



Racial Justice Pilgrimage to the South

18-22 June 2025

Worship Package

Prayers for Love, Justice and Liberation – Pilgrimage to the South

Our Collects for Pilgrimage

Prayer #1

God who is omnipresent,
God who connects, observes us, and advocates for us,
Remain with us.
You are the deity of all, addressing each “us” and every “them,”
enabling mutual discovery,
and in that unity, finding you.
Creator God, source of all life,
You crafted each of us in your image,
with boundless diversity,
calling us to exist as one unified community.
You, the Sovereign of the mountains and valleys,
instill hope amidst our despair.
Grant us the faith to confront adversity with courage and grace.
Amen

Prayer #2

You are the Good Shepherd who paves a path for us—
May we recognize this path.
Guide us to support the burdened and show love toward those oppressed.
Let us not shy away from suffering,
but rather engage with it—
healing, witnessing, transforming.
God who acknowledges unspoken cries,
the silent lamentations of the heart,
Bestow upon us strength for the journey.
You who mourn over injustice,
Open our hearts to the pain we have inflicted.
Provide us with the fortitude to stay present in discomfort,
to repair what has been broken,
to forgive and to seek forgiveness.

Prayer #3

Oh God, all-knowing, source of all understanding,
teach us to listen with compassion,
to accompany with humility,
and to love with boldness.
You who dwell and move within us all,
eradicate the false barriers we have constructed:
barriers of race, class, gender, sexuality,
and any other division separating us from one another. Amen

Prayer # 4

God of illumination and love,
let us perceive and experience injustice immediately.
Grant us clarity and strength to oppose it.
Empower us to love courageously.
Remind us that we are your children—
forgiven, cherished, and embraced.
You are more vast and magnificent than we can fathom,
yet as close as our next breath.
Disrupt us where we are comfortable.
Challenge us where we are complacent.
Empower us where we are fearful.
Help us embrace mercy, seek justice, and walk humbly with you.
Make us ardent advocates—dedicated, faithful, and gracious—
for every member of your beloved community.
So that we may love and understand one another more profoundly.
So that we may strive to understand rather than be understood.
So that we may risk ourselves, our lives, our love—
and become more like Jesus.
Amen

Prayer # 5

Grant us the courage to renew our commitments daily, to uphold the dignity of every soul
we encounter, and to kindle hope in the hearts of the weary. Let our words sow kindness,
and our actions reap unity, weaving together a tapestry of compassion in a world frayed by
division. Guide us to shine as beacons of your unwavering love, bearing witness to your
transformative power in all we do.
Amen

Five Prayers for Pilgrimage

1.

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.

[Prayer for the Human Family, BCP, p. 815]

2.

Gracious Holy Spirit
We ask you to help us live this day
Compassionate of heart
Clear in word
Gracious in awareness
Courageous in thought
Generous in love.
May our minds come alive today
To the invisible geography
That invites us to new frontiers,
To break the dead shell of yesterdays
To risk being disturbed and changed.
May all that is unforgiven in us be released
May our fears yield their deepest tranquilities.
May all that is unloved in us blossom into a future graced with love.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

[Adapted from To Bless the Space Between Us: A Book of Blessings by John O'Donohue]

3.

Oh Merciful God, in fear we have often sheltered ourselves from the injustice of the world. We have turned away from suffering instead of bearing witness to it; we have withheld our time, our compassion, and our resources, prioritizing convenience instead of joining you in the work of renewing all things.
Lord—we repent.
We set our hearts to seek you again, for you are the defender and upholder of truth.
Make us restless for as long as injustice prevails.
We acknowledge that activism is incomplete and short-lived without you, so infuse our justice work with your tenderness and victory.
Help us remain connected to you, our true vine and source of life, so that the bringing of justice is also the bringing of love.
May we partner with you in rebuilding the ruins of the past, for you are the architect of new life.
May former devastations be brought to their full end and patterns of pain be disrupted and healed.

