

College Church
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SCRIPTED PRAYERS

A Call to Renewal






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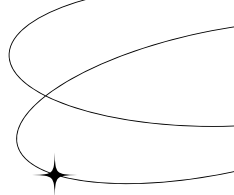
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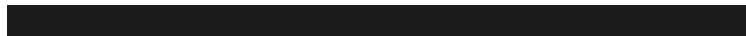
IN CHRIST'S HANDS MY VESSEL LIES

Written by Dylan Fisk

Oh Lord, how helplessly I drift along,
Caught in the rapid tides of rushing life,
Not able to a single day prolong,
And drowned by constant bustling and strife.
To oars I cling, a heart that craves control,
Yet finds it not amidst each wild wave;
Like nature overpowers mortal soul,
From worldly chaos, my own strength fails to save.
How deafening that rapid river be!
Unending noise drowns every thought and prayer,
And I, so lost in that cacophony,
Soon of Your Word and will am unaware.
It's when I fin'ly let You have my heart,
And all control surrender, nought withheld,
You then return my vessel to its start,
Where waters lie still and rushing sounds are quelled.
What joy to have Another board my boat!
Who teaches me to look beyond the tide,
And hear beyond the rapid river's notes,
And leave to Him the oars, my newfound guide.
When navigation I to Christ entrust,
My mind is free upon each day to dwell.
My heart finds out no longer guard it must,
And 'round itself its walls of pride can fell.
Then I bring You all turbulence and strife;
You make me sail on slow and silent seas,
To bring me rest and recenter my life,
On You who fills my sails with every breeze.
So Jesus, claim my vessel for Yourself!
And captivate each thought below its deck,
For when you enter into my deepest self.
Your peace and wonder redefine my trek.



A PRAYER FOR SEEKING GOD'S PRESENCE



Written by Donnell Turner

Heavenly Father,

I bow in surrender, with a heart that longs to be drawn nearer to You.

Let Your presence surround me—quiet every distraction, every fear.

You are my refuge, my joy, my hope.

I want to know You more—not just with my mind, but with my whole being.

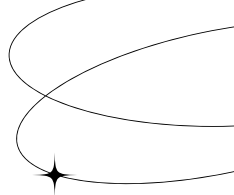
Holy Spirit, draw me into deeper communion and fellowship.

Speak to me in the silence; stir my soul with Your peace.

I wait for You, Lord. I want to walk with You, living a life that is pleasing and acceptable in Your sight.

In Jesus' Name,

Amen.



A PRAYER FOR LISTENING TO GOD



Written by Donnell Turner

Holy Spirit,
Teach me how to listen.
Quiet my thoughts; still my heart.
Let me not rush past Your whisper.
Give me ears to hear and a heart to respond.

Speak, Lord—Your servant is listening.
Remove the noise that clouds my soul,
and help me trust what You reveal.

Make me attentive, obedient, and open.
In Your presence, I choose to wait and listen.

In the Name of Jesus Christ,

Amen.



A MORNING PRAYER TO THE HOLY TRINITY

Written by John Stott, Submitted by Paul Sorrentino

Good morning heavenly Father,
Good morning Lord Jesus,
Good morning Holy Spirit.

Heavenly Father, I worship you as the creator and sustainer of the universe.

Lord Jesus, I worship you, Savior and Lord of the world.

Holy Spirit, I worship you, sanctifier of the people of God.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Heavenly Father, I pray that I may live this day in your presence and please you more and more.

Lord Jesus, I pray that this day I may take up my cross and follow you.

Holy Spirit, I pray that this day you will fill me with yourself and cause your fruit to ripen in my life: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Holy, blessed and glorious Trinity, three persons in one God, have mercy upon me.

Amen.



OPEN OUR EYES, LORD

Written by Barbara Ruh

Dear Lord, Creator, Sustainer, “Renewer,”

Open our eyes to the brokenness in the world.

Help us not to just turn our gaze away,
but see that the world needs You.

May the brokenness that resonates prompt us to pray
for restoration,
for shalom.

We know that our world needs shalom.

And we know that our world cannot have shalom without You.

Lord, we pray for revival in our world,
in our nation,
in this valley,
in our church.

Remind us that brokenness is not always out there,
but it's in our own hearts, as well.

Open our eyes to the brokenness in our own lives.

Help us remember that we need You.

Help us to remember that our wills must be broken to Your
will.

“To be broken is the beginning of Revival.”

Help us to relinquish the part of us that
justifies itself,
wants its own way,
stands up for its rights,
and seeks its own glory.

May our lives instead glorify You
point others to You,
point the world to You.

Lord, we pray for revival in our hearts.

Amen



STRENGTH IN MY WEAKNESS

Written by Brian O'Donnell

Lord have mercy!

I am anxious about many things and in turmoil.

Forgive my many sins and help me to take up the responsibilities you have given me.

Lord I feel small and inadequate but with you all things are possible.

You are working all things for my good and some of these things are hard.

By your grace help me to meet the challenges and bring glory to your name.

Please infuse my efforts with love and may my actions be a pleasing response to the love and mercy that you have lavishly given in my Lord and Savior,

Your Son Jesus.



