

## Pray Together Worship Resources

You are encouraged to use these prayer resources in your worship service following the Day of Prayer on March 24, 2023 either on Sunday, March 25th or a Sunday leading up to annual conference.

***Ephesians 6:18*** - *And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.*

### **Calls to Worship**

Though storms rage around me, I will clothe myself with the whole armor of God.

**I will fasten the belt of truth about my waist.**

I will place strength and determination as my shoes to aid me in my ministry and mission for God.

**I will take up the shield of faith with which I shall defend against evil ways.**

I will pray diligently at all times, offering prayers and supplication to God.

**The helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit will accompany on my journey.**

Be strong in the Lord who provides for your every need.

**I place my confidence and trust in God always. AMEN.**

[Nancy Townsley, Worship Connection; August 22,2021; [www.ministrymatters.com](http://www.ministrymatters.com)]

*Congregation sing verse 1 The Faith We Sing, p. 2080 "All I Need is You"*

*Read Responsively:*

Place your trust in the Lord.

**Cast away those things which distract from your faith in God.**

God will provide for all your needs.

**The love of Jesus Christ and his witness strengthens and sustains us.**

*Congregation sing verse 2 "All I Need is You" AMEN.*

[Nancy Townsley, Worship Connection; August 22,2021; [www.ministrymatters.com](http://www.ministrymatters.com)]

### **UMC Hymnal Suggestions:**

What a Friend We have in Jesus - 526

Every Time I Feel the Spirit – 404

Sweet Hour of Prayer – 496

Standing in the Need of Prayer – 352

Take Time to be Holy – 395

I Need Thee Every Hour – 397

**Faith We Sing Hymnal:**

I Will Call Upon the Lord - 2002  
From the Rising of the Sun - 2024  
As the Deer - 2025  
Thank You, Jesus - 2081  
Come and Find the Quiet Center - 2128  
Give Me a Clean Heart - 2133  
Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying - 2193  
Lead Me, Guide Me - 2214  
Gather Us In - 2236  
Taste and See - 2267  
The Lord's Prayer - 2278

**Contemporary Songs:**

*WayMaker* - Elevation Worship  
*Jireh* - Elevation Worship & Maverick City  
*O Come to the Altar* - Elevation Worship  
*Be Still and Know That I Am God*  
*Our Prayer* - Rend Collective

**Prayers of Adoration:** [Psalm 141:2] - *May my prayer be set before you like incense; may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice.*

My prayer rises to heaven, to the mystery of God's power, as the smoke ascends when the precious incense burns. Have mercy on us, Lord, and grant us your grace. My voice glorifies the Lord God of majesty, as the night bird sings at the dawning of the day. This is my offering to God, the Lord of all. As the thirsty earth looks to heaven for life-giving rain to save flowers and trees, so I raise my hands high in prayer; defend me from all people who try to harm me. O Lord God, how I wish that I could live with you for the rest of my life, dwelling in your house I would feel assured that my prayers would be always in your sight. O Lord God, you are love and justice and truth, all your judgements are just. O Lord God, you are truth beyond comparison. Lord, in you, do I trust.  
[UMC Hymnal, p. 498]

I was glad when they said to me, let us go to the house of God!

**With gladness and joy we worship our Creator today!**

Weeping may endure for a night,

**But joy comes in the morning.**

The ransomed of God shall come to Zion with singing;

**They shall obtain joy and gladness; sorrow and sighing shall flee away.**

Before God, even the wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom.

**Before God, the mountains and hills shall break forth into singing and the trees of the field shall clap their hands.**

O sing for joy to the God of joy!

**God has blessed the people!**

Let us praise the name of God with joy!

**Let us bless God's holy name together!**

[Lisa Withrow, *Seasons of Prayer: Resources for Worship*, Great Britain:SPCK, 1995, p. 99]

**Prayers of Confession:** [James 5:16] *Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.*

Holy God, you are the light, and in you there is no darkness at all.

**We confess that we have believed in what is false;**

Shift our focus to that which is true.

**We confess that we have had vulgar thoughts or rude actions;**

Shift our focus to that which is honorable.

**We confess that we have done things that are unethical or degraded others;**

Shift our focus to that which is just.

**We confess that we have been inauthentic;**

Shift our focus to that which is pure.

**We confess that our treatment of others has been detestable.**

Shift our focus to that which is pleasing.

**We confess that we have spent our time on insignificant or petty matters.**

Shift our focus to that which is commendable.

**Let us live in the light. AMEN.**

[Adapted from Kimberly Bracken Long, *Feasting on the Word: Liturgies for Year A*, Volume 2, *Worship Companion* p.199]

**Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*All pray in silence*

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God. Amen.**

[United Methodist Hymnal, p. 8

**Prayers of Thanksgiving:** [1 Thessalonians 5:16-18] - *Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*

Holy God, giver of life, we thank you for raising us up and joining us together as one people, your people, flesh and bone in the body of Christ. As you have delivered us from death, use our lives to proclaim the good news of new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

[Kimberly Bracken Long, Feasting on the Word: Worship Companion volume 1, Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2013, p.118]

We thank you God for your creation.

