

### 1: Family Blessing at a Gathering - Prayers - Catholic Online

*An opening prayer or act of praise is a significant opportunity to express our desire to encounter God together. There may be specific things for which to thank God, but mostly we will want to pray for him to be honoured in our gathering and for our faith, hope and love to be increased as we minister to one another in his name.*

Amen Through our hymns and songs, our prayer and meditation, the joining of our lives in fellowship we worship you, Father Son and Holy Spirit. Enfold us in your love, and empower our worship that your name might be glorified in this place and in our lives. We are gathered here today, Lord God as your people to offer you our sacrifice of prayer and worship. We come from different walks of life; some are well educated, others not; some have walked with you for many years, others are just starting their journey; some are strong, others weak; some are full of joy, others burdened by care. You love each of us in equal measure. You pour your blessings on us in equal measure. We worship the One True God; creator of all; Lord of all; our strength and hope; our light and our salvation. We join together as family, joined by the hands of fellowship, brothers and sisters of our heavenly Father. Amen This is the day that the Lord has made. This is the day when he can be found. God of all, breath of life, Living water, Saviour, friend. Come as the hungry, feed on his Word Come as the thirsty, drink of his Love Come as the faithful, worship the Lord. We worship a God of Promise, whose saving Grace brought a people from captivity into a land of promise, whose enduring love still leads us from places of captivity into a promise of peace, forgiveness and eternal life. The promises of God endure forever. The promises of God will be fulfilled. We meet together in the presence of a God whose love is freedom, whose touch is healing, whose voice is calm. The blessing receive is shared, in the hope that others might be drawn to the God we serve. Amen Into your presence we come, God of Grace and Peace, who was, and is and ever shall be the eternal One. Amen Let us be still for a moment as we draw near to worship God Take just a few seconds to remind yourself why we are gathered together today Listen, God speaks even through the background noise of the world around us Lord God, in this short time together, open our ears and our eyes to see your vision for this place and our part within it. Teach us, hear our prayers and enable us for service wherever you might take us, to your praise and glory. May the Peace which passes all understanding, which has its source within the very nature of Father, Son and Spirit be with us as we meet, to still our souls and join our hearts as one. May the gentle whisper of the God of peace speak to us through our worship, the reading and understanding of scripture, and be the message of our lives as we leave this place. Amen We meet as family in the presence of our heavenly Father. We meet as brothers and sisters in Christ, accepting the responsibility this places upon us - to love one another as you have loved us. We meet as your lights in this dark world, and pray that through our words and our lives others might be drawn into your family, and accept you as their Saviour and Lord. Amen Sovereign Lord, we meet together to celebrate the gift of your Holy Spirit to the church. Bless us as we seek to serve you in this place. Fill us with your Spirit as you did early one morning in Jerusalem over two thousand years ago, that we might better be your voices, hands and presence in the world, and draw others into your kingdom. Amen Lord God, in a universe that seems so immense it is easy to feel insignificant as we stand here today. Yet we know that we are precious in your sight - unique individuals loved and blessed in so many ways. We stand in awe of the one who has created all things and dedicate this time and all our days to your service. Accept this offering we pray, our sacrifice of praise and worship. Amen Bless us as we meet together, dear Lord we pray. Bless the singing of your praise, the reading of your Word, the sharing of our fellowship, the prayers that will be heard. Bless us as we meet together, dear Lord we pray.

### 2: Lovely Thanksgiving Prayers for Family

*Here is a wonderful prayer to use to close a meeting, church service, or any type of gathering! Use your departure as a time to thank God and ask for His protection and blessings.*

