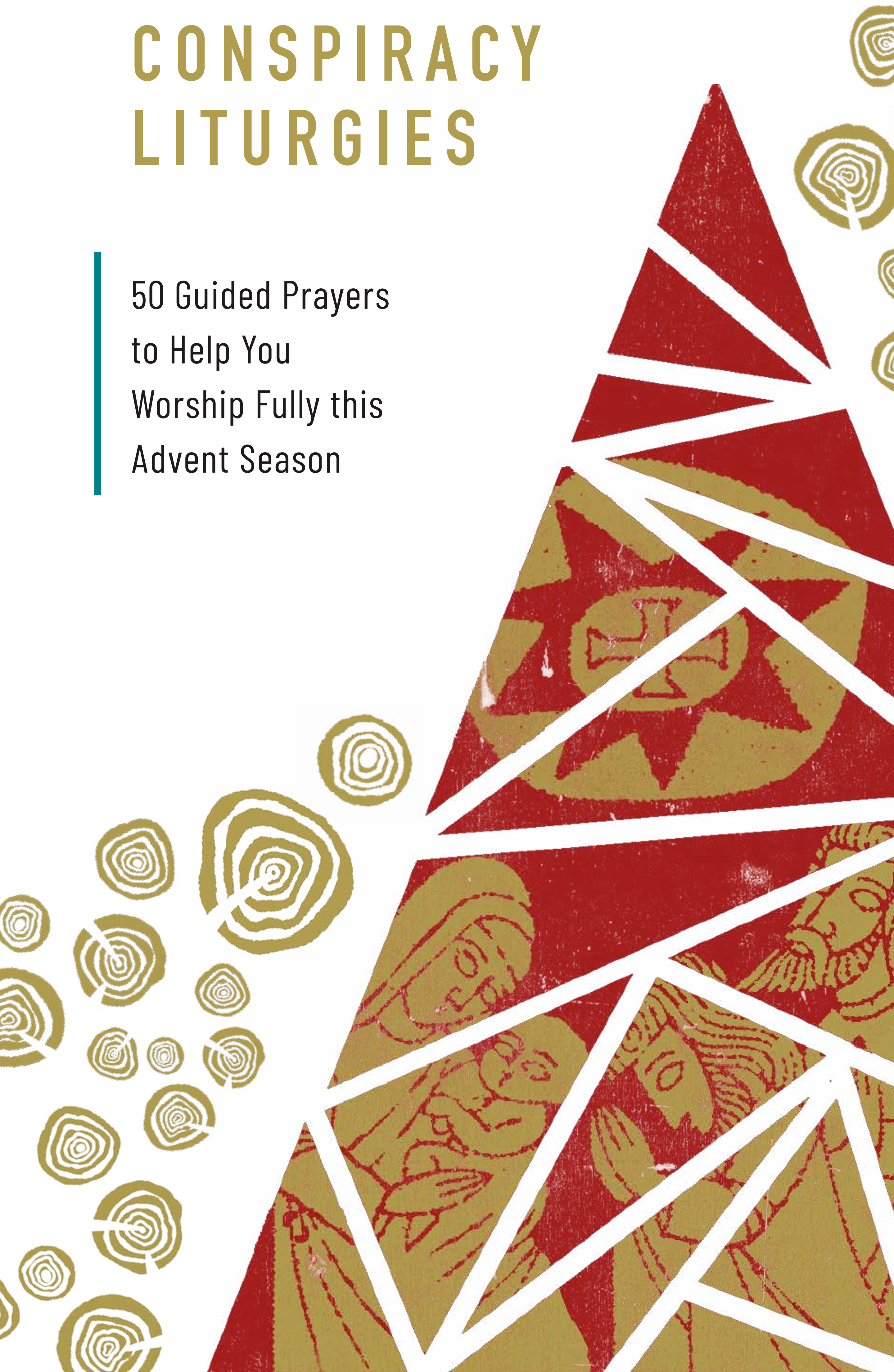


ADVENT CONSPIRACY LITURGIES

50 Guided Prayers
to Help You
Worship Fully this
Advent Season



“Let our worship be an outpouring of our hearts.”

- Advent Conspiracy

With everything else going on, it's easy to get caught up in the hustle and bustle of the holiday season. The time of year when focusing on Christ should be the easiest is sometimes the hardest. Our prayer is that these liturgies help remind you to slow down, notice God, and worship fully this Advent.

