

Prayers for One Another



FORWARD MOVEMENT
CINCINNATI, OHIO

© 2026 Forward Movement

ISBN: 978-0-88028-536-0



Contents

Foreword	vii
Intercessions	1
Weekly Plan for Intercessions.....	3
For the Parish	5
For Home	23
For Our Community	45
For Our Country	59
For the World	69
For the Church Universal	87
For the Sick & Suffering	103
Other Prayers	125
Praise & Thanksgiving.....	127
Daily Devotions	141
Family Prayers	165
Personal Prayers.....	175
Litanies.....	203
Blessings	241
Acknowledgments	251
Notes	257
Index	261

Foreword

Here at Forward Movement, we regularly pause in our work to meet for prayer. We pray, certainly, for our individual and collective needs. But mostly we share intentions of prayer that reach beyond our own circle:

We pray for friends and family, both near and far.

We pray for our enemies.

We pray with the news: for those affected by disasters in the headlines.

We pray for our readers: in parishes, in prisons, deployed overseas, right around the corner.

We pray for anyone who's sent in a prayer request online.

We pray for you.

From our own collective life of prayer, here at Forward Movement, in the Episcopal Church, we offer now this collection of *Prayers for One Another*. Our hope is that this book will help you to pray for others, earnestly bringing their needs before God.

Will our prayer help those for whom we pray? We believe by God's grace that it does.

Certainly, we know that our prayer changes us. Praying for others teaches us how to love them, widening our hearts—prayer by prayer—opening us beyond ourselves. Praying for others teaches us, perhaps, to love a little more as God does: encompassing all the world in a vast embrace of love.

The core of this volume is a collection of intercessory prayers, grouped by theme. Many of these prayers may be familiar to you: drawn from the Book of Common Prayer, from other resources in Forward Movement's nearly hundred-year history, as well as from the vast stores of our Christian tradition. Most

of these intercessions follow the form of the collect, the prayer form that is at the heart of the Anglican and Episcopal corporate prayer tradition. This through-line is no accident. When we pray such familiar words, grouped in familiar patterns, we join with the company of all those in heaven and on earth who share in praying them with us, across time and in God's eternity. We hope that this collection of intercessory collects will help you to join your voice in prayer with all God's people and for all God's people.

Like its predecessors, *Prayers New and Old* and *Prayers for All Occasions*, this book seeks to broaden the scope of our answers to the question "for whom and for what shall we pray?" We seek to be broad but, of course, cannot be exhaustive in these prayers. One slim volume can't hope to contain a prayer for every person, group, or concern that needs our intercession. But we hope that the groups named here might open your heart to those other concerns toward which God is drawing

your attention. We also propose a plan for intercession across the week, intended to help those who wish to plan their private devotions more systematically.

In the second half of the volume, we've included a wide selection of other prayers, diverse in form and theme: prayers of praise and thanksgiving, daily devotions, prayers for families, prayers for individual needs, litanies, and blessings.

Many of these prayers, we hope, will be new to you: borrowed from sister churches or written particularly for this volume by friends around the world. In this volume of prayers for one another, we want to glimpse how one another pray around our church. The voices of those we call "saints" sit here alongside words written by those in the pews today, reminding us that, when we pray, we are knit together with the whole company of God's faithful, in heaven and on earth. Remember that even as we pray for one another, *they* pray for *us*.

The prayers you'll find in this book are, in many ways, an eclectic, personal assortment. This beautiful hodge-podge has made its way here because these prayers have a special place in the praying hearts of the people who, across more than a decade, have brought this collection together. They are some of our beloved prayers. We hope they might become yours, too.

However you use this book, we hope that it will bless your praying life and invite you to bring the diverse needs of yourself, our world, and one another to God.

We pray above all that it brings you nearer to those you love—to those you don't—and deeper into the heart of the God who loves us all.

Intercessions



*God give grace to the living, and to
the departed rest; and forgiveness to
the Church, and to the nations peace
and concord; and to us sinners life in
the glory of His presence. Amen.*

WEEKLY PLAN FOR INTERCESSIONS

These intercessions are collected into sections to help you to pray around the world and across the week, reaching from your nearest orbit to the furthest reaches of the globe.