Register Daily Prayer is completely free, including all membership features. However, spreading the Word of Christ on the internet is not free. The content of ads is not determined by Daily Prayer, but by your computer. If you see something you consider objectionable, it is an opportunity for you to examine what websites you have been visiting. Contributors of any amount can ask to have advertising turned off. No person associated with us receives any form of monetary compensation. Please consider a donation to help keep Daily Prayer online and spread the word of God. Tax deductible in the U. If you shop at Amazon. We hope you will find these blessing useful. If you are seeking to grow closer to Christ, for your family or just yourself, try out our interdenominational Daily Devotion , which is new every day. Prayers, music, artwork, Scripture and Commentary; reading it each day, or even every once in a while, will enrich your life. Two Commonly Used Blessings Bless, O Lord, this food to our use and us to thy service, and keep us ever mindful of the needs of others. For this and all we are about to receive, make us truly grateful, Lord. Through Christ we pray. Other Blessings There are hundreds of prayer forms used before meals. Here are some good ones: For good food and those who prepare it, for good friends with whom to share it, we thank you Lord. For food in a world where many walk in hunger; For faith in a world where many walk in fear; For friends in a world where many walk alone; We give you thanks, O Lord. Let us thank God for food when others are hungry; for drink when others are thirsty; for friends when others are lonely. Be present at our table, Lord! Be here and everywhere adored. Your mercies bless, and grant that we May feast in Paradise with Thee or: May strengthened for thy service be. Bless the Lord, O my soul, And all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, And forget not all his benefits. Blessed be God, eternal king, for these and all his good gifts to us. Our Dear Heavenly Father, we thank Thee for this food. Feed our souls on the bread of life and help us to do our part in kind words and loving deeds. Our Heavenly Father, kind and good, we thank Thee for our daily food. We thank Thee for Thy love and care. Be with us Lord, and hear our prayer. Most Holy, Righteous and everywhere present God, our Father who art in Heaven, we ask thy blessing upon this food. Bless the hearts and hands that provide the same. And when it is ours to pass from time to eternity, own us and crown us heirs to Thy kingdom. These favors and blessings we ask in the name of Christ, our Great Redeemer. From thy hand cometh every good, We thank thee for our daily food. And with it Lord, thy blessing give, And to thy glory may we live. Great God accept our gratitude, For the great gifts on us bestowed-- For raiment, shelter and for food. Great God, our gratitude we bring, Accept our humble offering, For all the gifts on us bestowed, Thy name be evermore adored. May this food so fresh and fragrant, call forth reverence for You in our souls. As you give this strength to our perishable limbs, So give us grace for our immortal lives. Be present at our table, Lord; Be here and everywhere adored. These mercies bless, and grant that we May feast in fellowship with thee. Blessing for Thanksgiving Day Our Father in Heaven, we give thanks for the pleasure of gathering together for this occasion. We give thanks for this food prepared by loving hands. As we partake of this food, we pray for health and strength to carry on and try to live as You would have us. This we ask in the name of Christ, Our Heavenly Father. Thank You for a roof over our heads, and more than enough food to eat. Thank You for the family You have given to us, for family and friends who have gathered together to eat this Thanksgiving Day meal. Amen O Gracious God, we give you thanks for your overflowing generosity to us. Thank you for the blessings of the food we eat and especially for this feast today. Thank you for our home and family and friends, especially for the presence of those gathered here. Thank you for our health, our work and our play. Please send help to those who are hungry, alone, sick and suffering war and violence. Open our hearts to your love. We ask your blessing through Christ your son. Especially Suitable for Children For food and health and happy days receive our gratitude and praise In serving others Lord may we Repay our dept of love to thee. Thank you for the food we eat, Thank you for the world so sweet, Thank you for the birds that sing, Thank you God for everything. God is great, God is good. Let us thank him for our food. By his hands,