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A PRAYER TO WORSHIP FULLY

My King Jesus,

You are the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last, the Author and Finisher of our faith who was, is and *is to come*.

I bow my heart before You now and humbly submit to *Your will, Your way, Your plan*.

In a season filled with distractions of many kinds, may I be different this year.

May You be my first thought each day, and my last thought as I lay my head on the pillow.

And when I can't sleep, may I recall the words of David in Psalm 63:

*On my bed I remember you;
I think of you through the watches of the night.
Because you are my help,
I sing in the shadow of your wings.*

Give me focus to look at everything in my world through the lens of Your truth and love.

A love that left heaven to become a tiny, vulnerable, newborn baby.

What a sacrifice!

May my worship now be lived out in how I notice, love, and care for everyone You've placed in my sphere, and those to whom You send me.

May I hold nothing back, trusting You will provide.

May I miss no opportunity to **worship fully** for Your good gifts already given.

Open my spiritual eyes to see the new gifts You place before me.

Surprise me with Your abundance, precious Lord.

To You be all glory and praise;
my Redeemer, my Savior, my Friend.

Amen.



A PRAYER TO SPEND LESS

God of everything I need-

Thank you for being my provider.

Thank You for all of the ways that You sustain me.

Thank You for the food on my table and on my shelves.

Thank You for the shelter over my head.

Thank You for places to sit and recline.

Thank You for the place I have to rest my head.

Thank You for the friends and family around me.

Help me to rest and be content.

As I move through my world today, help me to be content.

Remind me of all the ways You provide for me and my family.

Help me to keep my eyes focused on You, the God who provides, not on my material possessions.

Keep me from straying to the idol of 'more'.

Forgive me for the times where I have turned to my things instead of You.

You alone are my salvation and my joy.

You alone are my peace.

Forgive me for the times I've made an idol out of the blessings You have given me.

You are enough for me.

Help me to spend less.

As I plan for Christmas, help me to keep a careful eye on the things I buy, for myself and for others.

Help me to scale back on material things and to invest in the relationships around me.

Help me to be thoughtful in my giving.

May the way I spend my resources reflect Your goodness.

Help me to invest in relationships, and not just things.

Help me to be able to smile in January because of the way I spent less.

Thank You for showing me how.

Thank You for modeling what it means to give Yourself sacrificially to those around you.

Thank You for giving Yourself for me.

Thank You for the gift of salvation.



A PRAYER TO GIVE MORE

Father,

You are the creator of all relationships.

You long for us to be in healthy, vibrant, safe, loving, trusting, honest, God-honoring relationships.

As I continue to move through the Advent season, help me focus on giving more of **myself** to those I love instead of just mindlessly buying gifts at the store or online.

Sometimes I take the easy road.

I purchase gifts without giving it much thought or intention.

Help me this year to carve time out each day to prayerfully discern how I can invest creatively in relationships this season.

Help me **give more**.

- Give more of my time.
- Give more of my heart.
- Give more of my presence into the relationships that I need and that need me.

Remind me there is no present that can replace love expressed and time spent with someone I care about.

Help me give more of the **real me** to those who love me.

