



Prayers During the Pandemic

A Series of Collects



THE WASHINGTON INSTITUTE
for Faith, Vocation and Culture

In many ways, we have forgotten how to pray — especially to pray with the richness and succinctness of expression of the historic church. A “collect” is a term often unknown to Christians today. Collects are short prayers used in the gathered church. In their origin, then, they have a communal purpose — that of God’s people praying while gathered together. Collects, though, can certainly have an individual devotional use as well.

Paul wrote to the Philippian church, “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” (Phil. 4:6-7)


The first half of this collection focuses on prayer for ourselves and moves from morning to night; the second turns to prayer for others. We pray that these collects would be a blessing for your prayer life.

These collects have either been written by contributors and staff of The Washington Institute and the Capital Pres Family or culled from various public domain sources including The Book of Common Prayer.

The Book Of Common Prayer and Administration of the Sacraments and Other Rites and Ceremonies of the Church: Together with the Psalter or Psalms of David According to the Use of the Episcopal Church. New York: Seabury Press, 1979.

Other public domain prayers were sourced from “A Collection of Prayers.” www.acollectionofprayers.com.

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Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?

Christ's Words to Us

Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. "Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble."

Matthew 6:25-34




*I commend all things
into your hands*

A Prayer for Trust

Heavenly Father,
you are indeed my Lord and God!
You made me out of nothing and redeemed me through your Son.
You have commanded and appointed me to perform my duties and labors,
which I, however, cannot accomplish as I desire,
and there are many troubles that frighten and oppress me,
so that I am, as to my own power,
without help and consolation;
therefore I commend all things into your hands.
Help and console me, and be my all in all.
Amen.

Attributed to Martin Luther



*Accept this our morning sacrifice
of praise and thanksgiving*

A Morning Prayer of Thanks


Almighty and everlasting God, in whom we live and move and have our being; We, thy needy creatures, render thee our humble praises, for thy preservation of us from the beginning of our lives to this day, and especially for having delivered us from the dangers of the past night. For these thy mercies, we bless and magnify thy glorious Name; humbly beseeching thee to accept this our morning sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; for his sake who lay down in the grave, and rose again for us, thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

From the Book of Common Prayer


A Prayer in Anxiety

Heavenly Father, we come to you in need of your grace. Rather than being still and knowing that you are God, we have failed to trust you in all things. You made us in your image, with a mind to know you, a heart to love you, and a will to serve you; but our knowledge is imperfect, our love inconsistent, and our obedience incomplete. Instead of resting in your steadfast love and faithfulness, we wrestle with anxiety, doubt, and fear. Instead of trusting in your goodness and grace, we have filled our lives with worry and anxiety, forgetting your deep and abiding love for us. By your Spirit, strengthen our weak faith, and give us confidence in your care and provision. Help us to remember that, in Jesus Christ, we have all that we need for today and forever. Amen.

*Written by Capital Pres Family Staff
(2016 & 2019)*



*Help us to remember
that in Jesus Christ, we
have all that we need*




*Grant that no clouds of
this mortal life may hide
from us the light of that
love which is immortal*

A Prayer in Fear

O most loving Father, who willest us to give thanks for all things, to dread nothing but the loss of thee, and to cast all our care on thee, who carest for us; Preserve us from faithless fears and worldly anxieties, and grant that no clouds of this mortal life may hide from us the light of that love which is immortal, and which thou hast manifested unto us in thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

From the Book of Common Prayer




*Lead us beside
still waters and
restore our souls*

A Prayer in Despair

Eternal and merciful Father, in Christ you have loved us with a love that is wider and longer and higher and deeper than we can possibly understand. You have set us on paths of righteousness for your name's sake, yet we have forgotten your love, ignored your Spirit, and wandered from your ways. We say that you are sovereign over all the earth, yet we live as if you were powerless to act in our lives. We say that you hold our life and future in your hands, yet we allow anxiety and fear of an unknown tomorrow to cripple us today. Heavenly Father, forgive and cover all our sins. Lead us beside still waters and restore our souls. Help us to trust in your wisdom and goodness with all our heart, and to seek first your kingdom and your righteousness. Grow our faith and grant us peace in Christ's name. Amen.