May the bodies that were broken be renewed and the riches that were lost be restored.
May the peace of Christ rule in our hearts as we seek to be a unified body.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

[Adapted from Liturgies of Hope: Sixty Prayers for the Highs, the Lows, and Everything in Between
by Audrey Elledge and Elizabeth Moore]

4.

O God of Fire and Freedom,
Grant us a sense of humor that adds perspective to compassion
Gratitude that adds persistence to courage
Quietness of spirit that adds irrepressibility to hope
And openness of mind that adds surprise to joy.
Nurture in us the boldness of a prophet and the courage of a disciple.
Deliver us from our bondage to what can be counted
And go with us to a new exodus towards what counts,
But can only be measured in bread shared, in swords becoming ploughshares,
In minds liberated, songs sung, justice done
And above all, in your name being praised.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

[Adapted from Guerrillas of Grace: Prayers for the Battle by Ted Loder]

5.

O Holy One
Send us into this day and all our days
In power and gladness and with great courage
To live out in the world what we pray and profess.
Give us hope, Lord, and remind us of your steady power and gracious purposes
That we may live fully alongside all of our beloved siblings in Christ.
That being set free from our anxiety for the future we may take the risks of love today.
Deepen our wounds into wisdom
Shape our weaknesses into compassion
Our fear into trust
Our guilt into honesty.
We praise you that you will turn us loose to go with you to the edge of now and maybe,
To welcome the new, to see our possibilities, to accept our limits and begin living into the
Boundlessness of your passion and compassion
And into your kingdom coming.
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

[Adapted from Guerrillas of Grace: Prayers for the Battle by Ted Loder]

Trust *Compline (Traditional hour: night/bedtime)*

We sum up this day with a bedtime prayer to examine our conscience and offer our actions to God.

Opening As a loving mother comforts her child,
so I will comfort you.

Prayer O God, at the setting of the sun, we place our trust in you. As the night draws near, we give thanks for your presence with us. Help us entrust our lives to you with the delight and confidence of one who loves and is beloved. Through Jesus, our faithful Savior. Amen.

Praise *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*
(Music, if desired, may be found in Lift Every Voice and Sing II, #196.)
What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
Leaning on the everlasting arms;
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain

**Leaning, leaning,
safe and secure from all alarms;
Leaning, leaning,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.**

O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
Leaning on the everlasting arms;
O how bright the path grows from day to day,
Leaning on the everlasting arms. *Refrain*

What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
Leaning on the everlasting arms;
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
Leaning on the everlasting arms. *Refrain*

Words: Elisha A. Hoffman (1839-1929)

Scripture My beloved speaks and says to me: "Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away; for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance. Arise my love, my fair one, and come away."

Song of Solomon 2:10-13

Meditation “The measure of love is to love without measure.”

Attributed to Augustine

What “measure” will we release in order to embrace God’s love this hour?

Prayers The cares of our hearts
 We entrust to you, O God.
 The needs of your Church
 We entrust to you, O God.
 The wounds of the world
 We entrust to you, O God.
 The hopes we carry
 We entrust to you, O God.
 The deep desire for peace
 We entrust to you, O God.

Here, the people may add particular intercessions or thanksgivings.

With all our lives and all our holy longings
We praise you and trust your love for us,
O Lover of our souls. Amen.

Lord’s Prayer

Prayer Gracious God, support us all the day long, until the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then in your mercy, grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last.
Amen.

Closing As a loving mother comforts her child,
so I will comfort you.

An Order for Compline (BCP)

The Officiant begins

The Lord Almighty grant us a peaceful night and a perfect end. *Amen.*

Officiant Our help is in the Name of the Lord;
People **The maker of heaven and earth.**

The Officiant may then say

Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence may be kept.

