation of things,  
receive the gift of valuing  
the connections we already have.  
May a stripped down celebration  
and a slower pace to the holiday  
reveal the treasure  
that was ours all along.  
And may we find in the strangeness  
of this year's Christmas  
the wonder that was present  
in its first incarnation.  
Amen.

11 December 2020

God in the conversations  
that manage to change us,  
God in the encounters  
that change the conversation:  
rarely is it the argument that  
convinces us. It is more likely  
the experiences of others that,  
because they are shared  
and accepted, become a part  
of our own experience.  
Help us in this time of separation  
and waiting  
to connect to each other in ways  
that convey not just ideas or images  
but the spirit of community  
that forms us anew.  
Amen.

14 December 2020

God of Mary,  
who pondered your greeting;  
God of good tidings  
that brought us great joy:  
the first words she heard  
were 'be not afraid'.  
And now in this year  
we, too, must consider  
whether we will accept  
a message of endless salvation  
when so much would make

the idea sound absurd.  
May your power and spirit  
overshadow our fears  
so that our choice can be  
to bear light to this world.  
Amen.

15 December 2020

God of incarnation,  
God whose presence arrives with a word:  
there are friends who connect  
so well and so genuinely  
that even though they wear a mask,  
their eyes can tell a story.  
There are loved ones  
who are so close to us,  
that even from thousands of miles away  
their voice can do enough  
to calm our bodies and steady our breath.  
May we remember that with a word  
you entered this world;  
and with a message of unconditional love,  
you bring our true humanity to life.  
Amen.

16 December 2020

God of Joseph,  
God of those who find supporting roles  
in stories they presumed  
were about them:  
help those who have the power  
to push others away  
find gentle ways to draw them closer.  
May those who have the means  
to walk away from problems,  
find the strength to remain  
so that solutions can be found  
and made together;  
and so we can be found  
and remade together.  
Amen.

17 December 2020

God who walks with us in our darkness,

God who draws out an inner light:  
even in the brightness of day,  
there is a limit to what one can see.  
Our ignorance and bias;  
our narrowed views and  
chosen positions prevent us  
from seeing the whole,  
and from seeing ourselves.  
In the welcome  
of others' perspectives  
we gain greater sight.  
May we fear neither  
the uncertainty of night  
nor the exposure of day,  
for in both we are known by you.  
Amen.

18-20 December 2020

God of colleagues who start to wind down,  
God of children already wound up:  
this season will meet us wherever we are,  
to offer a message of hope.  
We give thanks for connections  
that have strengthened this year,  
and the resilience we've managed to show.  
As many take time  
to gain much needed rest  
and to focus on family at home,  
may our sense of being  
your people together  
give all of your children some peace.  
Amen.

21 December 2020

God of this deeper winter solstice,  
God of a southern summer height:  
as friends far away  
mark daylight's full stretch,  
and we note the lowest notch of the sun,  
let us give thanks  
for local and global neighbours alike  
who, in sharing what extra they have,  
create a community of giving and receiving,  
of lending and borrowing,  
of weeping and laughing,  
of darkness kept within its bounds;

a growing light always on the horizon.  
Amen.

23 December 2020

God of carols we know by heart,  
God of traditions that reassure us:  
there is comfort in knowing that  
beneath all the tinsel and fuss  
the message of Christmas  
continues to speak truth.  
May those who are separated  
from loved ones this year  
and all of us unable to take part  
as we'd wish,  
find the gift of your presence  
and spirit with us;  
the warmth of love that is felt  
in the flesh.  
Amen.

24 December 2020

God of silent nights,  
God of heavenly peace:  
your light shines in the darkness  
so that even our darkness  
becomes a place to find hope.  
Still our hearts and minds.  
Quiet our concerns,  
and ease our anxieties  
so that in this moment  
we might hear the initial cry  
of new life born to us  
in a place of glorious humility;  
with the strength of human  
and divine vulnerability.  
Amen.

25 December 2020

God of incarnation  
God who is Emmanuel:  
this year we receive the good news  
that the divine gift is being with  
and for one another.  
May we who are brought  
together by your grace

even if we are physically apart,  
carry with us  
hope, peace, joy and love  
into a new year and  
into a world that longs for  
truer community.  
Amen.

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.

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.

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