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# *A Collection of Prayers*



FROM MEMBERS OF ASBURY  
LAFAYETTE

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## A COLLECTION OF PRAYERS

ASBURY  
UNITED  
METHODIST  
CHURCH

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## INTRODUCTION

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*"Before they call I will answer; while they are speaking, I will hear"*

*Isaiah 65:24*

*"I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently find me."*

*Proverbs 8:17*

Prayer helps us through uncertainty, worry, and doubt, while also helping us to celebrate joy, purpose, and faith.

Prayer is a journey and mystery, something we never quite master, but when we practice it, it always brings us closer to God. As Anne Lamott says, "God can handle honesty, and prayer begins an honest conversation. My belief is that when you're telling the truth, you're close to God. We can say anything to God. It's all prayer."

This booklet is a collection of prayers written by Asbury staff and members. We hope it will be a blessing and resource for you as you journey with God.

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## A Prayer for the Seasons

God of all seasons,  
we bring to you the many seasons of our lives.  
Some of us are in a season of spring,  
emerging from a colder, more difficult time.  
Help us to see what needs planting in our lives,  
and what needs to be weeded out.

Some of us are in a season of autumn.  
We are reaping what we sowed in spring,  
seeing what you have accomplished in our lives.  
Lead us to radical generosity from hearts overflowing with gratitude.

Some of us find ourselves in winter.  
Everything is difficult.  
Life seems dark and joy seems illusive.  
We cry out from the darkness:  
Help me O God! Where is the light?  
We cling to the hope that you are yet with us.

Some of us find ourselves in summer.  
We delight in all you have given us  
in this beautiful time filled with warmth,  
rest and joy - a foretaste of heaven.  
We sit silent in your sweet presence  
and ask for the grace to stay close to you.

We lift to you our thanks and praise  
that in whatever season we find ourselves,  
your steadfast, loving presence  
is always with us.

Amen

*Rev. Susan Ferguson*

Inviting God, welcoming God, loving God,  
for everyone born you have prepared  
a place at the table,  
to live without fear and simply to be;  
for everyone born,  
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing;  
for everyone born, a place to be free.  
Forgive us for refusing your invitation to love,  
for closing the tables of our hearts,  
for failing to extend your grace to everyone born.  
Make space in our souls for compassion to grow;  
make space in our lives for new people to come;  
form our church into an ever-opening table,  
a crowded table of grace  
where there is always room for more.  
Send us out into the lanes and streets  
with your message of welcome  
for everyone born.

Amen.

*Rev. John Cannon*

*hymn text by Shirley E. Murray*

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Dear Lord,  
We thank you for the gift of today  
and ask that you help us be the best that we can be.  
May you continue to bless us  
and help us be a blessing to others  
and may we glorify you today by our words and actions.

*Rob Riedel*

Compassionate God,  
you know each star in the universe,  
each grain of sand on the earth,  
and each human soul.  
And you know the deep secrets  
of every human heart.  
Yet in your steadfast love and mercy,  
you always welcome us  
to the table of your grace.  
Where we have gone wrong,  
grant forgiveness.  
Where we have been weak,  
grant strength.  
And where we have done well,  
grant us awareness  
that the Spirit of Jesus Christ  
is alive in our hearts  
and alive in this world  
through us.

*Rev. John Cannon*

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I know I love you Lord  
I feel your healing powers  
I hear your gently whisper  
I follow your presence  
I sense your movement  
I am walking forward  
I am seeking peace

*Beth Moore*

## A Prayer for a New Day

Holy One,  
In this new day, help calm our nerves and settle our spirits,  
Blow away our fears and doubts,  
So that we may be open ourselves to the joy that a new week brings.

Open our eyes to see the blessings present in our lives.  
Call to our minds the friends and family members who bring us joy,  
Birds and frogs who sing us songs of life,  
Trees and rocks which teach us to endure.  
With each breath we take,  
May we be reminded of Your Spirit  
Which surrounds us today and every day.

Amen.

*Rev. Leah Gaughan*

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Lord Jesus, I pray for the peace which surpasses all understanding to be with us this day and every day. I pray for your guidance and grace to love those around us. I pray for your guidance and direction as we face new challenges and unexpected changes. It is in your precious name that we pray and give this day to you.

Amen!

