

### A Prayer of Confession

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.

### A Prayer As We Awake

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.

### For A Moment of Crazy Creativity

Back in the days when we were still  
doing retreats I was with a group and after  
sending them off to a time of personal  
reflection I found myself on the beach. The sun  
was in its ascendancy and the reflection off the  
glassy lake was blindingly bright and warm. I  
had opened myself to the sun as a reflection of  
the warmth and light of Jesus but the power of  
the sun and its watery reflection drew me to  
John's crazy vision in Revelation. It encouraged  
me in my fears, gave me hope for the future  
and let me rest in the warmth and love of God.  
Some morning face the

sun with this wild imaginative picture and  
hear Jesus say "don't fear" as his hand holds  
you up.

"I, John, with you all the way in the trial  
and the Kingdom and the passion of patience  
in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos  
because of God's Word, the witness of Jesus.  
It was Sunday and I was in the Spirit, praying. I  
heard a loud voice behind me, trumpet-clear  
and piercing: "Write what you see into a book.  
.... I turned and saw the voice.

I saw a gold menorah with seven branches,  
And in the center, the Son of Man,  
in a robe and gold breastplate,  
hair a blizzard of white,  
Eyes pouring fire-blaze,  
both feet furnace-fired bronze,  
His voice a cataract,  
right hand holding the Seven Stars,  
His mouth a sharp-biting sword,  
his face a perigee sun.  
I saw this and fainted dead at his feet.

His right hand pulled me upright, his voice  
reassured me:

"Don't fear: I am First, I am Last, I'm Alive. I  
died, but I came to life, and my life is now  
forever. See these keys in my hand? They  
open and lock Death's doors, they open and  
lock Hell's gates. Now write down everything  
you see: things that are, things about to  
be.(Revelation 1: 8-20 MSG)

### In the Midst of the Noise

O God make us children of quietness,  
and heirs of peace.  
(Clement. Died around 100)



## Touchstone

### Prayers for Deck & Dock 2021

#### Freedom

*I would love to live  
Like a river flows,  
Carried by the surprise  
Of its own unfolding*  
(Conamara Blues, John O'Donohue)

The past 18 months haven't felt like  
that poem. However, when we take time to  
reflect and give thanks, we often can see that  
we have been in the flow of a Divine Love  
that has carried us through troubled times.

Prayer and moments of quiet that  
open us to inner stillness can make us  
sensitive to the moves of the Spirit in our  
lives. Perhaps more importantly we discover  
greater sensitivity to needs and cares of  
those around us.

Here is a selection of prayers to assist your moments of silence and inner stillness in the presence of our loving God.

The following prayer has fueled me over many years with perspective and hope, maybe it will do the same for you.

“For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.”

(Ephesians 3:14-21 NIVUK)

### **A Blessing for the Day**

On my heart and on my house

The blessing of God.

In my coming and in my going

The peace of God.

In my life and in my seeking

The love of God.

At my end and new beginning

The arms of God to welcome me  
and bring me home.

(*Celtic Prayers from Iona*, J. Philip Newell)

### **A Prayer For When We Hit the Pillow**

I lie down this night with God  
and God will lie down with me.

I lie down this night with Christ  
and Christ will lie down with me.

I lie down this night with the Spirit  
and the Spirit will lie down with me.

The three of my love  
will be lying down with me.

I shall not lie down with sin  
nor shall sin or sin's shadows  
lie down with me.

I lie down this night with God  
and God will lie down with me

(*Celtic Prayers from Iona*, J. Philip Newell)

### **A Prayer of Focus on God**

We come in these moments to God,

In our need,

and bringing with us the needs of the world.

We come to God, who has come to us in Jesus,

And who walks with us the road

of our world's suffering.

We come with our faith and with our doubts.

We come with our hopes and with our fears.

We come as we are,

because it is God who invites us to come.

And God has promised never to turn us away.

### **Summer Solstice**

God of the longest day, may my life be a long day  
for you, always reflecting your light, open,  
awake.

(*Celtic Prayers for Life Today* Ray Simpson)

### **Two Psalms For Your Voice**

Hallelujah!

Thank God! Pray to him by name!

Tell everyone you meet what he has done!

Sing him songs, belt out hymns,  
translate his wonders into music!

Honor his holy name with Hallelujahs,  
you who seek God. Live a happy life!

Keep your eyes open for God,  
watch for his works;

be alert for signs of his presence.

Remember the world of wonders he has made,  
his miracles, and the verdicts he's rendered....

(Psalm 105:1-6 MSG)

Count yourself lucky, how happy you must be—  
you get a fresh start, your slate's wiped clean.

Count yourself lucky—

God holds nothing against you

and you're holding nothing back from him.

When I kept it all inside, my bones turned to  
powder, my words became daylong groans.

The pressure never let up;

all the juices of my life dried up.

Then I let it all out; I said, “I'll make a clean  
breast of my failures to God.”

Suddenly the pressure was gone—

my guilt dissolved, my sin disappeared.

These things add up. Every one of us needs to  
pray; when all hell breaks loose and the dam  
bursts, we'll be on high ground, untouched.

Celebrate God.

Sing together—everyone!

All you honest hearts, raise the roof!

(Psalm 32:1-6, 11 MSG)