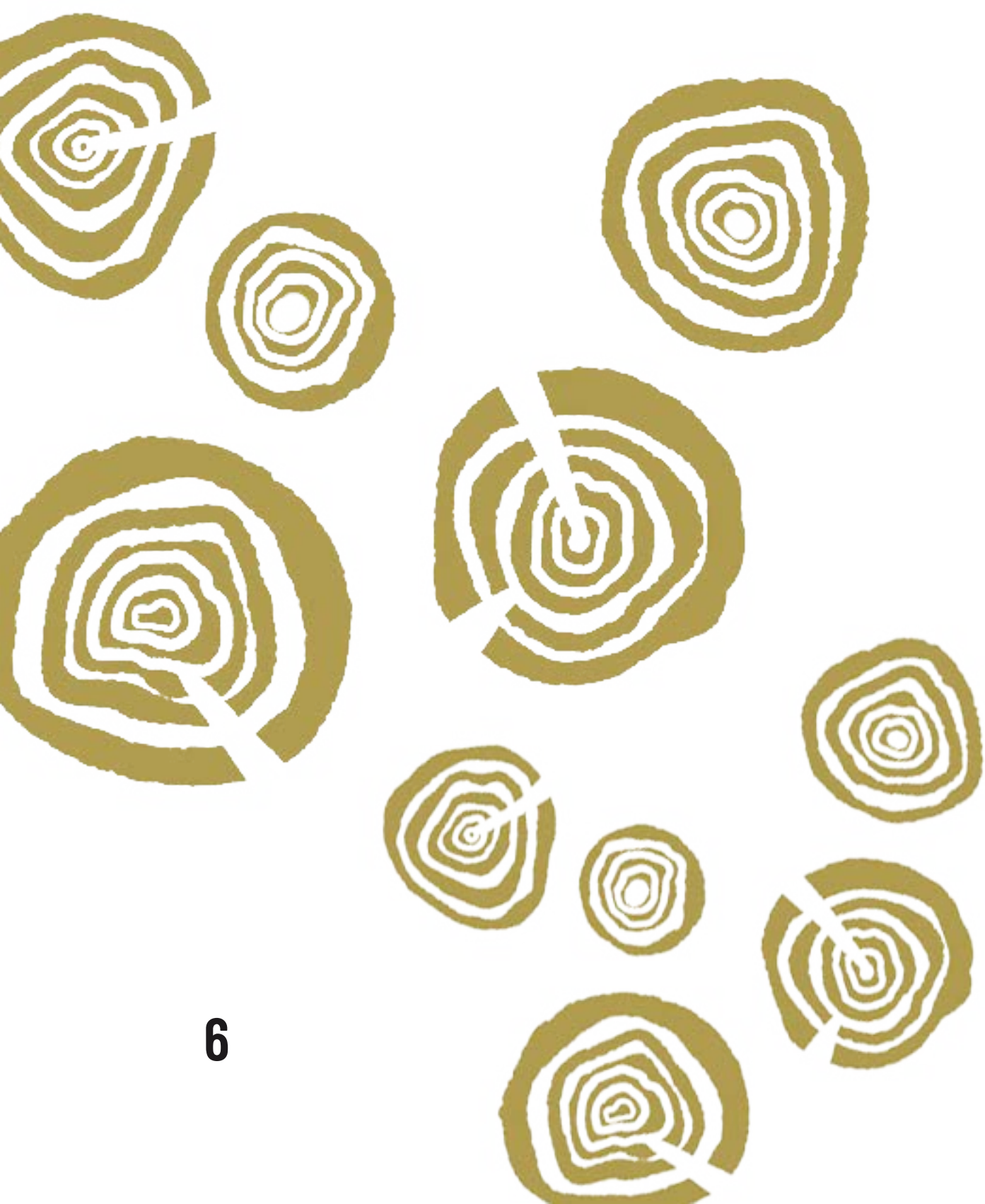
As I read these verses may Your words resonate deep in my soul:

Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. – 1 Peter 4:8

No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. – John 4:12

Help me give more love this Advent season.
Lord, hear my prayer.

Amen.



A PRAYER TO LOVE ALL

Oh, Father,

You are love itself and You have loved me with an everlasting love.

There is nothing that can separate me from Your love when I am in Christ.

You have called me Your **beloved child** and You have given me an example to follow as I walk in the way of Your love. Show me that way, Father.

Teach me, Jesus, to walk in love – to be patient and kind. Keep me from envy, boasting, pride and selfishness. Make me slow to anger and quick to forgive. Remind me to protect, to trust, to hope, and to persevere.

Forgive me when I fail at this, Lord, as I am an insufficient vessel on my own.

Remind me often that the power to love like You comes only from Your Holy Spirit in me.

I need You, **Holy Spirit**, to inspire, encourage and enable me to love in this counter-intuitive, refreshing, sacrificial way.

Bring glory to Your name by helping me to **love all** – without hesitation, without qualifiers or requirements.

Let me love the weak and the strong, the rich and the poor, my friends, my enemies and those who are far from You.

Make me merciful and kind, compassionate and attentive.

Help me to be less consumed with my own agenda and more open to interruption so that I may love with **presence** - as You did for all of humanity and still do for me each day.

Let me see Your Image in every human being with eyes that reflect only Your love.

Let me be the embodiment of the love of Jesus to all those who cross my path so that in me they may see and be pointed to You.

Amen.

Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. The commandments ... are summed up in this one command: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law. - Romans 13:8-10

A PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

Emmanuel,

I don't want to miss all that today holds.
The joy, the anticipation, the significance.
Come in close to my heart,
remind me of the sacrifice You made
by leaving Heaven and coming down to earth.
Like the shepherds many years ago,
I come to seek the **true King** - Jesus.
The One who brings light and hope into this dark world.
The One who comes to serve and love the least of these.
The One who promises never to leave me nor forsake me.
The One who is Emmanuel - God with **me**.