*Penny Powell*

## A Prayer for a New Year

Gracious and loving God,  
I thank you for holding my hand in this fresh new year.  
Against my inclination and only with your help  
I let go of my desire for more control over my life.  
Have you not taught me again and again  
how the joy is in the flexibility?  
How all the unexpected, the unwanted, the unexplained things  
converge to shape me into the person I yearn to be?  
You keep showing me that while change is eternally constant,  
so is your presence.  
Help me to trust this eternal truth.  
You nudge me to see how hope is born through struggle  
and the fresh start is brought through change.  
In change there is always an invitation.  
Please give me the wisdom of soul to look for it.  
In this new year, give me a soft heart  
open to newness, sensitive to others' pain,  
resilient with hope, trusting while it is still dark...

This is the heart I pray for this year.  
May it be so.

Amen

*Arianne B. Lehn (modified)*  
*submitted by Zach Gilsby*

Dear God,

Thank you God for being my forever friend.  
Thank you for Your love that never ends.  
Thank you for the hope and joy that you send.  
Thank you for forgiving our sins.  
Thank you God for my family and friends.

Amen

*Sarah Deroche*

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We come to you humbly Lord  
We bow down in adoration  
I feel your presence surrounding me in love  
We give ourselves to you  
We love you, Lord  
We need you every day

My love, my God  
I'm breathing  
I'm bowing  
I'm loving  
I feel your presence God  
Flowing  
Floating  
Flying  
I am free in you, God  
I am a warrior  
I am a healer  
I am love

*Beth Moore*



## Serenity Prayer

Father, give us courage to change what must be altered,  
serenity to accept what cannot be helped, and the insight  
to know the one from the other.

*By Reinhold Niebuhr  
submitted by Zach Silsby*

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Lord God,

You set aside the privileges of deity,  
You came to us in complete vulnerability,  
You died in utter humiliation, expecting no reward.

Conform our lives to the life of the selfless one we call King,  
so that we may humbly testify to your present yet coming reign.  
through Christ who is our King.

Amen.

*Rev. Allison Gikes*

## A Prayer for the Saints

Heavenly Father,  
 Today we are remembering cherished saints  
 who have stepped from this life into your loving presence – grandparents, parents,  
 relatives, friends,  
 and teachers from all walks of life who have touched our lives  
 and made us better people by their presence with us.  
 We remember those who called us to faith,  
 who showed us your path by the way they lived their lives;  
 those who helped us step forward into life  
 empowered by their belief in us, their affirmation, guidance, encouragement, and  
 unconditional love;  
 those who turned kitchens, offices, back porches,  
 classrooms, gardens, waiting rooms, sidewalks,  
 lunch tables, and hospital rooms into sanctuaries –  
 living experiences of your transforming love;  
 those who taught us, learned with us, opened their lives to us,  
 walked beside us in both grief and joy;  
 those who were strong when we were weak  
 and who taught us to ask for and gratefully receive help;  
 those who taught us the priceless importance of our relationships  
 and always made us feel cherished in their presence.

Today we are also remembering present-day saints,  
 those whose beautiful lives call us to be our best selves.  
 We remember  
 those treasured people who make us laugh,  
     who remind us what is truly important,  
     who surprise us and who center us with their insights and honesty, who are  
     cherished companions on our journey through life;  
 those who bring healing and light into our brokenness  
     with their gentleness, kindness, thoughtfulness, presence, listening, prayers, and  
     humble acts of service;  
 those who have faced the worst life can bring  
     yet continue to live on in deepest trust that your love  
     will see them through;  
 those who live lives of intentional service to others –  
     whose daily examples of courage, generosity, excellence,  
     and selflessness not only teach us, heal us, and keep us safe,  
     but inspire us.

As we remember each of these saints,  
 our hearts overflow with gratitude for their presence in our lives.  
 May we joyfully and generously give to the world  
 the gifts they have given us.

Amen

*Jan Cooke*

Dear Lord,  
When my words are hard to find,  
You hear my heart.  
When my actions are too few,  
You nudge me onward.  
When my touch is not able to be given,  
You cradle your children.

Lord,  
In these days that seem forever, You are constant and I am thankful.  
In these days that seem uncertain, You give light and hope and I am thankful.  
In these days that seem impossible, You make everything possible and I am thankful.

My heavenly Father,  
Remind me of the goodness today and every day,  
Shower me with grace and forgiveness and hope and courage.  
May my hands and feet be an instrument  
Of grace and forgiveness and hope and courage to others.  
May peace fill all the spaces of our lives today and always,

In Jesus' name, I pray,

Amen.