Officiant and People

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father:
We have sinned against you,
through our own fault,
in thought, and word, and deed,
and in what we have left undone.
For the sake of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ,
forgive us all our offenses;
and grant that we may serve you
in newness of life,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Officiant

May the Almighty God grant us forgiveness of all our sins,
and the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

The Officiant then says

Officiant O God, make speed to save us.
People **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Officiant and People

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

Except in Lent, add **Alleluia.**

One or more of the following Psalms are sung or said. Other suitable selections may be substituted.

Psalm 4 *Cum invocarem*

- 1 Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause; *
you set me free when I am hard-pressed;
have mercy on me and hear my prayer.
- 2 "You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory; *
how long will you worship dumb idols
and run after false gods?"
- 3 Know that the LORD does wonders for the faithful; *
when I call upon the LORD, he will hear me.
- 4 Tremble, then, and do not sin; *
speak to your heart in silence upon your bed.
- 5 Offer the appointed sacrifices *
and put your trust in the LORD.
- 6 Many are saying,
"Oh, that we might see better times!" *
Lift up the light of your countenance upon us, O LORD.
- 7 You have put gladness in my heart, *
more than when grain and wine and oil increase.
- 8 I lie down in peace; at once I fall asleep; *
for only you, LORD, make me dwell in safety.

Psalm 31 *In te, Domine, speravi*

- 1 In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame: *
deliver me in your righteousness.
- 2 Incline your ear to me; *
make haste to deliver me.
- 3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,
for you are my crag and my stronghold; *
for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.
- 4 Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, *
for you are my tower of strength.
- 5 Into your hands I commend my spirit, *
for you have redeemed me,
O LORD, O God of truth.

Psalm 91 *Qui habitat*

- 1 He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High *
abides under the shadow of the Almighty.

- 2 He shall say to the LORD,
"You are my refuge and my stronghold, *
my God in whom I put my trust."
- 3 He shall deliver you from the snare of the hunter *
and from the deadly pestilence.
- 4 He shall cover you with his pinions,
and you shall find refuge under his wings; *
his faithfulness shall be a shield and buckler.
- 5 You shall not be afraid of any terror by night, *
nor of the arrow that flies by day;
- 6 Of the plague that stalks in the darkness, *
nor of the sickness that lays waste at mid-day.
- 7 A thousand shall fall at your side
and ten thousand at your right hand, *
but it shall not come near you.
- 8 Your eyes have only to behold *
to see the reward of the wicked.
- 9 Because you have made the LORD your refuge, *
and the Most High your habitation,
- 10 There shall no evil happen to you, *
neither shall any plague come near your dwelling.
- 11 For he shall give his angels charge over you, *
to keep you in all your ways.
- 12 They shall bear you in their hands, *
lest you dash your foot against a stone.
- 13 You shall tread upon the lion and the adder; *
you shall trample the young lion and the serpent
under your feet.
- 14 Because he is bound to me in love,
therefore will I deliver him; *
I will protect him, because he knows my Name.
- 15 He shall call upon me, and I will answer him; *
I am with him in trouble;
I will rescue him and bring him to honor.
- 16 With long life will I satisfy him, *
and show him my salvation.

Psalm 134 *Ecce nunc*

- 1 Behold now, bless the LORD, all you servants of the LORD, *
you that stand by night in the house of the LORD.

- 2 Lift up your hands in the holy place and bless the LORD; *
the LORD who made heaven and earth bless you out of Zion.

At the end of the Psalms is sung or said

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

One of the following, or some other suitable passage of Scripture, is read

Lord, you are in the midst of us, and we are called by your
Name: Do not forsake us, O Lord our God. *Jeremiah 14:9,22*

People **Thanks be to God.**

or this

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon
you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your
souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Matthew 11:28-30

People **Thanks be to God.**

or the following

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, equip you with everything good that you may
do his will, working in you that which is pleasing in his sight; through Jesus Christ, to whom be
glory for ever and ever. *Hebrews 13:20-21*

People **Thanks be to God.**

or this

Be sober, be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking
someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith. *1 Peter 5:8-9a*

People **Thanks be to God.**

A hymn suitable for the evening may be sung.