Written by Capital Pres Family Staff (2016)



*Teach us to yield ourselves
to your never failing care*

A Prayer for Peace

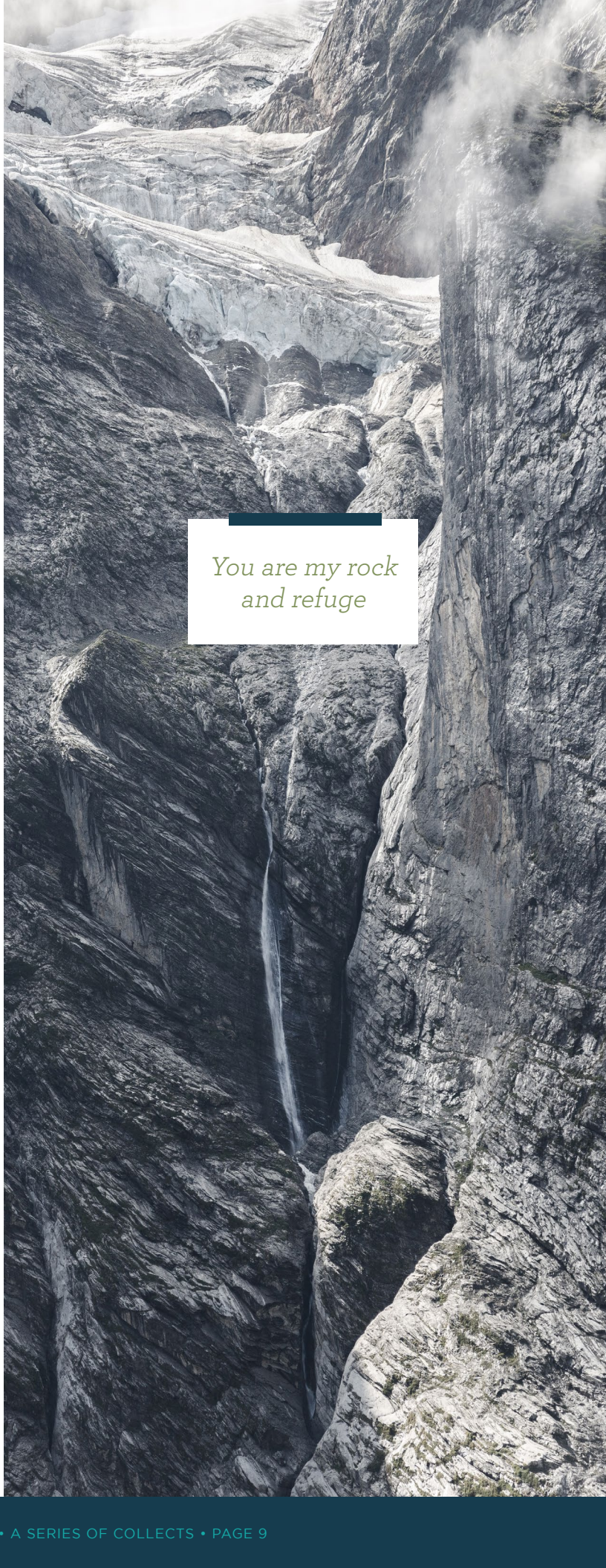
Almighty God,
you are the only source of health and healing.
In you there is calm,
and the only true peace in the universe.
Grant to each one of us your children
an awareness of your presence,
and give us perfect confidence in you.
In all pain and weariness and anxiety
teach us to yield ourselves to your never failing care,
knowing that your love and power surround us,
trusting in your wisdom and providence
to give us health and strength and peace
when your time is best;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

From The Nazarene, Vols. 7-9, 1922

A Prayer for Courage

Almighty God,
Father of mercies
and God of all comfort,
come to my help
and deliver me from
this difficulty that besets me.
I believe Lord,
that all trials of life
are under your care
and that all things work
for the good of those who love you.
Take away from me fear,
anxiety and distress.
Help me to face and endure my
difficulty
with faith, courage and wisdom.
Grant that this trial
may bring me closer to you
for you are my rock and refuge,
my comfort and hope,
my delight and joy.
I trust in your love and compassion.
Blessed is your name,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
now and forever.
Amen.