we are fed. Let us thank him for our bread. God our Father, Lord and Saviour Thank you for your love and favor Bless this food and drink we pray And all who shares with us today. This clever one was written by Robert Burns Some hae meat and canna eat, And some would eat that want it; But we hae meat, and we can eat, Sae let the Lord be thankit. We thank you, God We thank you, God, for this our food, for life and health and every good. Let manna to our souls be given -- the bread of life sent down from heaven. From a hymn by John Cennick, Several from Ireland: May the blessing of the five loaves and the two fishes which God shared out among the five thousand be ours. May the King who did the sharing bless our sharing and our co-sharing. Bless, O Lord, this food we are about to eat; and we pray You, O God, that it may be good for our body and soul; and if there be any poor creature hungry or thirsty walking along the road, send them into us that we can share the food with them, just as You share your gifts with all of us. May this food restore our strength, giving new energy to tired limbs, now thoughts to weary minds. May this drink restore our souls, giving new vision to dry spirits, new warmth to cold hearts. And once refreshed, may we give new pleasure to You, who gives us all. Bless us, O God. Since you redemmed us so dearly and delivered us from evil, as you gave us a share in this food so may you give us a share in eternal life. Give us O God of the honey-sweet milk, the sap and the savor of the fragrant farms. God in our waking, God in our speaking; God in our cooking, God in our eating; God in our playing, God in our digesting; God in our working, God in our Resting. In a world where so many are hungry, may we eat this food with humble hearts; in a world where so many are lonely, May we share this friendship with joyful hearts. O Lord, who clothes the lilies And feeds the birds of the sky, Who leads the lambs to pasture And the deer to the waterside, Who has multiplied loaves and fishes And converted water to wine, O Lord, come to our table, As guest and giver, to dine. Lord, bless this food and grant that we May thankful for thy mercies be. Blessings for Christmastide In the peace of this season our spirits are joyful: By your coming may the hungry be filled with good things, and may our table and home be blessed. God of all gifts, we thank you for the many ways you have blessed us this day. We are grateful each of those who are gathered around this table. We ask you to bless us and our food and to bless those we love who are not with us today. In our gratitude and love, we remember your humble birth into our lives and pray for those who are without enough to eat. We remember the stable in which you were born and pray for those who have no place to live. We remember your challenging message of caring and giving and we pray for peace in families and nations throughout the world. We bless you and give you thanks in your Spirit who brings our hearts to life the Christmas Day and forever. Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child, Make thee a bed, soft, undefiled, Within my heart, that it may be A quiet chamber kept for Thee. My heart for very joy doth leap, My lips no more can silence keep, I too must sing, with joyful tongue, That sweetest ancient song, Glory to God in highest heaven, Who unto man His Son hath given While angels sing with pious mirth. A glad new year to all the earth!

### 3: Prayer Before Meals - Daily Devotionals

*inspirational prayer Heavenly Father, We thank You that we have received from Jesus Christ the Victory over all diseases, afflictions, infirmities, hindrances, persecutions, torments, and lies that the enemy is trying to send our way now or in the future.*

Give us, O God, the vision which can see your love in the world in spite of human failure. Give us the faith to trust your goodness in spite of our ignorance and weakness. Give us the knowledge that we may continue to pray with understanding hearts. And show us what each one of us can do to set forward the coming of the day of universal peace. A Prayer for Christmas Morning The day of joy returns, Father in Heaven and crowns another year with peace and good will. Help us rightly to remember the birth of Jesus that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds and the worship of the wise men. Close the doors of hate and open the doors of love all over the world and Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing that Christ brings and teach us to be merry with clean hearts. Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts. I believe in the one whose spirit glorified a little town; and whose spirit still brings music to persons all over the world, in towns both large and small. I believe in the one for whom the crowded inn could find no room, and I confess that my heart still sometimes wants to exclude Christ from my life today. I believe in the one who the rulers of the earth ignored and the proud could never understand; whose life was among common people, whose welcome came from persons of hungry hearts. I believe in the one who proclaimed the love of God to be invincible: I confess my ever-lasting need of God: The need of forgiveness for our selfishness and greed, the need of new life for empty souls, the need of love for hearts grown cold. I believe in God who gives us the best of himself. I believe in Jesus, the son of the living God, born in Bethlehem this night, for me and for the world. Reflective Christmas Prayer-I Father God, When your precious Son became a tiny baby in a stable in Bethlehem in poverty and simplicity, you changed our world. As we imagine those surroundings, we join with the shepherds and the wise men in wonder and praise. We thank you for our material lives, praise you for our spiritual lives, and trust in you for our eternal life. Reflective Christmas Prayer-II I think about my family, my relatives, the neighbors, people with whom we will spend this day. Dear Jesus, as I look at their faces and remember their stories, there are feelings of gratitude and some fear and anxiety. Thank you for these loved ones and please forgive me for the ways I have been less than accepting and loving. Please heal the wounds, division and conflicts that stand between us and help me to remember how dearly you love them. I only want to remember that you have come to save us all. So may we, too, remember with thankful hearts the love that comes with each present we open. We also thank you for the amazing love you have for each of us, and we thank you for the many gifts that you give us. It is about mysteries and gratitude, unknowing and wrong sizes, snippets of ribbon and screams of delight. Help me to remember the immense love you have for each of us in this room. With each gift that is opened, no matter how perfect or not, let me feel again the many ways you gift us each day, especially with your presence in our hearts and the presence of each other in our lives. I ask you, Loving Father, to give me a special sense of your presence as I meet people, that I may shed on them the light of the Bethlehem Star, the Spirit of Christmas. There is something special about working on Christmas, when so many others are home with loved ones. My work today might even have a wondrous sense of service and necessity. I wish I could stay home. Help me to feel missioned by you today. Let me recognize the unique way my co-workers and I are called to serve our brothers and sisters. Let me take just a moment in this quiet to feel your deep love for me. May I carry that sense of peace with me as the light of your love, shining on everyone I come in contact with today. Prayer before Christmas Dinner God of all gifts, we thank you for the many ways you have blessed us this day. We are grateful each of those who are gathered around this table. We ask you to bless us and our food and to bless those we love who are not with us today. In our gratitude and love, we remember your humble birth into our lives and pray for those who are without enough to eat. We remember the stable in which you

