**Prayers of the People**

*Prayers of the people may take many forms. Only three examples are provided below.*

**A Litany**

*In the litany below, the leader offers a series of petitions with the people joining in the response. The same words are used by the leader at the end of the petition to give the people a cue. An opportunity may be made for individuals to offer petitions before the prayer is closed.*

Loving God, in Jesus Christ you teach us to pray

and to present our petitions to you in his name.

Guide us by your Holy Spirit,

that our prayers for others may serve your will

and show your steadfast love for all.

Gracious God,

you have called together a people

to be the church of Jesus Christ.

May your people be one in faith and discipleship,

breaking bread together,

and telling good news

so that the world may believe you are love,

turn to your ways,

and live in the light of your truth.

Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Creator God, you made all things and called them good.

May your planet earth be held in reverence

by all people.

May its resources be used wisely

and its fragile balance between life and death respected.

Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Eternal Ruler,

in your mighty realm the nations rise and fall.

Hear our prayers for those who govern,

that they may learn wisdom and truth,

establish justice and mercy,

and seek the ways of peace.

Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

*Prayers spoken by the people may be included here followed by:*

Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

*Concluding petition*

Eternal God,

ruler of all things in heaven and earth,

accept the prayers of your people,

and strengthen us to do your will;

through Jesus Christ. **Amen**.

**A Bidding Prayer**

*In the bidding prayer below, each petition begins with a bidding to prayer, continues in silence which is followed by a collect, and concludes with the response of the people saying "Amen" or "Hear our prayer, O Lord" or similar phrase.*

Almighty God, in Jesus Christ you taught us to pray

and to present to you our intercessions for others.

By your Holy Spirit, be present to guide us

so that our prayers may serve your will

and show your loving care for the whole creation.

Let us pray for the nations of the world.

*Silent prayer.*

O Christ, Ruler of rulers,

guide the leaders of all the nations

that they may learn to seek justice,

govern wisely,

and serve you as good stewards of the whole creation.

**Hear our prayer, O Lord.**

Let us pray for peace.

*Silent prayer*.

O Christ, Prince of peace,

speak quietly to the hearts of your people

and to those who rule in places of power

that they may seek peace on earth

overcoming the powers of fear, greed or vanity

that turn neighbour against neighbour

and nation against nation.

May all who claim your name be makers of the peace.

**Hear our prayer, O Lord.**

Let us pray for health.

*Silent prayer.*

O Christ the great healer,

you desire health and wholeness for your people:

cleanse and redeem your whole creation

that poverty may turn to abundance,

that streams of living water may flow in the wilderness,

and those who are broken in body and spirit

may find rest and newness of life.

**Hear our prayer, O Lord.**

Let us pray for those who mourn.

*Silent prayer.*

O Christ, who wept at the grave of a friend:

look with compassion on all those who mourn (as we remember by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)

that they may find comfort in their sorrow,

and know the healing power of your assurance

that they are never separated from your love.

**Hear our prayer, O Lord.**

*Concluding Collect*

O Christ, you intercede for us at the throne of grace

and know our needs better than we can speak or imagine:

receive our prayers

that they may be an acceptable offering to Almighty God,

whom with you and the Holy Spirit, we honour and praise. **Amen.**

**A Bidding Prayer**

*Another form of the bidding prayer includes an opening prayer by the leader followed by a series of subjects provided by the leader or the people, a period of silence after each subject is named, and a concluding petition.*

Lord God of heaven and earth,

with gladness we praise you

for you create all things and sustain all things.

For making us in your image to love one another

and to care for your creation,

we give you thanks.

For the gift of your Son

who redeems and guides us according to your will,

baptizing us through the church to be your people

in the world,

we give you thanks.

By your Holy Spirit, empower us to show your love to others even as we pray for

the church and those who lead in it . . .

*Silence*

the world that we may learn to reverence

and care for it . . .

*Silence*

those who rule in the nations of the world . . .

*Silence*

those who serve as teachers, healers and

caregivers *. . .*

*Silence*

the poor, the homeless, the hungry . . .

*Silence*

those who mourn and are alone . . .

*Silence*

those imprisoned for defending truth or justice . . .

*Silence*

the powerless and the oppressed in all nations . . .

*Silence*

those who are persecuted in the service

of Christ . . .

*Silence*

all who need our ministries as your servants . . .

*Silence*

*Silent prayer.*

God eternal, keep us in communion with your saints of all time that we may worthily serve you as people of your everlasting covenant until your will is done on earth as it is in heaven, for to you, through Jesus Christ your Son and the Holy Spirit, we offer all praise and honour. **Amen.**