*Tara Breaux*

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Dear God,  
You are Amazing!  
Thank you for my Family and Friends!  
Help us get through these weird times.  
In Jesus' name we pray

Amen

*Kemper Carpenter*



## A Prayer for Action

Merciful God,

We cry...

We cry over broken bodies and broken hearts.

We cry over lost lives and lost humanity.

We confess...

confess that we have turned away from the pain.

We confess that we are full of fear.

We pray...

We pray, trusting in your power to redeem and renew.

We pray, putting all of our hope in your vision for the world.

We act...

We act, moving our feet, lifting our voices, and sharing our resources.

We act, using the gifts you have entrusted us with.

We remember....

We remember, that Jesus overturned the status quo.

We remember, that the work of community is ours to do.

We are called...

We are called, to learn and live your love.

We are called, to channel your life-giving Spirit,  
to breath on a gasping world.

Merciful God,

We love you.

Amen.

*Rev. Allison Gikes*



Heavenly Father,

We pray that YOUR will, your purpose and your desire for our lives is OUR will, our purpose and our desire for our lives; that you will prune us of the leaves that keep us from bearing your fruit and, as we bear your fruit through our lives, that you will form us into the best stewards we can possibly be of all that which you've borne through us.

We pray this in the name of your son, our Lord, Jesus Christ.

*Dr. Bryan Sibley*

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Christ,  
a center point.  
Christ,  
a point of light.  
Christ,  
a light in darkness.  
Christ,  
a burning fire.  
Christ,  
a place of warmth.  
Christ,  
a flame of life.

*Rev. John Cannon*

I love you Lord, thank you for always being there for me  
Thank you for loving me  
Thank you for pouring out and pouring in  
Abba Father and Amma Mother  
You see all the best in me  
You pour out generations of blessings through the words of truth and love

*Beth Moore*

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## Wartime Prayer

Dear Lord,

Lest I continue my complacent way,  
help me to remember that somewhere,  
somehow out there a soldier died for me today.

As long as there be war,  
I then must ask and answer:  
Am I worth dying for?

*By Eleanor Roosevelt*  
*submitted by Zach Silsby*

## A Prayer for Following

O God,  
we come fully aware of our unwillingness  
to follow you always.  
And we come very aware that you beckon us  
and that we do desire to follow you.  
We ask for your strength and courage  
to follow wherever you lead us.  
We also come to you today  
knowing that the needs of this world  
seem beyond our abilities to heal and to help...  
but knowing that you can heal and help  
and lead us to heal and help as well.

We come bringing our concerns to you:  
love ones who are sick;  
love ones whose health is threatened.  
As our schools open, protect our children,  
bus drivers and teachers, lunch personnel and custodians,  
office staff, parents and grandparents.  
We lift to you our workplaces and economy,  
our unity as one community,  
injustice in all of its forms: corporate and personal.

Open our eyes to see not only problems  
but also how we can be a part of healing and change.  
We bring to you all the deep longings  
and questions of our hearts,  
all the hurts and hopes we cannot yet put into words...

And we come rejoicing to remember  
how we saw your hand and heart at work this past week.  
We come grateful for those you healed  
and those you welcomed home.  
Thank you for your provision in our lives,  
those which we recognize  
and those which have gone unseen.

O God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Be thou our guide while troubles last,  
And our eternal home!

Amen

*Rev. Susan Ferguson*

## A Blessing for Anxious Moments

Deep peace to you, my child\*  
Deep peace.

Peace in your body.  
Peace in your mind.  
Peace in your spirit.

As you breath in deeply,  
Breathe in peace.

May the worries in your mind  
Seem far away.

May you know God's love for you  
And your family's love too

Deep peace you to, my child,  
Deep peace.

\*substitute your child's name if you wish.

*'Prayer for Faithful Families' by Traci Smith  
submitted by Rev. Leah Gaughan*

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Speak this prayer for immediate assistance, then calmly  
proceed on your way, secure in the knowledge that Jesus,  
your Friend and Brother, is with you.

Help me, Jesus  
Fill me with your Peace  
Show me the way.

*Mary Perrin*





## A Prayer for Healthcare Workers

In the midst of weariness, stress and difficulty,  
we offer you this blessing.

