



A Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Forgiveness

Holy God, maker of the skies above, lowly Christ, born amidst the growing earth, spirit of Life, wind over the flowing waters, in earth, sea and sky, you are there.

O hidden mystery, sun behind all suns, soul behind all souls, in everything we touch, in everyone we meet, your presence is round us, and we give you thanks.

When we have not touched, but trampled you in creation, when we have not met but missed you in one another, forgive us, and hear now our plea for mercy.

The creator of the world watches over us in our waking and our sleeping;
the Saviour of the world ransoms himself for our sins and for our eternal life;
the Spirit of the world dwells within us to guide us and keep us safe;
the God of love and mercy grant us the grace of pardon, wholeness and peace, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Prayers for the Deck & Dock 2016

Watching Jesus & Listening to the Story Teller

On a recent retreat one of our friends had a stunning personal experience when he spent 90 minutes alone with a story from Jesus' life. "I watched Jesus and listened to John" was his simple phrase of freedom in prayer.

Summer can be a great time of decompressing for a few days or weeks with friends and family. It is also a great opportunity to spend time watching Jesus and listening to those who tell his story.

Our hearts are often longing for deeper experience of the eternal and one way to satisfy it is in quiet watching and listening in the beauty of creation.

Take a story from one of the Gospels and find a quiet place to be alone and uninhibited in God's presence. Aware of God's desire to communicate personally with you – offer your own generous openness to God.

Read the story aloud, very slowly, a few times. Listen with your heart, be still like a child who climbs into a caring person's lap. Imagine Jesus sitting with you and chat with him about what you are seeing and hearing.

When the prayer period is over, go for a quiet stroll, stand by the water's edge and reflect on your experience. Review what new thoughts, emotions, comforts or fears have emerged. Chat about it with a trusted friend.

Let "watching Jesus and listening to his storytellers" renew your soul and enrich your humanity.

A Few Suggested Gospel Stories

Luke 19:1-10 Jesus & A Dodgy Customer
Mark 1:14-20 Jesus says "Follow Me"
John 1:35-51 "Follow Me" (2)
John 12:1-11 Special Dinner Party
Luke 18:35-43 Lord Have Mercy
John 21:4-19 Come and Have Breakfast

A Morning Prayer

We awake this morning
in the presence of the holy angels of God.
May heaven open wide before us,
above us and around us.
That we may see the Christ of our love
and his sunlit company in all the things of
earth this day

A Prayer for the Spirit's Guidance

Come, Holy Spirit, enlighten my mind,
cleanse my motives, clarify my intentions
and guide my ambitions.

When full understanding is not possible,
give us faith to trust in you anyway.
When our questions are greater than our
answers,
give us faith to trust in you anyway.
When our doubts outweigh our
certainties,
give us faith to trust in you anyway.

In the name of the One who makes
possible
the answer to this prayer,
In the name of Jesus, we offer this
request.
Amen

A Prayer to Enter Quiet Openness

I fall silent and remember him who came
because words were not enough
.
Setting my wisdom, my will, my words aside,
emptying my heart, and bringing nothing in
my hands,

I yearn for the healing, the holding, the
accepting, the forgiving which Christ alone
can offer.