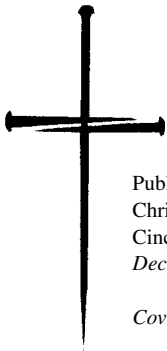


A photograph of a church interior. In the foreground, there are several large, vibrant flowers, including a large pink and white iris in the upper right and a bouquet of pink and purple chrysanthemums in the lower right. The background shows a church sanctuary with a dark wooden ceiling and several tall, narrow stained glass windows with colorful designs. The lighting is soft and warm.

Christ Church Cathedral

Prayers for Forgiveness & Inner Peace



Published by Reconciliation Ministries
Christ Church Cathedral
Cincinnati, Ohio
December, 2006

Cover photo: Jerry Lowe

The background of the right side of the cover is a grayscale photograph of a church interior. In the foreground, there are large, light-colored flowers, possibly lilies, arranged in a vase. In the background, there are several tall, narrow stained glass windows with intricate designs. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and reverent.

Prayers for Forgiveness & Inner Peace

INTRODUCTION

And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." Luke 23:34

Forgiveness and inner peace are only possible through prayer, but many of us appreciate sources and support for our prayers. This collection of prayers begins with The Lord's Prayer in a modern translation, so that we can see and hear it in a new way. The next selection of prayers is from *The Book of Common Prayer*. In traditional forms, these prayers teach us to pray for forgiveness and reconciliation among peoples and nations and communities.

The Prayer of the Community of the Cross of Nails asks God's forgiveness for the world. A Prayer of Reconciliation Ministries asks God to send the Holy Spirit to persons in conflict to reconcile them through Jesus Christ. Our next selections are from The New Zealand Prayer Book. Our brothers and sisters in the Anglican communion have given us prayers on an intimate, personal level that teach us how to pray for ourselves and those closest to us.

For this edition we have added blessings from the New Testament. You may recognize many of these blessings from *The Book of Common Prayer*, and some may be new. We hope that by meditating on and praying these blessings, you will experience the fullness of the reconciling love of God through Jesus Christ.

RECONCILIATION MINISTRIES
CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

From The Book of Common 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.*

For the Human Family

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For Peace Among the Nations

Almighty God our heavenly Father, guide the nations of the world into the way of justice and truth, and establish that peace which is the fruit of righteousness, that they may become the kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

In Times of Conflict

O God, you have bound us together in a common life. Help us, in the midst of our struggles for justice and truth, to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For Our Enemies

O God, the Father of all, whose Son commanded us to love our enemies: Lead them and us from prejudice to truth; deliver them and us from hatred, cruelty, and revenge; and in your good time enable us all to stand reconciled before you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For the Diversity of Races and Cultures

O God, who created all peoples in your image, we thank you for the wonderful diversity of races and cultures in this world. Enrich our lives by ever-widening circles of fellowship, and show us your presence in those who differ most from us, until our knowledge of your love is made perfect in our love for all your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For Social Justice

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart and especially the hearts of the people of this land, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For the Unity of the Church

O God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, our only Savior, the Prince of Peace: Give us grace seriously to lay to heart the great dangers we are in by our unhappy divisions; take away all hatred and prejudice, and whatever else may hinder us from godly union and concord; that, as there is but one Body and one Spirit, one hope of our calling, one Lord, one Faith, one Baptism, one God and Father of us all, so may we be all of one heart and one soul, united in one holy bond of truth and peace, of faith and charity, and may with one mind and one mouth glorify thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your healing embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your name. *Amen.*

From The Community of the Cross of Nails

A Prayer for Reconciliation from the Community of the Cross of Nails

Almighty God, you have committed us to the ministry of reconciliation of your son, Jesus Christ; give us the confidence in your power to forgive, as your son forgave humankind from the cross. In his name, bless us and enable us to be witnesses of your forgiveness at work and where we live. Unite us in a sacred fellowship to heal the hostilities we see, and give us the grace to love one another in the name of Jesus Christ and to rejoice in the eternal fellowship of his disciples. *Amen.*

A Prayer of Reconciliation Ministries

God, send your Holy Spirit to _____ and to me, so that the (injury/betrayal/hatred/jealousy/ name any other injury) that separates us may be overcome, and we may be reconciled with you and with each other, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

From *The New Zealand Prayer Book*

God, the mother and father of us all,
you have created families and love of every kind.
Give us courage to listen to each other and to learn,
and grant us the gentle blessing,
which a home can give, through Jesus Christ our
Lord. *Amen.*

For Forgiveness

We have wounded your love.
O God, heal us.

