

## Prayers and Liturgy

### A. Simple prayers:

#### **A Prayer for the Diocese of Leeds:**

Heavenly Father,  
We pray for your blessing on the Diocese of Leeds.  
Inspired by the eagerness of Saint Peter,  
the missionary zeal of Saint Wilfrid  
and your grace in all the saints,  
may we have confidence to be Christ's loving, living and learning people.  
Help us to serve you in our parishes and episcopal areas,  
so that churches may grow and communities be transformed into your kingdom.  
In Jesus' name. Amen.



*John Dobson  
Dean of Ripon*

#### **A Prayer for Our Vision and Strategy**

Living and loving God,  
send upon us your Spirit of learning,  
that we may grow ever closer to you  
in knowledge and understanding,  
in commitment and exploration,  
in work and in leisure,  
in city, town and dale.  
May we learn to be confident Christians,  
growing our churches and transforming our communities  
that we may join in your promise of making all things new;  
for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ,  
risen, ascended and glorified,  
now and for ever. Amen.

*Anne Dawtry  
Archdeacon of Halifax*

#### **The LyCiG prayer:**

God of Mission  
who alone brings growth to your Church,  
send your Holy Spirit to give  
vision to our planning,  
wisdom to our actions,  
and power to our witness.  
Help our church to grow in numbers,  
in spiritual commitment to you,  
and in service to our local community,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **A Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Like the disciples at Emmaus,  
we offer what we have.  
They offered their company,  
their table, their bread.  
We invite you to be with us, Jesus,  
as we offer you our love,  
our devotion, these gifts.  
**May our eyes be opened  
to your holy presence among us,  
now and always. Amen.**

*Carol Penner: Mennonite Tradition*

### **A Responsorial Prayer of Commitment**

Leader: We give thanks to you, O Lord, with every breath  
because you nurtured life with human love.

**People: We bring you all of our relationships for your blessing.**

Leader: Because you gifted us with time to be.

**People: We bring our moments and our days as gifts again to you.**

Leader: Because you gave us skills to work and create.

**People: We pledge to you what we make with our hands  
and the money we earn with our skills.**

Leader: Because each one of us has gifts and skills,  
some recognized, some still hidden,

**People: We offer you what we know we can see, and make, and do.**

Leader: Because you freely offered us redeeming love.

**People: We bring the gift of love in gratitude to you.**

Leader: From gift to gift, from grace to grace, our gifts are  
only gifts of yours returned.

**People: So, use these gifts, our lives, and this family of faith  
as rays of your light for the world,  
helping them dispel the darkness and reveal your  
power to work through us and make all things new. Amen.**

*David Inglis*

## B. Reflection

Reflect on one or more of the verses from Scripture associated with each of the five goals, or from the passages in Colossians 1 and Ephesians 4 which take up the themes in Bishop Paul's preface to the Strategy.

The verses are detailed below; you may wish to consider them in wider context:

Ephesians 4:15

Ephesians 4:11-12

Colossians 3:23

2 Timothy 2:2

Luke 2:52

*The following method of reflection is based on the practice of "Lectio Divina".*

A group member reads the passage, followed by one or two minutes of silent reflection.

There is then a time when people can share with the group any words or phrases which strike them. No reply is made to these comments at this stage.

A second group member reads the passage again, followed by another two minutes of silent reflection.

Now discussion may begin with the following questions...

I wonder which words or phrases strike you?

I wonder what, in your view, is the most important part of this passage?

Finish with a time of prayer.



## C. Liturgy

The following liturgy may be used at the start or end of a meeting, or it may be split in two with the first section used at the start and the second, culminating in Holy Communion, at the end.

*With grateful thanks to the Revd Marion Russell, Area Dean of Brighouse and Elland.*

The Lord be with you  
**And also with you.**

*Leader:* We welcome new love and joy in discipleship with Jesus,  
who is The Way, the Truth and The Life.

*Leader:* Joy to travel the Way You walk before us  
Love to explore new meaning in Truth  
Joy to find fresh experiences in Life  
Love to embrace all You have prepared for us.

*Leader:* In our loving  
**All: Equip us**

*Leader:* In our seeking  
**All: Direct us**

*Leader:* In our learning  
**All: Discipline us**

*Leader:* In the dangers of worrying  
**All: Protect us**

*Leader:* In our exploring  
**All: Steady us**

*Leader:* In our proclaiming  
**All: Joyfully stir us**

*Leader:* In our serving  
**All: Grant us trust in your goodness and love**

*Leader:* Whatever we do, however we learn, wherever we contribute to the Life of church  
and community  
**We are set free to love our neighbour,  
We are set free to love our God.**

*(pause)*

***Confession***

**All: Lord, forgive us where we are less than the people  
you have made us able to be.**

***Absolution***

The Lord enrich you with his grace  
And nourish you with his blessing  
The Lord defend you in trouble  
and keep you from all evil  
The Lord accept your prayers  
And absolve you from your offences  
For the sake of Jesus Christ our Saviour.  
**Amen**

### **Jeremiah 29:11-13 (The Message)**

This is God's Word on the subject: "I have it all planned out—plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for.

