

CLOSING PRAYER

Monday 24 June 2024



Messages of hope†
in a complex world.



[Responses in bold italics]

Call to worship

(please stand)

Our help is in the name of the Lord

who made heaven and earth.

Come, Let us bow down and worship,
and kneel before the Lord, our maker.

**For the Lord is our God, our shepherd,
we are the flock led with care.**

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;
break forth in joyous song and sing praises!

**For the Lord has done marvellous things;
God's steadfast love endures forever to all generations.**

(from the Call to Worship- 70th Anniversary of the World Council of Churches
at St Pierre Cathedral, Geneva, 2018)

(please be seated)

God Giver of Life.

you send out your Spirit to gather us in your name;
for this we praise you.

You call us to unity in your Church.

We yearn to be one with you and each other
so that the world may believe that we belong to you.
Keep us in the faith that has sealed our lives.

**If anyone has ears to hear,
listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.**

God, Giver of Gifts,
you reveal the creative energy of the Spirit
in the abundance of gifts we share;
for these we bless you.

You call us to recapture
the vitality and freshness of the Christian faith
through fidelity to your life-giving Word.
Keep us in the truth revealed in Christ.

**If anyone has ears to hear,
listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.**

God, Giver of Hope,
You fill the whole creation with your presence,
guiding it with wisdom:
for this we glorify you.

You raise up in the Church today
men and women who can dream dreams and see visions,
and you make all things new.
Keep us in the light that guides and directs our way.

***If anyone has ears to hear,
listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.***

*~prayer from the NCCA Service of Inauguration, St Christopher's Cathedral,
Canberra, July 1994*

Hymn/Song

We are one in the Spirit, We are one in the Lord

["They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love"]: Fr Peter Scholtes

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Eternal God, the refuge and help of all your children,

we praise you for all you have given us,

for all you have done for us,
for all that you are to us.

In our weakness, you are strength,
in our darkness, you are light,
in our sorrow, you are comfort and peace.

we praise you for all you have given us,

We cannot number your blessings,
we cannot declare your love:
For all your blessings we bless you.

we praise you for all you have given us,

May we live as in your presence,
and love the things that you love,
and serve you in our daily lives;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

(based on The Prayer of Saint Boniface written by St. Boniface (ca. 672-754))

Prayers of Confession

O God, as hope, as salvation, as shelter. We who hear these healing words of scripture
are invited to put all our confidence in you, to pour out our hearts to you, knowing
that you hear.

Hear us now, O God, as we gather to worship and to praise you.

Forgive us when we listen to the voices which tell us to put our trust in
the material and temporal things of this world.

Renew our trust in you and help us to use this time to deepen our relationship with you and to re-align our priorities with yours.

Hear us now, Lord Jesus Christ, as we gather to worship and to praise you.

Forgive us when we are reluctant disciples, and renew our desire to follow you even if, like those first disciples, it means having the direction of our lives completely changed.

Forgive us when we forget that we do not have to do everything in our own power when challenged to take risks of faith.

Holy Spirit, breathe new life into us now, as we can only offer true worship and provide faithful discipleship when we are empowered by you. In Jesus' name, we pray.
Amen

*(adapted from material written by Moira Laidlaw, on [Liturgies Online.](#))
(based on Psalm 62: 5-12, Jonah 3, Mark 1:14-20)*

Words of Assurance (Assurance of Pardon)

Hear the good news:

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation. (2 Corinthians 5:17-18)

Thanks be to God!

Word of God

Ephesians 4:3-8a

Gospel reading

John 17:20-23

Silence

Affirmation of Hope

The love of God in Christ Jesus
the anchor which holds firm,
hope,
a vision expanded beyond the possibilities
offered by our times,
hope
a cloud of witnesses surrounding us,
urging us on,
hope,
the encouragement of the Scriptures,
the ministry of consolation,

hope

the gift of communion, accountable to God and to one another

hope,

the message of the cross healing our brokenness,

hope,

the celebration of our unity in Christ with all the diversity in which Christ is embodied in us

hope,

the freedom that grow from love, respecting each other, bearing with each other,

hope,

the endowment of word and sacrament, we rejoice in hope,

and hope does not disappoint.

The God of hope fills us with all joy and peace in believing,

So that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

©2015 Terry MacArthur, USA- from the World Council of Churches Pilgrim Prayer, pg 192

Prayers of Intercession

The apostle Paul wrote his letter to the Corinthians to encourage them.

May we have the same hope as the Corinthian church as we pray for the Church of God and for all people according to their needs

Eternal God, we thank you for calling us by name. In you we live and move and grow. We pray for churches and Christians throughout the world. Remind us of our common foundation in Christ. May we grow together in faith and in love, until we attain that unity which is your will

Build us together in Christ,

Make us your dwelling place

Send down your Spirit so that we may know Jesus and bear witness to our life and unity in him. May we know the mind of Christ in order to speak God's wisdom everywhere. Strengthen us to work toward peace and reconciliation in church and society.

Build us together in Christ,

Make us your dwelling place

We pray for the churches in Australia and for all churches which are experiencing change -growth or struggle, reconciliation or conflict. Inspire and strengthen them in works of witness and service.

Build us together in Christ,

Make us your dwelling place

We pray for those who have no home, no land, no food, no work, no medicine, no peace.

May we recognise and serve Christ in the suffering and the needy.

***Build us together in Christ,
Make us your dwelling place***

We thank you for all your gifts of creation.

Teach us to share with other our time, our energy, our resources and our love. Make us sensitive and responsive to the wounds in the human family and creation. May we be faithful to our calling and live a long life on earth. May we give our whole life to Christ, for we belong to him and in him we are united all things on earth and in heaven. Amen

~WOPCU 2005 - Intercessions from the World Council of Churches Pilgrim Prayer, pg. 65

Let us pray in the words our Lord taught us in the language of our heart

The Lord's Prayer

***Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.***

A period of silence

Closing (together)

***Gracious God,
who from the day of Pentecost
has called to one hope all peoples everywhere through the embodiment of the
gospel in diverse cultures:
Grant us, we pray, a vision of your love in Jesus Christ
that embraces within its transforming power the rich plurality of the human race.
Inspire in your church a rich sharing across cultures
so that the heritages of all peoples may be offered to you, Triune God,
you alone are worthy of glory and honour,
at all times and in all places, through Jesus Christ.
AMEN.***

(A Prayer from the Conference on World Mission and Evangelism, Salvador, Brazil, 1996)

SENDING

Let our world be a place of celebration,
Let our world be a meeting place.

Let justice spring from the earth, and let the fruits of love flourish.

Let us make it possible by respecting our diversity,
by sharing in solidarity, by uniting hands and hearts,

by living together in harmony with creation.

And then peace will be reborn!

(From "Imagine Peace", WCC, Oct2008, p64)

Blessing

***And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,
Will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Phil 4:7)***

The peace of the Lord be with you
And also with you.

Let us share signs of the peace of Christ with one another.