You created earth and heaven.

You created man and woman.

You created sun and moon.

You are the only God to be worshiped.

Thank you God for giving us life.

We thank you for the good sunshine.

Thank you for the good rain that causes the crops to grow.

God be praised for the plenty of good harvest.

We thank you for our food, for our bananas, sorghum, beans, maize and others, O Lord.

God we thank you for our cows, goats, sheep that give us milk and meat.

Thank you God for giving us children.

You are the source of life, we thank you.

We, your children, are happy enjoying the fruits of your creation. Therefore, we thank you.

Divine Intelligence, give us peace on our country.

We want peace in our homes.

Give peace to the world of which you saved from the power of Satan.

Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you, and praise you for our Salvation.

Bless us today, Lord.

Bless our children as they play together in school or at home.

Lord, bless the President and our nation.

Jack K. Kabahikyeho, Uganda

[Maren C. Tirabassi and Kathy Wonson Eddy, Gifts of Many Cultures: Worship Resources for the Global Community, Cleveland, Ohio: United Press, 1995, p.21]

**Prayers of Supplication:** [Hebrews 4:16] - *Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*  
*Hebrews 4:16*

In peace let us pray.

*Offer prayers for the world, for the church, for family and friends, and for the community.*

*After each supplication, pray*

Merciful God, **Hear our prayer.**

[Upper Room Worshipbook, p.9]

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and people, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For those in positions of public trust, especially (*insert name*), that they may serve justice and promote the dignity and freedom of all people., let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For a blessing upon the labor of all and for the right use of the riches of creation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this community: for those who are present and for those who are absent, that we may be delivered from hardness of heart and may show forth your glory in all that we do, we pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For our enemies and those who wish us harm, and for all whom we have injured or offended, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For ourselves, for the forgiveness of our sins, and for the grace of the Holy Spirit to amend our lives, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For all who commended themselves to our prayers: for our families, friends, and neighbors; that being freed from anxiety, they may live in joy, peace, and health, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For all who have died in the faith of Christ, that with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief but life eternal, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, pity, and defend us, O God, by your grace.

*(Pause for silent prayer. Other petitions may be spoken by members of the community.)*

In the communion of the Holy Spirit and of all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another to the living God through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

[Upper Room Worshipbook, p. 15-16]

Dear Father and Mother, we come with songs aching to be sung, with words aching to be spoken, with questions aching to be answered, with feelings aching to be expressed, with hearts aching for love, with arms aching for embracing. We come with wounds aching to be healed, with emptiness aching to be filled, with joy aching to overflow. Let your love soak into the spirit and skin, like a soothing salve, and leave a tingle where once there was an ache; so that all may say we have met with God today, and everyone was touched and no one was turned away. Amen.

[Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi, Touch Holiness: Resources for Worship, Pilgrim Press: New York, 1990, p. 179]

**Scripture & Sermon Starter Questions:**

Ephesians 6:10-20 - Praying with God's Armor

- What darkness or evils are you and/or your congregation facing?
- How does God's armor allow you to stand against these enemies?
- How do you pray for others including your enemies?
- How has prayer led you to be a witness to others?

Psalms 141:1-2 - Praying our Adoration

- Where did you and/or your congregation experience (see, hear, touch, taste, and/or feel) God this week? This month?
- How is God working among you? Your congregation?

James 5:16-20 - Praying our Confessions

- How does confession right our hearts with God? With others?
- How do we experience healing through forgiveness and reconciliation?

1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18 - Praying our Thanksgivings

- How has God blessed you and your congregation this week?
- When have you experienced rejoicing God even in difficult situations?
- How do you and your congregation depend and/or lean on God?

#### Hebrews 4:16 - Praying our Supplications

- How have you experienced God's mercy and grace in times of need?
- Who do you regularly pray for? What do these persons or situations specifically need?
- Who is difficult to pray for? What do you need to be able to pray for them or these situations?

#### Ephesians 3:20 - God Breaks Through

- How has your congregation experienced God's amazing, miraculous power?
- What would it mean for your church to pray for God's powerful, Spirit-driven movement?
- How can you lead yourself and your congregation to be open to God's new possibilities?

**Responsive Break Through Prayer** - [Ephesians 3:20 - Glory to God, who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine by his power at work within us.]

Congregation prayerfully follows the pastor out of the sanctuary to the outside of the church. Congregation faces the church building and each prays silently or aloud for the church, the pastor, leadership, members, ministries, praying God's will be done.

Congregation is asked to turn and face the community (back to the church building) – pray for the community, the homes you see, businesses you see, etc. Pray for the Holy Spirit, the Lord of the Harvest, to move by His spirit and breakthrough the community in new and miraculous ways – for the salvation of the community - to bring in souls from the north, south, east and west that we as members may be witnesses and share the gospel for the transformation of the world.

**Benediction - The Lord's Prayer**