We stumble in the darkness.
Light of the world transfigure us.

We forget that we are your home.
Spirit of God, dwell in us.

Eternal Spirit, living God,
in whom we live and move and have our being,
all that we are, have been, and shall be is known
to you,
to the very secret of our hearts
and all that rises to trouble us.
Living flame, burn into us,
cleansing wind, blow through us,
fountain of water, well up in us,
that we may love and praise in deed and in truth.
Amen.

For Love of All People

Almighty God,
you teach us in your word
that love is the fulfilling of the law:
grant that we may love you with all our heart
and our neighbors as ourselves;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For Reconciliation of All People

Universal and unchanging God,
We are one, unalterably one,
with all the human race.
Grant that we who share Christ's blood
may, through your unifying Spirit,
break down the walls that divide us. *Amen.*

For Peace Among All People

Almighty and everloving God,
your son Jesus Christ shared at Nazareth
the life of an earthly home;
grant that we and all your children
may live together in peace and joy,
until we come to that eternal home
which you have prepared for those that love you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For Healing

I need your healing, merciful God:
give me true repentance.

Some sins are plain to me;
some escape me,
some I cannot face.

Forgive me;
set me free to hear your word to me;
set me free to serve you. *Amen.*

To Forgive Ourselves

God our judge and our teacher,
let us not waste time when the day is done
in guilt or self-reproach.

Give us rather the courage
to face whatever has been,
accept forgiveness, and move on to something
better. *Amen.*

For God's Love

Give us, we pray you, gentle God,
a mind forgetful of past injury,
a will to seek the good of others
and a heart of love. *Amen.*

For Peace at Home

Gentle God,
grant that at home
where we are most truly ourselves,
where we are known at our best and our worst,
we may learn to forgive and be forgiven. *Amen.*

For People Dying

God our creator and our end,
give us grace to bear bravely
the changes we must undergo,
the pain we have to face
to come to our home with you.
Give us the courage to welcome
that unimaginable moment awaiting us;
give us trust and confidence;
and at the last give us peace. *Amen.*

For Inner Peace

O God,
it is your will to hold both heaven and earth
in a single peace.
Let the design of your great love
shine on the waste of our wraths and sorrows,
and give peace to your Church,
peace among nations,
peace in our homes, and peace in our hearts.
Amen.

For People in Severe Pain

Jesus, you knew pain,
you knew the loneliness, the weakness
and the degradation it brings;
you knew the agony.

Jesus, your suffering is the only hope,
the only reconciliation for those who suffer.

Be with ____ as s/he grapples with the pain s/he
suffers now.

Be a promise to him/her
that this present suffering will cease;
be the hand that s/he can hold;
be present, Savior, for we need you now. *Amen.*

For Forgiveness from the Cross

Grant us, Jesus, that tender, indestructible love,
which asks for forgiveness for its executioners
and gives hope to the thief on the cross.

Keep us compassionate when the way is hard,
and gentle with those who oppose us. *Amen.*

For Inner Strength

Your cross, Jesus, remains like a tree on a hill.
You show me where I am,
you take away my fear,
and set me on my course again;
help me to watch for you night and day. *Amen.*

Blessings



Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to set us free from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be the glory forever and ever. *Amen.*

GALATIANS 1:3

~

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you. *Amen.* 2 CORINTHIANS 13:13

~

Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in all ways. The Lord be with all of you. *Amen.* 2 THESSALONIANS 3:16

~

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

ROMANS 15:13

~

O the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! ... For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. *Amen.* ROMANS 11:33, 36

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. *Amen.* EPHESIANS 3:20-21

~

Now may the God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, make you complete in everything good so that you may do his will, working among us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. *Amen.* HEBREWS 13:20-21.

~

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. *Amen.* 1 PETER 1:3-5

~

Now to him who is able to keep you from falling, and to make you stand without blemish in the

presence of his glory with rejoicing, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, power, and authority, before all time and now and forever. *Amen.*

JUDE 1:24

~

The Spirit and the Bride say, “Come.”

And let everyone who hears say, “Come.”

And let everyone who is thirsty come.

Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift.

The one who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming soon.”

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints.
Amen. REVELATIONS 22:17; 20-21.



**Christ Church
Cathedral**

318 East Fourth Street
Cincinnati, OH 45202-4299

513.621.1817

www.christchurchcincinnati.org