A PRAYER FOR UNITY IN THE CHURCH

Written by Tibby Dennis

Lord, the night before you died for us on the cross, you prayed that your followers on down through the ages might be one-- united together with you and the Father, just as you and the Father are one--so that the world might recognize and respond to your love. We know how frequently your church has failed to demonstrate this unity over the past two thousand years, and we confess that when unbelievers look at American Christians today, all too often they see a broken, fractured and divided body. Forgive us for failing you so grievously, Lord.

At the same time, we thank you for all the ways you have already blessed us to love one another here in College Church, and we pray that you will bless us ever more deeply. Move in our hearts by your Holy Spirit, we pray, so that more and more we can embody the loving unity you long for us to show those around us. As they look on our life together, help them to see your love, and to recognize and respond to You in our midst.

We pray this in your name, Lord Jesus.

Amen.



A PRAYER FOR LOVE AND JUSTICE

Written by Martin Luther King, Jr., Submitted by Paul Sorrentino

We come to thee today, grateful that thou hast kept us through the long night of the past and ushered us into the challenge of the present and the bright hope of the future...

Help us never to let anybody or any condition pull us so low as to cause us to hate. Give us strength to love our enemies and to do good to those who spitefully use us and persecute us...

Keep us, we pray, in perfect peace, help us to walk together, pray together, sing together, and live together until that day when all God's children, Black, White, Red, and Yellow will rejoice in one common band of humanity in the kingdom of our Lord and our God, we pray.

Amen.



A PRAYER FOR TRUST IN THE UNKNOWN

Written by Thomas Merton, Submitted by Judith Hansen

Dear Jesus,

I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me.

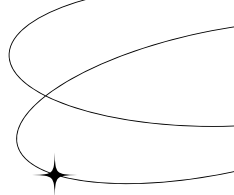
I cannot know for certain where it will end, nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following Your will does not mean I am actually doing so.

But I Believe that the desire to please You does in fact, please You.

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 tho I may know nothing about it.

Therefore I will 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.

Amen



THE LITANY OF HUMILITY

Written by Servant of God Raphael Cardinal Merry del Val, Feb 24, 1895, Submitted by Pam & Dan Dissinger

O Jesus! meek and humble of heart, Hear me.

From the desire of being esteemed, Deliver me, Jesus.

From the desire of being loved, Deliver me, Jesus.

From the desire of being extolled, Deliver me, Jesus.

From the desire of being honored, Deliver me, Jesus.

From the desire of being praised, Deliver me, Jesus.

From the desire of being preferred to others, Deliver me, Jesus.

From the desire of being consulted, Deliver me, Jesus.

From the desire of being approved, Deliver me, Jesus.

From the fear of being humiliated, Deliver me, Jesus.

From the fear of being despised, Deliver me, Jesus.

From the fear of suffering rebukes, Deliver me, Jesus.

From the fear of being calumniated, Deliver me, Jesus.

From the fear of being forgotten, Deliver me, Jesus.

From the fear of being ridiculed, Deliver me, Jesus.

From the fear of being wronged, Deliver me, Jesus.

From the fear of being suspected, Deliver me, Jesus.

That others may be loved more than I,
Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.

That others may be esteemed more than I,
Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.

That, in the opinion of the world, others may increase and I
may decrease,

Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.

That others may be chosen and I set aside,
Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.

That others may be praised and I unnoticed,
Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.

That others may be preferred to me in everything,
Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.

That others may become holier than I, provided that I may
become as holy as I should,

Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.



A PRAYER FOR REST AND REASSURANCE

Written by Henri Nouwen, Submitted by Paul Sorrentino

Dear God,

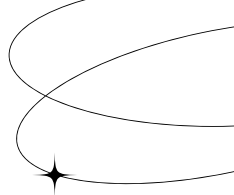
Speak gently in my silence.

When the loud outer noises of my surroundings
and the loud inner noises of my fears
keep pulling me away from you,
help me to trust that you are still there
even when I am unable to hear you.

Give me ears to listen to your small, soft voice saying:
“Come to me, you who are overburdened, and I will give you
rest . . .
for I am gentle and humble of heart.”

Let that loving voice be my guide.

Amen.



A BENEDICTION OF PEACE AND PURPOSE

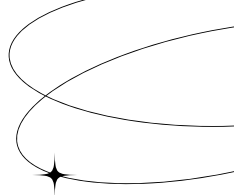


Adapted from a traditional blessing, Submitted by Cathie McCoy

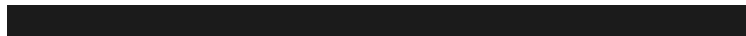
Go out into the world in peace.
Have courage.
Hold onto what is good.
Return no one evil for evil.
Strengthen the faint-hearted.
Support the weak.
Help the suffering.
Honor all persons.
Honor all creation.
Love and serve the Lord,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

And may the love of God,
the Light of Christ,
and the power and communion of that Spirit
be with us all.

Amen.



THE ROAD TO FREEDOM



Written by Henri Nouwen, Submitted by Paul Sorrentino

Help me, O Lord, to let my old self die, to let me die to the thousand big and small ways in which I am still building up my false self and trying to cling to my false desires.

Let me be reborn in you and see through you the world in the right way, so that all my actions, words, and thoughts can become a hymn of praise to you.

I need your loving grace to travel on this hard road that leads to the death of my old self to a new life in and for you.

I know and trust that this is the road to freedom.

Lord, dispel my mistrust and help me become a trusting friend.

Amen.

