

THIS IS YOUR SPACE TO PRAY

EDITION 4

This prayer resource is offered in the hope that it will sustain you whilst we are worshipping in different places. Just because we are not gathering together in one place as we would usually do on a Sunday morning, it doesn't mean we aren't gathering together as a community of faith and prayer.

Remember our 'pray where you are' on a Thursday morning from 8.45am. Wherever you are, stop and pray – even simply praying the Lord's prayer – knowing that you are joining others from our church who are also praying at the same time.

Our theme for this edition of the prayer resource is WAITING. In the church year, waiting is associated to Advent but waiting on God is an image that is seen throughout the psalms, the prophetic writings and the gospels. In this time of waiting, we pray that you will find these words of some comfort.

If you need spiritual or pastoral support, please contact:

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Don't forget worship services are available online each Sunday at <http://manninghamuc.org/online/>

SUGGESTIONS FOR PRAYER

Begin by centering yourself and your thoughts – you might like to light a candle or focus on an image or a flower, leaf, pinecone

Breathe the breathe prayer. If you say Yah-weh, the name of God, you cannot say it without breathing both in and out deeply. This will calm your breathing

You might like to write down the names of all those you know who need prayer

If you are praying in the morning, consider what is happening today. Is there anything you would like supported in prayer? Is there anything challenging today? Anything you know will bring you joy?

If you are praying in the evening, consider your day and all that happened. Where do you need guidance? What are you thankful for?

“ Lord, please sit with us as we wait...
As we wait for change, new things, a return to previous ways...

As we wait to see family, go shopping, hug a loved one, meet a new baby...

As we wait for the new 'living with COVID' unknown...

What will it look like? How will it affect us? Should we be afraid?

Lord, please guide us as we wait...

Help us to notice and value our blessings amidst isolation...

The letter, phone call, email, photo, sometimes unexpected...

The smiles with strangers as we carefully share spaces, connecting in our distance...

Friendly deliveries of groceries, scripts, letters, as the autumn leaves fall outside

Lord, help us to look beyond ourselves as we wait...

Blessings on those with insufficient money, food and shelter...

Blessings on those who work daily in all ways to ensure our safety...

Blessings on those working, teaching, juggling in the spaces of home...

Blessings on those who are unwell, anxious, unsafe, without hope

Lord, may this time show us the wholeness of you...

In the people and the ways that we are able to connect...

In the generosity of the autumn sun, breezes, colours, bird sounds...

In the swaying trees that will still provide normality beyond this period...

In the peace of our hearts as we take time to stop and wait on you

Lord, may our waiting be turned to gratitude and hope...

Thank you for those who focus on health and safety, may we listen...

Thank you for minds that juggle multiple needs daily, lead them to clarity...

Thank you for the chance to be part of a kinder, gentler world, may we act...

Thank you for the joys of being young and old together as we are able

And thank you for being the strong hand that holds every aspect of our lives

Amen.

Wendy Austin

LEUNIG

“ We simplify our lives.

“ We live gladly with less.

We let go the illusion that we can possess.

We create instead.

We let go the illusion of mobility.

We travel in stillness. We travel at home.

By candlelight and stillness,

In the presence of flowers. We make our pilgrimage.

We simplify our lives.

We give thanks for our friends.

Our dear friends.

We anger each other.

We share this sad earth, this tender life, this precious time.

Such richness. Such wildness.

Together we are blown about.

Together we are dragged along.

All this delight.

All this suffering.

All this forgiving life.

We hold it together.

Amen.

“ Accompany us, God,
through the waiting.

Accompany those displaced
waiting to return to the land.

Accompany those in refugee camps
waiting to go home.

Accompany those in conflict zones
waiting for normality.

Accompany those in violent homes
waiting for silence.

Accompany those imprisoned
waiting for justice.

Accompany us God
through the waiting

until your kingdom comes.

Amen.

Christian Aid



Waiting is a liminal place.
A sacred space between and betwixt
what has gone before
and what is to come.
Like the dawning of day or
the setting of sun,
it hovers, holding breath,
for the arrival of life
or the sighing of death.

Waiting is trust.
A holding to hope
with enduring grace
that says “yes” to not knowing
time’s mysterious face.
A bud not yet open,
a babe still to be born,
a creative and vulnerable
evolving of morn.

Waiting with God
in a life-giving stance
is a gift to be grasped
from an all loving hand.
Life is a-waiting
a journey of faith,
a pilgrim pathway,
we are invited to take.