Then follows

- V. Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit;
R. **For you have redeemed me, O Lord, O God of truth.**
V. Keep us, O Lord, as the apple of your eye;
R. **Hide us under the shadow of your wings.**

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Officiant and People

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**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.**

Officiant Lord, hear our prayer;
People **And let our cry come to you.**
Officiant Let us pray.

The Officiant then says one of the following Collects

Be our light in the darkness, O Lord, and in your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of your only Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Be present, O merciful God, and protect us through the hours of this night, so that we who are wearied by the changes and chances of this life may rest in your eternal changelessness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Look down, O Lord, from your heavenly throne, and illumine this night with your celestial brightness; that by night as by day your people may glorify your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Visit this place, O Lord, and drive far from it all snares of the enemy; let your holy angels dwell with us to preserve us in peace; and let your blessing be upon us always; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

One of the following prayers may be added

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. *Amen.*

or this

O God, your unfailing providence sustains the world we live in and the life we live: Watch over those, both night and day, who work while others sleep, and grant that we may never

forget that our common life depends upon each other's toil; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Silence may be kept, and free intercessions and thanksgivings may be offered.

*The service concludes with the Song of Simeon with this Antiphon,
which is sung or said by all*

**Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping; that awake
we may watch with Christ, and asleep we may rest in peace.**

**Lord, you now have set your servant free *
to go in peace as you have promised;**

**For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, *
whom you have prepared for all the world to see:**

**A Light to enlighten the nations, *
and the glory of your people Israel.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

All repeat the Antiphon

**Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping; that awake
we may watch with Christ, and asleep we may rest in peace**

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

The Officiant concludes

The almighty and merciful Lord, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us and keep us. **Amen.**

A Night Prayer

Lord, it is night.
The night is for stillness.
Let us be still in the presence of God.

It is night after a long day.
What has been done has been done;
what has not been done has not been done; let it be.
The night is dark. Let our fears of the nights of the world
and of our own lives rest in you.
The night is quiet.
Let the quietness of your peace enfold us,
all dear to us, and all who have no peace.

The night heralds the dawn.
Let us look expectantly to a new day, new joys, new possibilities.
In your name we pray. Amen.

A New Zealand Prayer Book He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa

Blessings

May the God who shakes heaven and earth,
whose Spirit blows through the valleys and the hills;
whom death could not contain and who lives to disturb and bring us life;
bless us with the power to endure, to hope and to love. *(Source: Elizabeth Raine)*

The Wisdom of God
the Love of God
and the Grace of God
strengthen you
to be Christ's hands and heart in this world,
in the name of the Holy Trinity. Amen. *(source: Celtic)*

Live without fear: our Creator has made us holy,
has always protected us, and loves us as a mother.
Go in peace to follow the good road
and may God's blessing be with us always. Amen. *(source: from Saint Clare)*

Life is short,
And we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who
make the journey with us.
So . . . be swift to love, and make haste to be kind.
And the blessing of God, who made us, who loves us, and who travels with us
be with you now and forever. Amen.

May God give you Grace never to sell yourself short!
Grace to risk something big for something good!
Grace to remember that the world is too dangerous for anything but truth and too small
for anything but Love!
The Blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with us now and remain with
us this day and always. Amen.

The Blessing of Grace by The Rev. William Sloane Coffin

The Blessing of Discomfort by Sr. Ruth Fox, OSB (1985)

May God bless us with discomfort
At easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships
So that we may live from deep within our hearts.

May God bless us with anger
At injustice, oppression, and exploitation of God's creations
So that we may work for justice, freedom, and peace.

May God bless us with tears
To shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, hunger, and war,
So that we may reach out our hands to comfort them and
To turn their pain into joy.

And may God bless us with just enough foolishness
To believe that we can make a difference in the world,
So that we can do what others claim cannot be done:
To bring justice and kindness to all our children and all our neighbors who are poor.