Orthodox Prayer, slightly modified



*You are my rock
and refuge*



*Give us contentment
with your good gifts*

A Prayer for Contentment

Almighty God,
you know our needs before we ask,
and our ignorance in asking:
Set your servants free
from all anxious thoughts about the future,
give us contentment with your good gifts,
and confirm our faith
that as we seek your kingdom,
you will not let us lack any good thing;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Written by Augustine of Hippo


A close-up photograph of a person's hands typing on a silver laptop keyboard. The laptop is open, and the screen shows a blurred image. The background is out of focus, showing what appears to be a desk and other office equipment. The lighting is soft and natural, highlighting the texture of the person's skin and the keys of the keyboard.

*Through our work, do your work
of making us like your Son*

A Prayer Before Beginning Work

Thank you God for the privilege of working in this world you have created. Thank you for allowing us to share with you in the joy of creation and in the joy of creating. You also have allowed us to experience your new work of redemption through our work. So we ask today that where there is brokenness we might see Christ the healer at work; where there is strife that we might participate with Him as a peacemaker; where there is anxiety that we might experience your peace within. Lord, we pray that whatever circumstances we find ourselves in today that we might see in them, through them and beyond them to your eternal Kingdom. Through our work, do your work of making us like your Son so that your Kingdom may come, and your will may be done on earth as it is in heaven. We ask this in the name of our savior Christ Jesus. Amen.

Written by Hans Hess




Give us grace to be just and upright in all our dealings; quiet and peaceable; full of compassion; and ready to do good to all men

A Prayer for Protection in Our Work

We implore thy grace and protection for the ensuing day. Keep us temperate in all things, and diligent in our several callings. Grant us patience under our afflictions. Give us grace to be just and upright in all our dealings; quiet and peaceable; full of compassion; and ready to do good to all men, according to our abilities and opportunities. Direct us in all our ways. Defend us from dangers and adversities; and be graciously pleased to take us, and all who are dear to us, under thy fatherly care and protection. These things, and whatever else thou shalt see to be necessary and convenient to us, we humbly beg, through the merits and meditation of thy Son Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

From the Book of Common Prayer




*Defend us from all dangers and mischiefs
and from the fear of them*

A Prayer for Rest

We beseech thee to continue thy gracious protection to us this night. Defend us from all dangers and mischiefs, and from the fear of them; that we may enjoy such refreshing sleep as may fit us for the duties of the coming day. And grant us grace always to live in such a state that we may never be afraid to die; so that, living and dying, we may be thine, through the merits and satisfaction of thy Son Christ Jesus, in whose Name we offer up these our imperfect prayers. Amen.

From The Book of Common Prayer



*Grant us a new glimpse
of your goodness, glory, and grace*

A Prayer for Hope


Oh God, whose wonders and wisdom are more than we can fathom, whose ways transcend our own, grant us a new glimpse of your goodness, glory, and grace, that we might know who you are and what you've done, and in that light, how we get to live. Pierce through the temporal that we might see the eternal, give us eyes to see the normally unseen, that our vision might be rightly ordered, that we might walk in the ways that we now see. Grant us to know the dignity of our calling, that in knowing we might do, for your sake, for our sake, and for the sake of the world you have created and will make new. Amen.

Written by Bill Haley

A Prayer for Perspective

Lord Jesus, ruler and king over all, in the midst of the mysteries of this life, forgive us for trying to preempt your rule. In the midst of pain, we have sought relief instead of waiting on your comfort. In the midst of conflict, we have sought to sweep division under the rug instead of seeking true peace. In the midst of family struggles, we have tried to get people to see things our way instead of seeking to love them. In the midst of uncertainty, we have tried to control with our anger and power instead of living with patience and kindness. As we see the ongoing brokenness of the world around us, we find it easier to blame others than to persevere in prayer. But in our sin and struggle, we are reminded that you were sent into the world at just the right time, and that your redemption comes at just the right time. Help us to live by faith in your rule instead of asserting ourselves as rulers over those things that aren't yet made right. We thank you for your loving forgiveness and rule in our lives. Amen.