Gail Pritchard



Creator God
We know we are in troubling times.
We are missing what we once took for granted.
We are tired of the waiting and restless in such
uncertainty
We are perplexed and anxious about the future.
Yet strangely we know this time of waiting is a time
of opportunity
and a time to prepare for what lies ahead.

So God help us to be patient, to sit in the moment,
to contemplate who we are and who we need to
be. For we know that beyond this pandemic and
the economic difficulties that lie ahead, the lives
of we lead will be different. We remember the
stories of our parents and grand-parents , who
were in many ways defined by their experiences of
global wars and pandemics and we know too that
we will be changed in ways yet unknown in the
weeks and months ahead.

So Lord God, in this time of waiting, help us to
ground ourselves in you. Help us to know deep
down that you are with us all now and in the times
ahead. That nothing can ever separate us from
your love.

And so as we wait, help us prepare for this
uncertain journey; show us and equip us to your
candle in the darkness and bring your comfort for
those who will need it most.
In Jesus name
Amen

Don Bartlett

WAITING AND LONGING - WALTER BRUEGGEMANN

God of the seasons,
God of the years,
God of the eons,
Alpha and Omega,
before us and after us.

You promise and we wait:
we wait with eager longing,
we wait amid doubt and anxiety,
we wait with patience thin
and then doubt,
and then we take life into our own hands.

We wait because you are the one and the only one.
We wait for your peace and your mercy,
for your justice and your good rule.


Give us your spirit that we may wait
obediently and with discernment,
caringly and without passivity,
trustingly and without cynicism
honestly and without utopianism,

Grant that our wait may be appropriate to your
coming
soon and very soon,
soon and not late,
late but not too late.

We wait while the world groans in eager longing.

~ written by Walter Brueggemann, in Prayers for a Privileged People.
<http://www.amazon.com/Prayers-Privileged-People-Walter-Brueggemann/dp/0687650194> Posted on the Prayers and Creeds website.
<http://prayersandcreeds.wordpress.com/>

PRAYER: RISEN AND ASCENDED LORD

 We worship you as the Lord, risen and ascended.

As we pray for our broken world,
we want to ask you when you will fix everything,
when your kingdom will come,
when justice will be restored,
and you tell us to wait;
to wait upon you, to attend to you.

But people are hungry now, thirsty now,
people lose their lives in our world now,
and you tell us to wait.

But for how long?

Lord Jesus, risen and ascended,
show us where you are now,
to join you in what you are doing now.
Open our eyes again, to attend to you now,
and join you in what you are already doing.

But people suffer from war now.
And we're pretty sure we know what needs to be done,
what justice must look like,
and still you tell us to wait;
to attend to you, to see what you are doing –
to catch Your Spirit.
Help us to know what you are doing, and to join you.

And people are suffering environmental breakdown now.
People's lives and livelihoods are being wrecked now.

Western greed for biofuel drives poor families from their lands now –
and we want you to act, and act now.
And you tell us to wait.

To wait upon you,
and to see who you are and
what you are doing, and the miracles you are working.
Help us not to fix the world,
but to wait on you and so see the world transformed.


Lord, we long for justice, for you to act.
By your Spirit, show us what you are doing already,
ahead of us, despite us, for us.
Forgive our arrogance and help us to listen.

Fill us with your Spirit, Risen and Ascended one,

restore your kingdom in our lives,
that we might know you more,
trust you more,
serve you more fully.
Fill us with your Spirit that we might wait for you,
and in so doing, see you at work,
and find ourselves drawn in, to the glory of your name,
Risen and Ascended Lord. Amen.

~ from the **Baptist Union of Great Britain** website.
<http://www.baptist.org.uk/>

CALL TO WORSHIP LITANY: PSALM 62: 5-12

 Our salvation and honour come from God alone.
He is our refuge, and a Rock of safety.

**We wait quietly before God, for our hope is in him,
our Rock and our Salvation.**

O my people, trust him at all times.
Pour out your heart to him, for he is our refuge.

**We wait quietly before God, for our hope is in him,
our Rock and our Salvation.**

From the greatest to the lowliest—all are nothing in his sight.
If you weigh them on the scales, they are lighter than a puff of air.

**We wait quietly before God, for our hope is in him,
our Rock and our Salvation.**

Don't try to get rich by extortion or robbery.
And if your wealth increases, don't make it the centre of your life.

**We wait quietly before God, for our hope is in him,
our Rock and our Salvation.**

God has spoken plainly—we have heard it many times.
Power, O God, belongs to you; unfailing love, O Lord, is yours.