## PRAYER OF GATHERING pdf

were born and pray for those who have no place to live. We remember your challenging message of caring and giving and we pray for peace in families and nations throughout the world. We bless you and give you thanks in your Spirit who brings our hearts to life the Christmas Day and forever.

### 4: Prayer Gathering for Healing of the Nations | LoveFirst Coast

*Father in Heaven, We praise You for giving us Your Son To be our Saviour and Lord. Bless us all as we gather here today, (tonight) And let us live happily in Your love.*

In Your gentleness, guide us. In Your power, strengthen us. In Your lowliness, strip from us our selfish pride which only destroys us. In Your greatness, lift us up that we might aspire to greater things. As a shepherd, call us to be Your servants. As a King, call us to be Your royal priesthood. O God, who is our shepherd and our King; O Christ, who was crucified and is now risen from the dead; O Spirit, who comforts and empowers; O great One in Three, Holy Trinity, this hour, set us free to worship. King of Love, we come to You as we are, not as we pretend to be. The truth is, God, that when we lift our heads above our path, we all too often discover ourselves lost in a maze of choices. We confess from the very beginning of this worship that we are lost. Were it not for You, O great seeker of our souls, patient parent to our childhood, joyful host to our homecoming; Were it not for You, O Lord, we would be lost forever. But, because of You, there is room for us at the great Love Feast. King of Love, seek and find us as we are, not as we pretend. Be patient with us, and teach us how to wait. May the echoes of Your celebration reverberate in our midst this hour, transforming our worship from a mournful plea to a joyful song. King of Love, lead us. Light of Christ, awaken us this hour to the glory of Your presence in our midst. Shine among us in such a way that the darkness without and within may be pushed back, such that we might truly see what is really real. Help us to recognize our sin for what it is. Enable us to behold the world as You created it to be, as You created us to be. Empower us to move from darkness to light, from sin to new life. May Your light within us shine through into worship this day, as all days. This we pray in the name of the Word made flesh, the light which is the light of all people. O Holy God, like Isaiah the prophet, we stand in awe of Your glory, feeling tremendously small and polluted by our sin, and the sin of our society. Even so, You touch us with Your burning presence, and we are made clean and whole. O God, our Creator, continue to build this household of faith into what You want us to be. O Christ, our Savior, lead us to do as You will. O Spirit, our Power, strengthen us for the work of the Kingdom, a worship and a service which is ours today as well as tomorrow. O Blessed Trinity, fill this place and these people with Your presence. For yours is the Power, and the Salvation, and the Creation, now and always. O God from whom every gift derives, we gather to worship You this day. You are an awesome God, greater than our comprehension or our imagination. You are beyond any word we could ever use to describe You. And yet, through Jesus, we know the intimacy of Your vast Love. We have come to You in thanksgiving and praise, to know that You are God and to place our lives anew into Your perspective. Enlarge our vision this hour with Your Word. Instill in us, again, Your hope in place of our despair, Your peace where our hatred threatens, Your joy amidst our depression, Your love overwhelming our apathy. May Your Holy Spirit surround and indwell this congregation now, and forevermore. In Jesus we pray. Eternal God, our Alpha and Omega, our beginning and our end, we have gathered in this time and at this place to worship You. In Your time, You created all things, and wove into their fabric a yearning for fulfillment in You. It is this yearning within us which has pulled us here this morning. May our labor bring forth a new creation in You. This is Your hour, Christ Jesus, help us to make the most of each precious moment. For in Your name we have gathered, and we pray. Like Elijah, O God, we turn and face You in the midst of the storm. Help us to hear You speak to us, in our heart of hearts, as that still, small voice amidst the maelstrom, which gives us direction, and peace, and hope. May our words, as well as our actions, and even the secret thoughts of our hearts, be a part of Your worship this hour, O Lord of great power, displayed in sacrificial love. For we pray focused upon the One who died for all, Your only begotten son. You are such a gracious host, Lord God of all creation. Who are we to receive such goodness? You prepare a table for us, amidst our daily struggles, our successes and failures, even in the presence of our enemies. You anoint us, wash us, feed us. You do all this. We confess that we tend to see our daily bread solely in terms of our own handiwork. But we are not self-sufficient. We need these brothers and sisters in Christ around us. Shower us with Your "holy manna" that we might be strengthened for the journey to which You have called us. By faith we stand and worship. By faith we walk and work. By faith