I wait for You expectantly.
My heart is ready to receive all that You bring.

*I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits, and in his word I
put my hope.* - Psalm 130:5

A PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS MORNING

Every person who takes breath throughout the earth is invited to pause and celebrate You, **Jesus**, God's Son incarnate.

You left your throne in heaven and chose to come to earth and take on human form.

You set aside your limitless magnificence and chose to live the life of a servant.

Yet, You were not just any servant – You chose to serve sinful people in need of a **Savior**.

You humbled yourself entirely, obeyed God completely, and allowed Yourself to die for the sins of all people – **for my sins** – so that I could now enter the heavenly home that you left.

Breathtaking!

Thank you, Jesus.

Help me this morning, and all throughout the day, to embrace the amazing love You have for me.

I will **quiet my heart** and mind before You to think about that love.

You demonstrated Your love by being born in a humble stable, living a sinless life and offering Yourself as the perfect sacrifice.

What a gift You have given to me, to my loved ones, to the world!

Jesus, You are my gift this Christmas morning.
Help me to focus on Your gift of love more than anything
else I might receive today.
Help me to remind my family, my friends, and all with whom
I will be celebrating that this day, Christmas day, is a gift of
love like no other.
My heart celebrates the gift of You this morning.

*For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is
eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. - Romans 6:23*



A PRAYER FOR GRATITUDE

Father,

For all that You have done for me,
my heart is full of gratitude and praise today.
I thank You for the beauty of the world that You have made,
for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love:
Your great love by sending Your son, Jesus.
I thank you for the blessing of friends and family,
for the love and care that surrounds me.

I thank You for the opportunity to bring my best forward,
the resources I have, the gifts and talents You've given me,
I get to share these with others and glorify You.

In times of need, allow me to acknowledge my dependence
on You and experience the care of my own community.
Whether it's loss of employment, important relationships
and loved ones, loss of momentum, mobility, or security,
I know that even in these times, You are my great provider.

I am grateful for Your goodness and kindness.
In Your faithfulness, You draw close to me.
I know You hear me when I cry out or when my prayers
are whispered.

You have never left me alone on this journey,
nor in this world that You made and love.
Instead You have given me your Spirit,
and gifts through which I can bring light and hope to those
around me.

I thank You for Your peace,
and ask that You give me grace to let it rule my heart.
Above all, I am grateful for Your Son Jesus Christ;
for the truth of His Word and the example of His life;
for His death on the cross and His rising to life again.
I thank You that I have a new life through Him.

For all of this, my heart is full,
Amen



A PRAYER FOR ENJOYING YOUR MORNING COFFEE

God,

You are the giver of all good gifts, and, thankfully, that includes coffee.

Oh, how I love coffee. Coffee is familiar.

Coffee means a new day, filled with exciting possibilities.

And as I begin my day, coffee provides a quiet opportunity to slow down, reflect, and *focus on You*.

So, thank You.

As I drink this cup (and maybe a few more if I'm honest), my prayer is that I ultimately taste not only this coffee but Your goodness and faithfulness, too.

Like the Psalmist says, *may I taste and see that You are good*.

And may drinking this tangible reminder of Your faithfulness help me look to You throughout the rest of my day.

Please show me what it means to live a life that glorifies You.

With these first couple of sips, *I give my day to You*.

May it be an act of worship, holy and pleasing in Your sight.

Amen.

Drink deeply of the pleasures of this God. Experience for yourself the joyous mercies he gives to all who turn to hide themselves in him. - Psalm 34:8



A PRAYER FOR HUSBAND AND WIFE

A prayer to be read aloud with your spouse.

Husband: Loving God, I thank you for (your wife's name) and for creating such beauty and strength in her.

Wife: Almighty Father, I thank you for (your husband's name) and for creating such wisdom and compassion in him.

Husband: I confess that at times I've been selfish.

Wife: I confess that at times I've been selfish.

Together: Forgive my selfishness and help me keep my marriage the most important priority behind my relationship with You, God.

Wife: May I be a voice of encouragement and a safe place for him to turn to.

Husband: May I uphold her and support her even if it means sacrificing something on my agenda.