<sup>12</sup> "When you call on me, when you come and pray to me, I'll listen.

<sup>13-14</sup> "When you come looking for me, you'll find me.

"Yes, when you get serious about finding me and want it more than anything else, I'll make sure you won't be disappointed."

### **John 15:9-12, 16-17 (The Message)**

<sup>9</sup> "I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love. <sup>10</sup> When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father's commandments and remain in his love. <sup>11</sup> I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow! <sup>12</sup> This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you.

<sup>16</sup> You didn't choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name. <sup>17</sup> This is my command: Love each other.

### **The Message (MSG)**

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*Break here if using the liturgy in two halves.*

### ***The Peace***

God has made us one in Christ.

He has set His seal upon us and as a pledge of what is to come, has given us the Spirit to dwell in our hearts. Alleluia.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

**And also with you.**

### ***The Eucharistic Prayer***

The Lord is here

**His Spirit is with us**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Lord of all life,  
you created the universe,  
where all living things reflect your glory.  
You give us this great and beautiful earth,  
to discover and to cherish.

You made us all,  
each wonderfully different,  
to join with the angels  
and sing your praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

We thank you, loving Father,  
because you sent Jesus, your Son.  
He gave his life for us on the cross  
and shows us the way to live.  
Send your Holy Spirit  
that these gifts of bread and wine  
may be for us Christ's body and his blood.

On the night before he died,  
Jesus took bread.  
He gave thanks, broke it,  
and shared it with his disciples.  
'This is my body', he said,  
'given for you.  
Do this to remember me.'

After they had eaten, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and shared wine with his disciples.

'This is my blood,' he said,  
'poured out for you and for all people,  
to save them from their sins.  
Do this to remember me.'

Father, with this bread and this cup,  
we celebrate his love, his death, his risen life.  
We give you glory,  
through Jesus Christ,  
in the strength of the Spirit,  
for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

Let us pray as Jesus taught his disciples.

**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.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power  
and the glory are yours  
now and forever. Amen.**

### *Invitation*

He who was buried but rose from the dead  
is now present in this bread.  
He whose wounded hands  
were offered to the unbelieving,  
now reaches out in this cup.

### *Communion is shared*

Let us pray.  
**In gratitude, in deep gratitude,  
For this moment,  
for this meal, these people  
We give ourselves to you.  
Take us out to live as changed people  
because we have shared the Living Bread  
and cannot remain the same.  
Ask much of us,  
expect much of us,  
enable much by us,**

encourage many through us.  
So Lord, may we live to your glory,  
both as inhabitants of earth  
and citizens of the commonwealth of heaven,  
Amen

### *Conclusion and Blessing*

As we follow the Father,  
**May we, his creation  
discover how to be creative.**

As we follow the Son,  
**May we, his disciples  
begin to understand how we are precious.**

As we follow the Spirit,  
**May we, her new saints  
learn sacrifice and wisdom.**

**As we follow You, Lord,  
Let us, your beloved,  
accept love from others  
and give love in return.**

Christ our Ascended King  
Pour upon you the abundance of His gifts  
And bring you to reign in glory  
And the blessing.....

### ***Acknowledgments***

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*New Patterns for Worship, material from which is included here, is copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2002 and published by Church House Publishing.*

*Opening responsory prayers adapted from the service for 'Those Who Are About to Leave School' from Richard Jones (ed) "Worship for Today" Peterborough: Epworth Press, 1968, p141*

*Invitation to Communion and Prayer after Communion taken from A Wee Worship Book (Wild Goose Worship Group ©1999 Wild Goose Publications)*

*Concluding prayer from Mary Fleeson, Life Journey – A Call to Christ Centred Living (adapted) [Lindisfarne Scriptorium]*

## D. Interactive Prayer

### Prayer Walking

This simply involves walking around a community praying for people and places you see. There can be something powerful and significant about making our prayers physical. It's not about complicated prayers or solving social problems but about ...'speaking blessing... For more information refer to the Prayer Walk Training guide on the Diocesan Learning Platform [here](#).

### Creative Prayer Ideas

A list of creative ideas to use when leading prayers which are suitable for use across a variety of worship contexts can be found on the Diocesan Learning Platform [here](#).

### 24/7 Prayer Rooms

24-7 Prayer is an international, interdenominational movement of prayer, mission and justice that began with a single, student-led prayer vigil in Chichester, England in 1999 and has spread, by word-of-mouth, into 100+ nations. <http://www.24-7prayer.co.uk/pages/prayer/#>

### Prayer Spaces in Schools

Prayer Spaces in Schools enable children and young people, of all faiths and none, to explore life questions, spirituality and faith in a safe, creative and interactive way. <https://www.prayerspacesinschools.com/>