At the start of the day,  
may your mind be clear as you prepare for all that lies ahead.  
No matter what you face today, know that you are enough.  
The day may be filled with joy or sorrow, delight or pain,  
but do not forget that what you offer to the world is a blessing.

May your heart be filled with compassion for those you meet.  
Even in the face of frustration and hurt,  
may you have courage to show kindness.

May your hands bring healing and relief from injury, illness, fear and pain.  
Your presence is a gift.  
May your body be sustained and filled with strength as you care for others.

May your Spirit be filled with generosity in the midst of tragedy.  
May care and thoughtfulness overflow into every encounter before you.

May you find rest and refreshment at the end of the day.  
May you be filled with peace,  
as you consider all you've done and left undone.  
While your work is important, it is not all that you are.

You are beloved.

*Rev. Leah and Peter Gaughan*

O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder  
consider all the universe displayed,  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,  
thy power throughout the universe displayed.  
I sense your marvelous, infinite, matchless grace,  
grace that you freely bestow on all who believe.  
Your grace has brought me safe thus far and it will lead me home to you.  
Therefore, I praise you, blessed Redeemer, for you are my story and my  
song.  
O that with the sacred throng of heaven I at your feet may fall  
and join the everlasting song and crown you Lord of all.  
Here, Lord, I give myself away.  
'Tis all that I can do.

Amen.

*Dr. Lee Cooke*

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Eternal Breath,

Animator of every inhalation and every exhalation,  
every gasp and every sigh,  
Expel your Spirit into this place,  
Enter every tired body and longing heart,  
that all of us gathered here may be enlivened to receive and share:  
Your living, breathing Word.  
Through Christ our Lord,

Amen.

*Rev. Allison Sikes*



## A Prayer for Help

God in whose image we are made,  
through your own Spirit,  
breathe that Life into us now.

God, you are the author of Listening.  
As you listen to us,  
help us really to hear ourselves,  
and then, really to turn  
and listen to you.

God whose image we tarnish  
with our thoughts and actions,  
forgive us we pray  
and re-image us as Love.

God, you are the author of Hope.  
Ignite in us the hope of  
Your Kingdom Coming  
into this world  
even now.

God, whose image we long for.  
Open us to see everyone,  
those we love and those we do not,  
as Beloved, made-in-your-image.

God, in Your Imagination,  
in Your Image,  
We, all of us,  
live and move and breathe,  
listen and hope,  
in the guidance of Your Spirit,  
through Your Beloved Son.

May it be so.

Amen.

*Rev. Susan Ferguson*

## Regarding Violence

May my thoughts and prayers  
become words and actions  
that those who suffer  
(and those who might suffer  
if I say and do nothing)  
will find in me  
a friend and advocate.

*Rev. John Cannon*

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Hear the calming waves of praise  
Let them wash over you  
Feel the presence of healing powers wash over your body  
Allow your DNA to renew in love and heal bit by bit  
Reconnect all the love and peace for generations  
Do you see it? You're healing generations before and after you  
Your ancestors send love to you  
Your people are here for you  
Your path is opening and widening to bring in love everywhere

*Beth Moore*

Dear Lord,

You always know what's in my heart  
and always know how to comfort me based on what You find inside of me.

Whether I'm sad or glad, you are right there with me in my ups and downs.  
I can laugh, cry, gripe, praise, and share pressing needs  
- You hear me, You answer me.

Lord, in retrospect, life moved along in a predictable pattern for many years.  
Then, in 2020, our world turned topsy-turvy in an abundance of ways.  
What are we to do?!? We are to turn to you!

All through 2020 and all through this year and all through the years to come,  
You are with us! Life may change but You are unchanging!  
Our world may shake but You are our steady rock!  
We don't even know what to ask for but You give us what we need!

In Psalm 62:2, your Word says,  
"Truly he is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will never be shaken."  
Lord, let us remember, you are The Rock and The Salvation for the world.  
Praise be to God!

*Diana Lennon*

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Dear God, You are the Best!  
Thank you for all of our Happy Moments!  
Help us to see you in all we do and say!  
In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen

*Keegan Carpenter*



## A Blessing for a New Year

May you...

Never doubt God's love for you.

Always be at peace,  
in both mind and spirit.

Know the joy of a true friend.

Have the courage to be  
who God created you to be.

Laugh often and deeply.

May you...

Love whole-heartedly.

Be loved whole-heartedly.

Cherish the little things  
that make life so sweet.