we profess that Your Christ is alive, and that Your spirit moves us to be and to do more than we ever thought possible. We pray all this in the name of the One who said, "I am the bread of life. You are here, Lord, in this place. Not only do we stand in awe of how great You are, larger than our imagination; But we also can scarcely comprehend that You are with us this moment. Yes, from a distance You are watching us. But You stand beside us as well. In extra-ordinary, as well as common, every-day ways, You make Your presence known to us. This is Your time of worship, God. The praying and singing we all do comes not only from us but, most importantly, from You. When we lose sight of this, today as well as every day, O Lord, forgive us, and live in and through us. Do great things with us right now, and in the week which lies ahead. Holy God, make Your presence known to us today. We come to You as we are, called to be saints, holy ones, but so often less than our calling. Help us this hour to let go of those sins to which we cling. Help us to know that our self-worth does not depend so much on our ability to hold on to our lives, as on Your power to release ourselves into Your hands. We come to You with our vision so often clouded by our sin. Clear away the mist, through Jesus, that we can catch a glimpse, now, of Your presence here. Help us to behold You as You are, not as we would like You to be. In Him, through whom we become holy, on the wings of the Spirit, we pray to You, our Father. O God of the still, small voice quiet our inner spirit. Help us to focus upon You, and You alone, to hear Your voice within. There are so many other voices demanding our attention. But we cannot attend to them without You May Your voice speak through us. In weakness, be our strength. In poverty, be our wealth. In depression, be our joy. In apathy, be our love. Take this heart, and with this mouth make Your praise and thanksgiving a reality here and now. Because of, and in the name of our Messiah, Jesus. Creator and Ruler of the Earth, we lift up our voices, our eyes, our hearts, our lives to You in praise. Make us Your alleluia people. Uphold the weary, for whom praise may be very difficult. Humble the strong, for whom "alleluia" may be too easy. Creator and Ruler of the Earth, continue to form us into Your new creation, that we might welcome You to more fully become the ruler of our hearts and minds. Through Him who came as a servant, and who now reigns over all creation, Jesus, our Christ. O God, whose holiness is not limited to grand cathedrals or saintly persons, spectacular mountains or mountain-moving leaders; O God, whose holiness is often discovered in simple everyday places and simple everyday folks, plant Your holiness in this place, in us now. Grow us this hour, that we might flower, right where we are, with the beauty of Your holiness. Through Jesus we pray.

