



An Invitation to Prayer

*Is there anything you will not leave for Christ? ...
Would you rather keep this or that, with imperfection,
than part with it to be perfect [in Christ]?
—George MacDonald, *Creation in Christ**

Opening Sentences/What kind of prayers are we praying?

Silence

Prayers of Preparation

1 Corinthians 2:9, 10

However, as it is written: “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him”—but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.

♦ Today, ask God to make in you a new sensitivity to God’s Spirit that you might hear from God “deep things.”

Silence

Prayers of Adoration

Psalms 62:1, 2, 8a

For God alone my soul waits in silence; from him comes my salvation.

He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall never be shaken.

Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him.

♦ Today, pour out your heart to God. Ask God to teach us to trust him in all things.

Silence

Prayers of Confession

Psalms 139:23–24

Search me, O God, and know my heart;

Try me and know my anxious thoughts;

*And see if there be any hurtful way in me,
And lead me in the everlasting way.*

- ♦ Today, ask God to reveal to you any corners of your life that are hidden and need to be surrendered to God's will over your own. Ask God for forgiveness from sin.

Silence

Prayers of Thanksgiving for Older Friends of Faith

Ephesians 2:11–17

So then, remember ... that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us.... So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father.

- ♦ Today, thank God for the gift of Jesus and for those who told you the Master Story.

Silence

Prayers of Supplication

Jeremiah 29:11–14a

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me, says the LORD.

John 15:14–16

You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.

- ♦ Today, ask God to prepare you and your church to hear and follow God's plans for our future—and any other petition or request that may be on your heart.

Benediction