*Written by Capital Pres Family Staff
(2014)*




*Help us to live by
faith in your rule*

A Prayer for For Those We Love

Almighty God, we entrust all who are dear to us to thy never-failing care and love, for this life and the life to come; knowing that thou art doing for them better things than we can desire or pray for; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

From the Book of Common Prayer



*We entrust all who
are dear to us to
thy never-failing
care*


A Prayer for Those Who Are Sick

Hear us, Almighty and most merciful God and Savior; extend thy accustomed goodness to this thy servant who is grieved with sickness. Visit, O Lord, with thy loving mercy. Restore, O Lord, to health. Comfort, O Lord, in suffering. Bless, O Lord, those who administer the healing gifts; that we may give thanks unto thee in thy holy Church. Fill our hearts with confidence, that though we be sometimes afraid, yet our trust may be in thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Adapted from the Book of Common Prayer

Bless, O Lord those who administer the healing gifts






*We fly unto thee for
succor in behalf of this
thy servant; here lying in
great weakness of body.*

A Prayer for Those Unlikely to Recover

O Father of mercies, and God of all comfort, our only help in time of need; We fly unto thee for succour in behalf of this thy servant; here lying in great weakness of body. Look graciously, O Lord; and the more the outward man decayeth, strengthen your servant, we beseech thee, so much the more continually with thy grace and Holy Spirit in the inner man. Give unfeigned repentance for all the errors in life past and steadfast faith in thy Son Jesus; that your servant's sins may be done away by thy mercy and pardon sealed in heaven; through the name of thy Son, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Adapted from the Book of Common Prayer