### 5: Opening and Closing Prayer – Funeral Ministry Gathering

*During this year's Washington Prayer Gathering, we experienced a heightened sense of God's presence & connectedness in unity with Christ followers from across the region.*

Thanksgiving is quickly approaching, have you thought about saying a Thanksgiving prayer? Whatever the case, you probably stumbled upon this article because you were looking for a Thanksgiving prayer for family. Of course, when it comes to saying a Thanksgiving prayer for family, the words best come from the heart. If you prefer to write your own Thanksgiving prayers, here are a few tips for you for writing a dinner prayer. Thank God for! Bringing the family together: Every Thanksgiving prayer for family should make at least one mention of a thank you for bringing the family together safely! Food is a huge blessing, and so many go without it on a continuous basis. Having an abundance of food should not be taken for granted, and thanking God for it is a must in a Thanksgiving prayer. Be thankful and gracious to those who provided the tasty offerings! Think of a thing or two that you are personally thankful for. Sample Prayers You are aware of what types of things to include in a Thanksgiving prayer for family, but perhaps you would still prefer to find a prayer to use instead of writing your own. Our Father in Heaven, It is with great pleasure that we gather here today, together, and in good health. With all going on in this world, we know just how blessed we are that you have made this possible. We just thank you so much for this meal that we are about to enjoy, and pray that those who could not be with their families on this day can find total comfort in you. Thank you for the blessings! In your name we pray, AMEN! Dear God, As we sit around this table with the blessings of being able to be together face-to-face, we are thankful that you brought us here by your grace. Thank you for this warm meal, cheers, and that we get to gather today. We honor you as we enjoy this meal and the delicious pumpkin pie! Our Heavenly Father, First of all, thank you for giving us this opportunity to get together on this joyous holiday. We know that it was made possible by you, and we are overjoyed to be rejoicing in you before our meal. We are grateful for this warm food and the hands who put it together. Be with them and give them comfort. Thank you for everything you continue to do for us. Just be thankful for everything you have, every single day, even outside of the prayer. Family Holidays Tagged With: I began writing when I was just a young girl in grade school and have continued on since.

### 6: Opening Prayers / Calls to Worship

*The state of prayer is the best of conditions, for man is then associating with God. - Abdu'l-Baha, Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha, p. Know thou that supplication and prayer is the water of life.*

Lori True All sing: Quietly peacefully may they rest in you Quietly peacefully lead them back to you Quietly peacefully may they rest in you Quietly peacefully bring them home to you God has come to carry you to your dwelling place Do not fear, Christ bids you come; meet God face to face. Quietly peacefully may they rest in you Quietly peacefully lead them back to you Quietly peacefully may they rest in you Quietly peacefully bring them home to you Lay your burdens, calm your fears; you are not alone. God of tenderness and peace, Be with us this morning as we gather to reflect on our calling to be ministers of comfort and support in our communities. Fill us with hope in your power to heal and to save. Look kindly on those who mourn at this time and all those we lift up to you in remembrance. Give us peace today and always. We ask this in the Spirit, through Christ, our Lord. Then, still weeping, she stooped to look inside, and saw two angels in white sitting where the body of Jesus had been, one at the head, the other at the feet. Who are you looking for? Jesus remember me when you come into your kingdom Jesus remember me when you come into your kingdom. Reflection A loved one is a treasure of the heart and losing a loved one is like losing a piece of yourself, but the love that this person brought you did not leave, for the essence of the soul lingers. It cannot escape your heart, for it has been there forever. Cling to the memories and let them find their way to heal you. The love and laughter, the joy in the togetherness you shared, will make you strong. You come to realise that your time together, no matter how long, was meant to be and you were blessed to have such a precious gift of love in your life. Keep your heart beating with the loving memories and trust in your faith to guide you through. Know that though life moves on the beauty of love stays behind to embrace you. Your loved one has left you that to hold in your heart forever. Flickers of guilt kindle regret For all that was left unsaid or undone. There are days when you wake up happy; Again inside the fullness of life, Until the moment breaks And you are thrown back Onto the black tide of loss. Days when you have your heart back, You are able to function well Until in the middle of work or encounter, Suddenly with no warning, You are ambushed by grief. It becomes hard to trust yourself. All you can depend on now is that Sorrow will remain faithful to itself. More than you, it knows its way And will find the right time To pull and pull the rope of grief Until that coiled hill of tears Has reduced to its last drop. God of love and mercy, By the mystery of the cross, you have made us strong; By the sacrament of the resurrection you have sealed us as your own. Look kindly on all those we remember today And count them among your saints in heaven. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. With you all pain is left behind, no sorrow or death on that day. First she surrendered her Green, then the Orange, Yellow and Red. Finally she let go of her Brown shedding her last leaf she stood empty and silent, stripped bare. Leaning against the winter sky she began her vigil of trust. And why worry about clothing? Think of the flowers growing in the fields; they neither have to work or spin; yet I assure you that not even Solomon in all his regalia was robed like one of these. Shedding her last leaf she watched its journey to the ground. She stood in silence wearing the colour of emptiness, her branches wondering: How do you give shade with so much gone? Do not be anxious or overly concerned. And then, the sacrament of waiting began. The sunrise and sunset watched with tenderness, clothing her with silhouettes they kept her hope alive. They helped her understand that her vulnerability, her dependence and need, her emptiness, her readiness to receive were giving her a new kind of beauty. Every morning and every evening they stood in silence and celebrated together the sacrament of waiting. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe. Let us remember the light filled ones who enkindled our spirits with their influence and the spark of their beliefs. Let us remember the risk takers, who faced their fears and took action, who sought justice even though they had to pay a price for it. Let us remember the vulnerable ones who allowed us to care for them, allowed us to be with them in their time of need. Let us remember the faith-filled ones who led us by word and example into a deeper relationship with God. Let us remember the brave ones, who walked through their struggles with hope, who taught us how to trust. Let us remember the