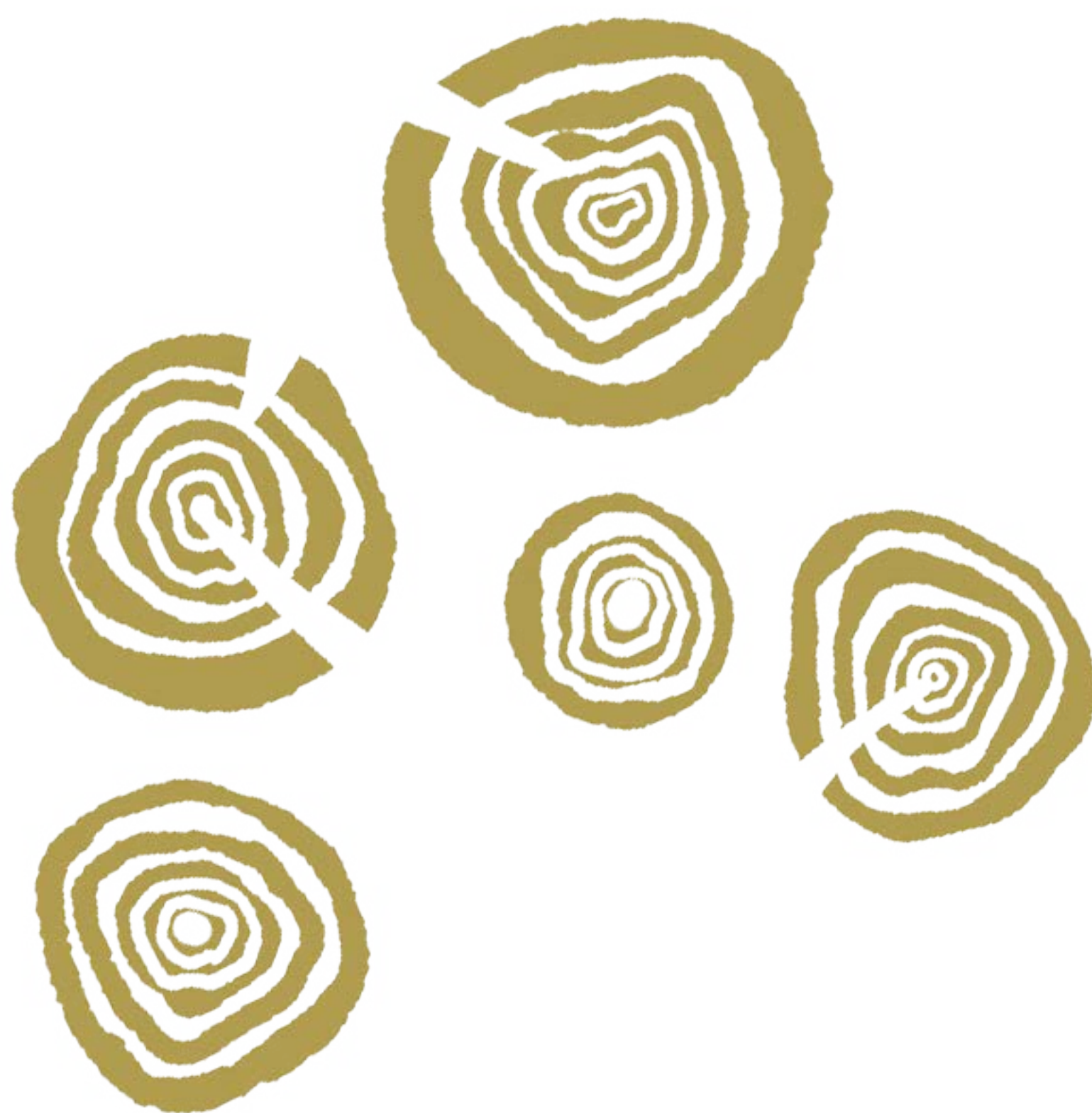
Together: May our marriage be a glimpse of something right, something whole, something united in this world.

May our marriage be a glimpse of Heaven and point people towards You.

Husband: God we need Your help. Restore and repair the parts of our souls that are broken.

Wife: God we need You. Breathe new life into our marriage and make it stronger than ever before.

Together: We invite You, God into the very middle of our marriage. Unite us. May we be One with You. Amen.



A PRAYER OF EXPECTATION

Heavenly Father,

I pause today and position my heart in such a way that joins with the angels in declaring the **good news** that will cause **great joy** found in Jesus.