**We wait quietly before God, for our hope is in him,
our Rock and our Salvation.**

— based on the *New Living Translation*.
Rev Mindi

PRAYER OF BROKENNESS/CONFESSION (INSPIRED BY JOHN 20:19-31)

“ Creator God,
we confess that at times we are skeptics.
At times we doubt that You exist
because of the evil we have seen in the world.
Oppression, marginalization, and plain hate still
plague our world,
and it is hard to see Your love and light.
Sometimes, even those who bear Your name
do not walk in Your ways.

Help us to see Your goodness in this world.
Help us to know Your love.
Fill us with Your love and goodness,
so that we might love one another,
and lift up one another in faith. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE/BLESSING

(from Psalm 27:13-14)

“ The psalmist says,
“I am sure I shall see the goodness of our God
in the land of the living.

*Wait for the Lord;
be strong,
and let your heart take courage;
wait for the Lord!”*

Know that you do not wait alone.
God has given us one another for this journey of
faith,
to help one another.
Know that you do not wait alone;
Christ is with us.
Be encouraged, and encourage one another.
Go and share the Good News. Amen.

~ written by Rev. Mindi and posted on **Rev-o-lution**. <http://rev-o-lution.org/>

Here’s a prayer from Rev Karla. It was
inspired by Psalm 25:4-5, and posted on
the RevGalBlogPals website.

PRAYER (INSPIRED BY PSALM 25: 4-5)

“ Make us to know your ways, O Lord; teach us your
paths.
Lead us in your truth, and teach us,
for you are the God of our salvation; for you we wait all
day long.

We will wait for you, O God.
Your Spirit compels us
to go into the wilderness,
and we ask for the courage to examine
the desert places in our hearts,
and to be willing to
face the adversaries in our lives—
that which lures us away
from being who you have created us to be.

We pray for the courage to face our wild beasts and
fears.
Relieve the troubles of our hearts,
and the devastation of our distress.
Turn your love towards us
that we may know your grace in our loneliness
and afflictions.

We pray this prayer,
knowing that you watch over us, and deliver us.
We wait for you, O God.
In the name of our brother Jesus we pray,
Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP (INSPIRED BY ZECHARIAH 3:6)

“ Not by might, nor by power,
but by my spirit, says the LORD of hosts. Zechariah
3:6

As farmers wait for rainfall
As prisoners wait for freedom
We wait for the coming of God

As exiles yearn for home
As peacemakers yearn for justice
We long for the coming of God


As travelers search for shelter
As disciples look for answers
We prepare for the coming of God

~ Ruth Burgess. Posted on Of Life, Laughter and Liturgy... <http://stranz-docs.blogspot.ca/2007/12/advent-liturgy-for-visit-of-archbishop.html>


 **WAITING...**
Wow!

An
Interlude
To
Invest in
Noticing
God


All this waiting is so challenging, so tiresome,
but don't give up on God.
Don't jump ahead of Him
Take heart.
Be strong.
And while you wait take a good look and you
will see God at work in the world.
(See Psalm 27:13, 14)

 **W**hat
An
Incredible
Time

Waiting upon God is amazing – it's like
having your youth renewed; like flying on
eagles wings; like running a marathon
without getting tired; like walking in the heat
of the day without feeling faint.
(see Isaiah 40:31)

 **W**hat if we change Wait into Weight?
Those who put their full weight upon God,
leaning on His arm, sitting on His shoulders,
shall exchange their weakness for God's
strength.

A PRAYER IN WAITING

 Father God,
As I wait for the lock down to lift
I am impatient

Frustrated
My life has been put on hold
I cannot do what I want to do

I long to have the freedom

To play golf
To go for a long drive through the countryside
To watch the changing autumn colours
To spend time with family
To have coffee with old mates at the footie club

To tell stories of adventures long past

Father God,
As I wait
Impatiently
To return to my way of life

I am reminded
there are many
Who find great comfort in waiting
Who give thanks
For the safety of their home
Supported by family
Neighbours and friends

Father God
In this time of waiting
I give thanks
For the phone calls to check on my wellbeing
The funny emails circulated by friends
My nature strip mowed by a neighbour
Unknown
Unseen.

Through my frustration,
My impatience
You have quietly revealed yourself
Through a phone call from a friend,
A nature strip quietly mown
A friendly greeting from an unknown face
A small Japanese maple bush
Announcing the arrival of winter
Clothed in a reddish-brown coat
Against a white wall

It is in the waiting
That long wait
That my impatience
My frustration
Have blinded me
Drawn we away from you

I see you reflected
Through the support
The love
Shown to me
by all who surround me
through the beauty of nature
In front of me
I give you my thanks
My friend and my Lord
Amen

Ken Manson