SUNDAY | For the Parish

Prayers for our local parishes, clergy, lay leaders, and all who minister

MONDAY | For Home

Prayers for our homes, families and relations, and those who are dear to us

TUESDAY | For Our Community

Prayers for our towns and cities, and for all who live and work in them

WEDNESDAY | For Our Country

Prayers for our country, its leaders and government, and all who serve the common good

THURSDAY | For the World

Prayers for all nations and peoples of the world, for those living in conflict and those working toward peace, and for the whole creation

FRIDAY | For the Church Universal

Prayers for the Church worldwide, for all Christians, and for the coming of the Kingdom

SATURDAY | For the Sick & Suffering

Prayers for all who sorrow, in our own lives and around the world

For the Parish



*Prayers for our local parishes,
clergy, lay leaders,
and all who minister*

For the Parish

O God, you have brought us into the fellowship of your dear Son: Lead us all in this church ever closer day by day to you and to one another, that we may become of one heart and mind in love toward you; and grant that our common life and work in sacrificial service may help to extend your kingdom here and in all the world. *Amen.*



Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things in heaven and on earth; Grant to this parish and congregation all things we need. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the indifferent; visit and relieve the sick; bless and protect the children; restore the penitent; and bring us all to be of one heart and mind, to the honor of your Name. *Amen.*



O God, make the door of this house wide enough to receive all who need your fellowship and ours, and narrow enough to shut out all envy, pride, and strife. Make its threshold smooth enough to be no stumbling-block to children nor to straying feet, but rugged and strong enough to turn back the tempter's power. God, make the door of this house the gateway to your eternal kingdom. *Amen.*



Almighty and Everlasting God, hear our prayers and grant to this parish all things necessary for its spiritual well-being: enlighten and guide our leaders, our clergy, wardens, and vestry; strengthen and increase the faithful, visit and relieve the sick, turn and renew the hard-hearted or careless, bring again those who have wandered; remove from us anything that resists your grace or hinders your purposes; make all of us one united voice to sing your praise and to give witness to your goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For Youth in the Parish

Tender God, we entrust to your loving care the children and young people of our parish. Bless their questioning and their exploration. Call forth their gifts, consecrate their joys, and soothe their sorrows. Keep these young people safe, O God, and help them to grow in their knowledge and love of you and of your Church—that wonderful and sometimes confusing mystery. In all things, make them know that they are never alone and that you are with them always; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

— *Cody Maynus, Diocese of Minnesota*

For Those Seeking Baptism

O God, you prepared your disciples for the coming of the Spirit through the teaching of your Son Jesus Christ: Make the hearts and minds of your servants ready to receive the blessing of the Holy Spirit, that they may be filled with the strength of his presence; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For All the Baptized

God of faithfulness, in every age you call women and men to make known your love: May we be so strengthened in the ministries of love and reconciliation to which we are called by virtue of our baptism, that we may always witness to your holy Name. *Amen.*

For Volunteers

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers, which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

For Altar Guilds

Risen Jesus, at the cross your disciples
washed your body
and dressed you in fair linen,
and you revealed yourself to the women
who came to care for your body early in
the morning:

Teach me the same faithfulness and
tenderness
as I care for the vessels and linens
that will carry your risen Body and
healing Blood.

Grant that I may join your beloved disciples
and find you not dead but alive;
not absent but calling to me by name.
Banish my anxiety and fill me with peace
as I lead others into your presence;
for the sake of your love. *Amen.*

– *Noah Stansbury, Diocese of Texas*

For Church Choirs

O God, who inspired David the King both to write songs and to appoint singers for your worship: Give grace to the singers in your Church, that with psalms, and hymns, and spiritual songs, we may sing and make music to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For the Vestry

Lord, we ask you to craft our vestry into a vessel: strong in faith, faithful in purpose, purposeful in mission. Build the vestry members into leaders in your church, here in this parish and beyond. Fill their hearts with your Spirit, that they may never tire of seeking you and helping bring your kingdom to fulfillment. We ask all this in the name of the one who walked upon the water, leading his disciples in miracle after miracle behind him, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For Lay Ministers

O God, you have reconciled the world to yourself through Christ, and entrusted to all the ministry of reconciliation. Bless all your people whom you have called to lay ministry. Strengthen them for your work in this world, according to the gifts they have been given. Grant them courage and joy to bear witness to Christ wherever they may be, that the light of your love may shine brightly throughout the world. *Amen.*

For Disciples

Heavenly Father, may we learn more and more to live each day under your direction and guidance, according to your will, knowing that you will not fail to provide vision, understanding, strength, wisdom, and courage to those who are open to receive them. *Amen.*

For Deacons

Lord Jesus, who came among us as one who serves, grant to your deacon, *N.*, patience and faithfulness that by *his* work, the Church may come to understand better the needs of the world and by *his* proclamation of the Gospel, we may hear your call to serve as you have served us and in words and action, proclaim the Good News. *Amen.*