Anticipate the joy of discovery,  
of possibilities, of new beginnings.

Trust God's endless creativity  
and good will at work in all of life.

May you...

Share generously with those in need.

Enrich the world with your  
gifts and talents.

Have a dream for your life  
and the courage to pursue it.

Always have a place  
that means "home" to you.

Live in the assurance  
of God's constant loving presence.

May you...

Always do justice, love kindness,  
and walk humbly with your God.

May it be so.

Amen

*Asbury Adult Sunday School Class*

Heavenly Father,  
We are living in days of uncertainty,  
when anxiety is often a daily companion,  
bringing dull weariness to our minds and spirits.  
So it is with special joy that we pause  
to think of all the remarkable people in our lives  
who through their words, actions, or simple presence with us,  
have deeply nurtured and cared for our souls.  
In this quiet moment, we whisper their names in our hearts.

We thank you for the reassurance these memories bring,  
that even across the span of time and space,  
these acts of kindness still bring us joy and comfort.  
As we are refreshed by recalling these cherished people  
who have touched our lives so powerfully,  
may we be inspired to share these same gifts  
with a world which so desperately needs  
hope, reassurance, kindness and love.  
Please show us how.

Amen

*Jan Cooke*

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God, I'm not perfect. Sometimes I forget to pray and sometimes I  
lose my temper. But, thank you for loving me anyway and giving me  
another day to start over.

Amen.

*Author Unknown*  
*submitted by Linda Stewart*

## The Cross in My Pocket

I carry a cross in my pocket  
A simple reminder to me  
Of the fact that I am a Christian  
No matter where I may be

This little cross is not magic  
Nor is it a good luck charm  
It isn't meant to protect me  
From every physical harm

It's not for identification  
For all the world to see  
It's simply an understanding  
Between my Savior and me

It reminds me too be thankful  
For my blessings day by day  
And to strive to serve Him better  
In all that I do and say

It's also a daily reminder  
Of the peace and comfort I share  
With all who know my Master  
And give themselves to His care

So, I carry a cross in my pocket  
Reminds no one but me  
That Jesus Christ is Lord of my life  
If only I'll let Him be

*by Verna Thomas*  
*submitted by Teri Knows*





## A Prayer for Happiness and Joy

May flowers line your path and sunshine light your day.  
May songbirds serenade you every step of the way.  
May a rainbow run beside you in a sky that's always blue.  
And may happiness fill your heart each day your whole life through.

Amen.

*An Irish Blessing*

*submitted by Carolyn Frederick*

## A Bedtime Prayer

At night we stop. We go to bed.  
We rest our body. We rest our head.  
We say good night. The day is done.  
We pray God's peace for everyone.

Amen.

*'Prayer for Faithful Families' by Traci Smith  
submitted by Rev. Leah Ganghan*

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Stirring Spirit,

Open the scriptures to us,

Shake us

and

Shape us

With your enlivening and animating Word.

That as we gather and as we go

we may be sustained for the doing of your work.

Amen.

*Rev. Allison Sikes*



## A Prayer for the Spirit

Holy Spirit,  
We find our lives unbalanced;  
The world unleashes unsettling realities that disrupt our familiar comforts  
And pulls us into what seems to be a swirling storm of chaos.  
Surround us with Your wisdom and reveal the evils that lie hidden in our midst.

Too often we bury ourselves in comfort and complacency.  
Blow away the layers of apathy that keep us  
from dancing with the song of your Spirit.  
Lift us on Your wings beyond the status quo to the Kingdom you call us to embody.

Call forth the names of the broken, hurting and oppressed  
and carry their voices to our ears so that we can be moved to action.  
Fill our lungs with Your presence so that we may exhale justice and love.

We thank you for your life-giving Spirit,  
which strengthens us and empowers us  
for the active work of peace-making ahead.  
With each breath we take, let us be reminded you go with us  
As we seek to bring glory to Your Kingdom.

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
Amen.

*Rev. Leah and Peter Gaughan*

Holy God,  
open to us  
light in the darkness,  
courage against fear,  
and hope over despair.  
Loving God,  
open to us  
wisdom in place of confusion,  
forgiveness for sins,  
and love over hate.  
God of Peace,  
open to us  
harmony over turmoil,  
joy against sorrow,  
strength over weakness.  
Generous God,  
open our hearts  
to receive these gifts.

*Rev. John Cannon*

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LORD, help me to remember that nothing is going to happen today  
that YOU and I together can't handle.

