



‘Worship at home’ July 27th 2025



Take some time to be still before God
as you begin your time of worship,
giving thanks that God knows your prayers
even before you give shape to them.

Opening Psalm 85:8-9

People of God, open your hearts and minds!

Listen carefully to what God is saying,

for God comes to us today speaking peace,

and offering life to all who love God,

and honour God with their hearts and lives.

Let us worship God.

adapted from <https://re-worship.blogspot.com>

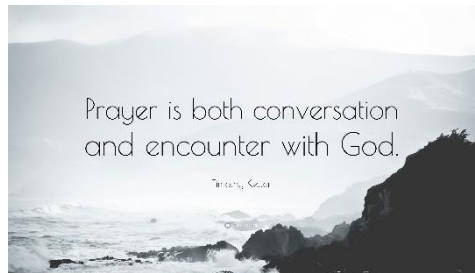
Prayer forms the basis of our relationship with God, bringing us into deeper communion with the mysterious One who holds us in love.

Reflect on when and how you pray.

Do you pray with words or thoughts or feelings?

Do you pray by walking or doodling or singing?

Do you pray sitting still and silent, or while you are busy and active?



Prayer does not always come easily to us. There are times when we don't know what or how to pray. When one of the disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to pray, Jesus gave His followers what we have come to know as the Lord's Prayer, as a model for prayer. It was common for religious leaders of that time to teach formulaic prayers to their followers. But perhaps the disciples noticed something different about Jesus' prayer. Perhaps they had observed the frequency of his prayer, and how important it is

was to him. Perhaps they were struck by the power of the Spirit of God, the strength, wisdom, and grace, in him. Perhaps they saw the coherence between Jesus' prayer life and everything else that he said and did.

Luke 11:1-4 Jesus' Teaching on Prayer

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples." He said to them, "When you pray, say:

" 'Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation.' " NIV

Jesus responded with a short, simple prayer that has become the prayer that identifies and unifies Christians. There are no fancy words, no intellectual theological concepts, simply an honesty that places us at God's disposal, and invites God's action in our lives and in our world. It is a prayer that commits us to action, to justice, and to walking with God.

Prayer does
not change
God, but it
changes
him who
prays.

- Soren Kierkegaard

Lord, teach us to pray

So we might awaken to the wonder of your presence
So we might feel gratitude for your gift of life today
So we might discover your kingdom
as revealed in our sisters and brothers
So we might find safety beneath the shelter of your wings
So we might declare your glory: ***Lord, teach us to pray***

So we might forgive those who have wronged us
So we might lead lives free from pretence and hypocrisy
So we might trust your perfect plans
and not replace them with our own
So we might love you with our whole hearts,
and love our neighbours as ourselves
So we might declare your glory: ***Lord, teach us to pray***

So diverse hearts might harmonise
as many voices become one
So our bodies might praise you
in bowed heads and raised hands



So a spirit of criticism is replaced with an offering of sacrifice
So we consider others more important than ourselves
So we might declare your glory: **Lord, teach us to pray**

So the truth of your Word resonates in what we say and sing
So we might prepare a way
through the wilderness of chaos and pain
So our eyes are alert and our souls awake
to your movement in our midst
So our good work is fruitful in the reign of your kingdom
So we might declare your glory: **Lord, teach us to pray**

So our voices bring a pleasing sound to your ear
So the notes of our instruments rise sweetly to your throne
So our singing is a light in the darkness,
drawing nations to your grace
So our songs vibrate with the voice of the Lamb who was slain
So we might declare your glory: **Lord, teach us to pray**

So the lonely and hopeless find comfort
in your abundant presence
So those in war and famine
find the everlasting peace of your Spirit
So we are not indifferent to the suffering of the world around us
So our songs help to make us look more like you
So we might declare your glory: **Lord, teach us to pray. AMEN**

~ Chuck Fromm and Jeremy Armstrong:
Worship Leader Magazine (Sept-Oct 2015)
<https://preachthestory.com/>

Prayer is not asking. It is a longing of the soul. It is daily admission of one's weakness. It is better in prayer to have a heart without words than words without a heart.

MAHATMA GANDHI

Prayer is not simply an activity, but an attitude. Prayer shapes who we are and how we live our whole life. **What might it look like to live your whole life in an attitude of prayer?** 3

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

**Mystery beyond our knowing,
close to us as our breathing,
in humble awe we pray.**

Your Kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven

**We pray for your vision of justice and mercy
to be made real in our world even now.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**We pray for your vision of enough;
enough sustenance, enough warmth,
enough healing for all of your children.**

Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

**We pray for the grace to let go of
that which is death dealing
as we embrace your vision for life,
that we might follow you safely
through the obstacle course.**

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and for ever.

**Giving thanks for presence that
defies definition in this life and
beyond. Amen.**

~ Katherine Hawker <http://liturgyoutside.net/>

Closing

Find TEN things to give thanks to God for. You might write them on a piece of paper and return to them to give thanks during the day.

Challenge yourself to find TEN different things each day this week.