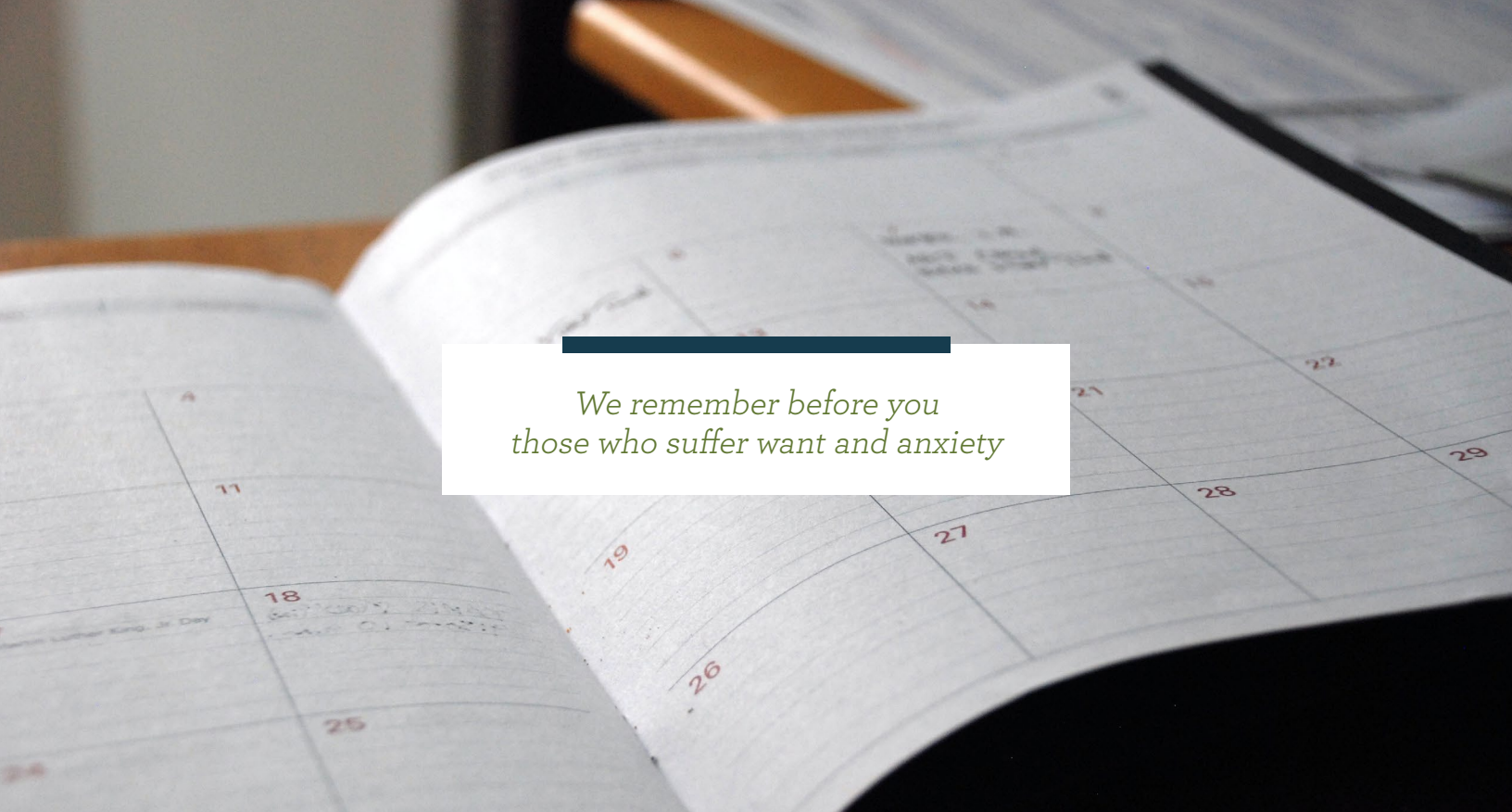


*Comfort, we beseech
thee most gracious God,
this thy servant*

A Prayer for the Despondent

Comfort, we beseech thee, most gracious God, this thy servant, cast down and faint of heart amidst the sorrows and difficulties of this world; and grant that, by the power of thy Holy Spirit, we may be enabled to go upon our way rejoicing, and give thee continual thanks for thy sustaining providence, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

From the Book of Common Prayer



*We remember before you
those who suffer want and anxiety*

A Prayer for the Unemployed

Heavenly Father, we remember before you those who suffer want and anxiety from lack of work. Guide the people of this land so to use our public and private wealth that all may find suitable and fulfilling employment, and receive just payment for their labor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

From the Book of Common Prayer




*We commend to thy
continual care the homes in
which thy people dwell*

A Prayer for those Sequestered at Home

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who settest the solitary in families; We commend to thy continual care the homes in which thy people dwell. Put far from them, we beseech thee, every root of bitterness, the desire of vain-glory, and the pride of life. Fill them with faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness. Knit together in constant affection those who, in holy wedlock, have been made one flesh; turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to the fathers; and so enkindle fervent charity among us all, that we be evermore kindly affectioned with brotherly love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

From the Book of Common Prayer

A photograph of an empty room with a large window and curtains. The room has light-colored walls and a dark floor. The window is divided into four panes and is flanked by light-colored curtains. A white text box is overlaid on the image, containing the text:

*Grant that those who live alone may
not be lonely in their solitude*

A Prayer for the Lonely

Almighty God, whose Son had nowhere to lay his head:
Grant that those who live alone may not be lonely in their
solitude, but that, following in his steps, they may find
fulfillment in loving you and their neighbors; through
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

From the Book of Common Prayer



*Let thy fatherly goodness
be upon all that thou hast made*

A Prayer for all the Poor, Homeless, and Neglected

O God, Almighty and merciful, who healest those that are broken in heart, and turnest the sadness of the sorrowful to joy; Let thy fatherly goodness be upon all that thou hast made. Remember in pity such as are this day destitute, homeless, or forgotten of their fellow men. Bless the congregation of thy poor. Uplift those who are cast down. Mightily befriend innocent sufferers, and sanctify to them the endurance of their wrongs. Cheer with hope all discouraged and unhappy people, and by thy heavenly grace preserve from falling those whose penury tempteth them to sin; though they be troubled on every side, suffer them not to be distressed; though they be perplexed, save them from despair. Grant this, O Lord, for the love of him, who for our sakes became poor, thy Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

From the Book of Common Prayer

Psalm 46

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way,
though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,
though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble at its swelling. *Selah*

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.
God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved;
God will help her when morning dawns.
The nations rage, the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.
The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress. *Selah*

Come, behold the works of the Lord,
how he has brought desolations on the earth.
He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the chariots with fire.
“Be still, and know that I am God.
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth!”
The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress. *Selah*

*“Be still, and know
that I am God”*



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