*Author Unknown*

*submitted by Irene Clement*

Your goodness is flowing through me God  
I feel it (goodness in a hug, in a kiss, in sweet messages)  
I see it (goodness in a sweet smile)  
I know it (goodness in kindness, small gestures)  
I hear it (goodness in every small way you're with me God)  
I love you Lord I know you are amazing God  
I run after you God  
I curl up in your arms and I am surrounded in your love  
I feel your angels supporting me  
I feel your amazing glory of goodness  
With every breath, I flow out goodness

*Beth Moore*

---

Abundant Fountain,  
You pour out rivers of refreshing grace.  
Fill us to the point of overflowing  
so that our actions may be covered by splashes of love.

In God's name,

Amen

*Rev. Peter Gaughan*

## A Prayer for God's Way

God of Love and Sacrifice,

You showed your love for humanity so boldly and clearly by choosing to live a life as one of us. You experienced life as a toddler and child who soaks up the knowledge and life lessons offered by those around you. You experienced the uncertainty and awkwardness of being a teenager whose peers possibly didn't understand you and pressured you to rebel. You experienced the life of a man in a world full of prejudice, misogyny, and hatred.

While choosing to experience a life filled with the pain of ridicule, betrayal, abandonment, loss, and all of the same pains we experience in our lives, you also chose to serve others so they would not experience those pains or at least not experience them alone. It is true that in death you set us free, but in life you gave us "The Way".

You showed us how to live a life of sacrifice and therefore how to live a life of love for others. In Paul's letter to the Romans, you remind us that we are to "offer [our] bodies as living sacrifices to God" which is our "true" worship (Romans 12: 1). You ask us to offer our up choices, our actions, our very lives as our offerings of true worship to You. When we feed the hungry, we worship you. When we clothe the naked, we worship you. When we smile at a stranger, we worship you. When we treat a friend to a cup of coffee, we worship you. When we choose to sit with and listen to the stories of those that are lonely, forgotten, and broken, we worship you.

Holy God, give us eyes to see, ears to hear, and strength to take action when this world offers us opportunities to offer you our "true worship". We ask this in the name of the one who gave us "The Way".

Amen.

*Kyle Deroche*

## Merton Prayer

My Lord God,  
I have no idea where I am going.  
I do not see the road ahead of me.  
I cannot know for certain where it will end.  
nor do I really know myself,  
and the fact that I think I am following your will  
does not mean that I am actually doing so.  
But I believe that the desire to please you  
does in fact please you.  
And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.  
I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.  
And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road,  
though I may know nothing about it.  
Therefore will I trust you always though  
I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death.  
I will not fear, for you are ever with me,  
and you will never leave me to face my perils alone

*By Thomas Merton*

*submitted by Zach Gilsby*

Gracious Lord,  
From the days of Abraham we have been your people.  
You have chosen us to be a light to the nations  
and called us to love one another, f  
or we are all your children.  
Inspire us to seek to love in all situations.  
Your prophets called us to justice and righteousness.  
Show us how to be your instruments of positive change.  
These are days that call forth from us  
love, patience, and most of all, trust in you.  
Remind us in all things to do justice,  
love kindness, and to walk humbly with you.  
Assure us again that you are our hope,  
as you call us to share this hope with all people.  
In the name of your son, who taught us what love can be,

Amen.

*Dr. Lee Cooke*

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Source of all Creation,  
You generate everything necessary for the reality we know.  
Provide us with the means to live into the Kingdom of God  
on earth as it is in heaven  
so that we may find our original calling.  
In the name of the One who was, is, and is to come,

Amen

*Rev. Peter Gaughan*





## A Prayer for Today

We begin our day, O God,  
giving thanks for this gift of life  
with all its potential and possibility.  
We begin this day with hope,  
knowing that the day brings opportunities  
for kindness, forgiveness, justice, and service

We pray for all those who face difficulties today,  
for those recovering from the storm of this weekend,  
and those still recovering from last month's storm.  
We pray for those who feel hopeless  
in the face of huge challenges,  
for those who are lonely or afraid,  
sick or hurting, angry or suffering.  
May we find courage to do the right thing,  
responding with compassion and loving-kindness.  
May we see you in the heart of every person we meet.

We make room for the unexpected today.  
May we find blessing and life in these surprise encounters.  
We begin this day with trust in you,  
knowing that we are created to live  
your love in this world.  
May it be so.