great lovers of life, whose humour and enthusiasm lifted our spirits and brought us joy. Let us remember the nurturers, who gave us birth physically or spiritually, who gave us support by their caring presence. Bid me farewell, my friends. I bow to you all and take my departure. Here I give back the keys of the door. And I give up all claim to my clothes and books. I only ask for the last kind words from you. We were family and friends for long. And I have received more than I could give. Now that day has dawned, and the lamp that lit my dark corner has gone out. A summons has come, and I am ready for the journey. Farewell to you, until we meet again. That those who exercise a pastoral service may grow to a greater love of Christ, let us pray to the Lord. R That the Holy Spirit may strengthen their hearts and enlighten their minds let us pray to the Lord. R That through their endeavours this parish may grow in faith, hope, and love, let us pray to the Lord. May his tenderness shine through you to warm all those who are hurt and lonely. May the God of Strength be with you, holding you in strong-fingered hands and may you be a sacrament of His strength to those whose hands you hold. May the blessing of Strength be upon you. May the God of Peace be with you, taking away your fears and doubts and may the mantle of your peace cover those who are troubled and anxious. May the blessing of Peace be upon you. The guarding of the God of life be on you, the guarding of the Loving Christ be on you, the guarding of the Holy Spirit be on you to aid And uphold you each day and night of your lives. May the road rise to meet you. May the wind be at your back. May the sunshine warm up on your face, May the rain fall softly on your fields And until we meet again May you keep safe in the gentle loving arms of God.

### 7: Why is a central Prayer Gathering in a church so important? - Reformation21 Blog

*To submit prayer requests, please email or fill out a prayer card and leave it in the boxes at the exit doors of the Main Worship Room. All are welcome to join any of the following prayer gatherings: \* Tuesdays at a.m. in the Prayer Room.*

### 8: Christmas Prayers, Prayers for Christmas, Christmas Day Prayers

*PRAYER POINTS for The Gathering, The Youth, The Family, The Church, and The Nations THE GATHERING We declare that we will experience greater intimacy with the Lord through intense worship.*

### 9: Opening prayers and praises

*Prayer is meant to be a way of life for Christians, a way of talking to God and listening for His voice with the ears of the heart. As a result, there are prayers for every occasion, from a simple salvation prayer to deeper devotionals that help facilitate and strengthen one's spiritual journey.*

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