For a Priest

O Lord Jesus Christ, good shepherd of your people and our great high priest standing before God on our behalf, pour out your blessing on *N.*, that *she* may serve you as a faithful steward of the sacraments of grace, an effective witness to the Gospel and as a conscientious pastor to this parish (*or for...*), that your Church may be strengthened and equipped for its mission; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For the Bishop

Grant to our Bishop, *N.* gracious Lord, wisdom and understanding to know your will for the Church, a heart that knows and cares for our people in their parishes and missions, and such clarity of expression, patience in teaching, and courage in leadership that this diocese may stand secure in its faith and constant in its service to the world for the sake of Christ. *Amen.*

For Visitors

Lord, you stand at the door and knock: prepare us to open it. Lord, you come as child; as stranger; as teacher and friend: prepare us to welcome you. Lord, you come as joy; as disturbance; as surprise: prepare us to receive you as you are. Lord, you are in the face of every guest: help us to reveal your face as well. May there be no outsiders here; no peripheries; no falseness or fear, but only a love which draws all things to its center. *Amen.*

For Those Seeking a Church Home

God who lit the way for your people in exile:
Guide your children who are now seeking
their next church home. Lead them to a place
where they will be welcomed; where their
gifts will be put to use; where they can take
their place as members of the Body of your
Son. Strengthen them for the journey, and
grant them a sense of your nearness even as
they wait, until they find their way home to
your church in this life, and to the fullness of
your presence in the life to come. *Amen.*

For New Members

Heavenly Father, thank you for guiding new
members into our parish family. We are elated
that they have chosen to serve as the hands
and feet of your Son Jesus in this small part
of your kingdom on earth. As we embrace
these new parishioners with loving arms,
we pray for wisdom to ensure that genuine

connections are made, that all feel welcome and able to transition easily into the life of the church. Guided by the Holy Spirit, may they share their time, talent, and treasure with the congregation in a meaningful way, to your honor and glory. May reciprocal growth and maturity flourish among all of us. Forever your humble servants, we ask this prayer in the blessed name of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, *Amen*.

– Karen J. Vaughn, Diocese of Pennsylvania

For Those Calling a New Priest

Almighty God, we pray for the guidance of your Holy Spirit as we seek a new priest for our church. You know our special needs and the task that lies to our hand. Direct us in our search and give us insight to perceive the leader you would choose for us. And we further pray, O Lord, that in this time of waiting we may all devote ourselves afresh to your service, so that nothing be lost of the faithful work of the past. *Amen*.

For New Ministry Together

Beloved Guide,

As we embark on this new adventure:

For a willingness to learn, we ask that you
open our minds;

For grounding in your wisdom, we ask that
you open our hearts;

For a sense of delight, we ask that you open
our curiosity.

We ask to become listeners to one another,
in order to find a common sense of
direction.

We ask to become listeners to you, in order
to find the path forward.

Thank you for all that we are together.

May we be instruments of life-giving love,
grace, and mercy.

Amen.

– Marna Franson, Diocese of Northern Michigan

For Church Growth

Almighty God, you call your church to witness that in Christ we are reconciled to you: Help us so to proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may turn to you. *Amen.*

For Churches Closing

Lord God, in your great goodness you have blessed the ministries of *N.* over the years: Receive our praise and thanksgiving for the blessings, help, and comfort which you bestowed upon your people in this place. We pray that just as you have blessed your community of *N.*, you will bless its members in their ministries going forward, wherever that may be. Comfort them by the knowledge that your presence is not tied to any place or building, but can be found wherever two or three gather in your Name. *Amen.*

For Our Neighbors

Source of love,
we pray for our neighbors:
those we know well
and those we pass without speaking.

Help us be good neighbors:
attentive without intrusion,
generous without expectation,
present without judgment.

Open our eyes to the needs around us
and our hearts to respond with compassion.
May our shared spaces be shaped
by respect and mutual concern.

Let our presence reflect
your love made visible
in ordinary ways.
May we love. Always.
Amen.

– *Melissa Rau, Diocese of Southwest Florida*

For the Diocese

O God, by your grace you have called us in this Diocese to a goodly fellowship of faith. Bless our Bishops(s) *N.* [and *N.*], and other clergy, and all our people. Grant that your Word may be truly preached and truly heard, your Sacraments faithfully administered and faithfully received. By your Spirit, fashion our lives according to the example of your Son, and grant that we may show the power of your love to all among whom we live; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*