Amen.

*Rev. John Cannon*

Loving Father, I am so grateful for all the blessings in my life.  
From a sunset that You paint for all to enjoy to the flower that grows in  
the middle of my weeds. I am most thankful for Your Son that you sent  
to die for all of our sins. The Greatest Present we will ever receive.  
Melt me, mold me, fill me and use me for Your Glory.

*Donna Platt*

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## Christmas Prayer

Great God of Power,  
we praise you for Jesus Christ,  
Who came to save us from our sins.

We praise you for the prophets' hope, for the angels' song, for the  
birth in Bethlehem.

We thank you that in Jesus, You join us in human hurts and pleasures.

Praise and glory be to you for your wonderful love.

Praise and glory be to you, Eternal God, through Jesus Christ, the  
King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Amen

*by Bill Henson*

*submitted by Zach Gilsby*

Gracious Lord,

You are the light of this world and the Prince of peace.

Our world is broken in so many ways.

We are hurting, hungry, homeless, sick, angry, sad, and scared.

Help us to see Your light through others

and to find peace in the brokenness.

You are the strength that we don't have

and the compassion that we need.

Equip us with those tools so that we may see the needs around us

and help when we are able.

We give you thanks Lord, for your endless love and mercy.

May we be a reflection of those gifts to others.

Amen

*Sarah Deroche*

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## A Prayer of Thanksgiving

"Lord, you have assigned me my portion and my cup; you have made my lot secure. The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance." Psalm 16: 5-6

The verses above express so beautifully my feelings as I thank God for the life he has given me: His unmerited, unconditional love; Jesus' payment for my sins; the ever-present Holy Spirit; a wonderful loving family; my church family; dear friends; opportunities; health and health care; an abundance of material blessings; and the gift of years that John and I have shared. I have been so graciously blessed, and truly "my cup overflows."

Thank you, Lord.

*Jan Love*

Designer of the Universe,  
You inspire all life,  
From the chasm of the waters you called forth the world  
and formed people from the dust.  
Continue to mold us into your image,  
So that we may live joyfully in the world you created and  
called good,  
Through Christ our Lord,  
Amen.

*Rev. Leah Gaughan*

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Mighty Fortress,  
You provide refuge from the evils and apathy of the world.  
Secure our hearts and minds in Your merciful grace so that we  
may choose love.  
In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
Amen

*Rev. Peter Gaughan*



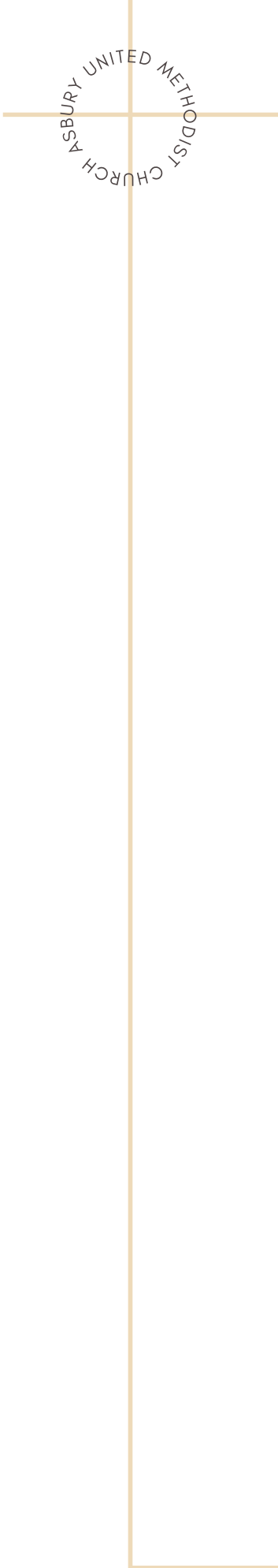
God of Light:  
with the dawning of this new day,  
show us the radiance of your love,  
show us the light of Christ.  
And transform us.  
Remove the darkness from our hearts  
that we may shine with the bright love of Christ.

*Rev. John Cannon*

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Holy Shelter,  
You welcome all travelers into Your comforting safety with unrivaled hospitality.  
Throw open the doors of our hearts so that we may extend the cover of Your mercy.  
In the name of all that is good and just,  
Amen

*Rev. Peter Gaughan*



# A COLLECTION OF PRAYERS

ASBURY  
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