Just as in the days of the birth of our Savior, sometimes I fail to truly grasp the magnitude of You coming as a baby. Thank You for this sacrificial act of love.

Today my desire is to allow Your Holy Spirit to come and ignite a **holy expectation**.

A renewed sense of Your goodness.

A reminder of Your deep and abiding love for each one of us.

You came to be with us, and may my heart be filled full of expectation for what that could mean for my world, my city, and my own heart.

Redeem. Restore. Replenish us, O God.

May Your kingdom bring kindness, joy, and peace.

But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.'

– Luke 2:10

A PRAYER FOR PREPARING A HOLIDAY MEAL

Good and gracious Heavenly Father,

Holiday meals give us the opportunity to gather with those we love.

And, as we nourish our bodies with the food we prepare, let us also *nourish our souls* as we prepare it.

Holy Spirit, *we invite* You into this preparation time, sanctify each element from the table's setting to each food course.

May each person feel Your welcoming spirit of hospitality. My loved ones have a place at this table because You have made a place for us at Yours.

Father, I invite You into this meal, from choosing the food to the day of cooking, to sitting down to enjoy.

With each step, may I be *mindful* of Your goodness, Your generosity, Your provision.

I enter my kitchen – God, anoint my hands as they chop, mince, and stir.

Pour out Your love for me as I pour out my love to family and friends through this food.

Father, I receive Your love.

May this meal be an expression of my love for You
and for others.

Salt here, pinch of pepper there, as I season each dish with
love, help me to intentionally season my words as well.

Holy Spirit, flavor our conversations today with
much grace.

*Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with
salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.*

- Colossians 4:6

May this be so.

And as these aromas fill this kitchen Father,
fill this house with **Your presence**.

We are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ...

- 2 Corinthians 2:15

Each plate and napkin in its place
await each person in their seat.

Here we come, the healthy, the sick,
the rough and the righteous,
the functional and otherwise.

All are welcomed at Your table.

Make our table Yours.

Bless this food, this sacred time,
these people who bear Your image.

In Jesus' Name,
Amen.



A PRAYER FOR EXPERIENCING GOD'S CREATION

Oh, God of Creation, I praise Your Name.
When I consider the work of Your hands,
the world around me, *I am in awe of You*.
From the smallest of cellular structures
to the vastness of the night sky,
there is no corner of creation untouched by You,
no depth unknown to You.

You, oh Lord, are the Master Designer, and in Your
sovereign plan, You have gifted this world with countless
reminders of You.

There is nowhere I can venture that You are not there with
me, no place where I am hidden from You.

Teach my soul to worship You in the *unceasing rhythms* of
the rest of creation.

With the ballad of the songbird, let me also sing
Your praises.

In the breeze that gently cools my skin, let me recognize
the tender token of affection from my Abba.

In the golden glow of dawn, teach me to bask in
Your goodness.

Remind me to pause at the silent song of falling snow on frozen earth – contemplating this melody of praise beyond human expression.

In the burgeoning of spring and the lingering sun of summer, in the plenty of an autumn harvest and in the earth's sabbath winter rest, ***Creation declares Your brilliance.***

In every season, Your glory shines brighter than the sun, Lord.

All the earth reveals Your faithful and steadfast love toward me, only a creature, formed from dust by You, but somehow chosen to receive Your breath,
Your Image and Your salvation.
Praise You, oh God, my Father!

Let my voice be joined with the rest of creation
in the worship of the gracious and merciful,
generous and loving, all-mighty God of the Universe.

Praise the Lord God, the God of Israel, who alone does such wonderful things. Praise his glorious name forever! Let the whole earth be filled with his glory. Amen and amen!

- Psalm 72:18-19

A PRAYER FOR REST

Oh Lord, I am tired and weary.
My bones, my heart, my spirit aches.
I am so tired and yet I cannot rest.
My mind races with worries and troubles.
I can't seem to get any relief.

I need You.

Come now and take these burdens off of my shoulders.
Relieve me from fear, anxiety, despair.
Fill me with Your peace,
a peace that settles into the cracks of my heart.
I take a deep breath and remember that You are the God
that created me, that put air into my lungs.
You are good and You are still in control.
Guide me, comfort me, protect me.
Help me now to rest in Your presence.
Amen.



A PRAYER FOR WRAPPING A PRESENT

Oh Heavenly Father.

Gracious God.

Giver of all good gifts.

Thank You for the countless gifts You have lavished on ***me***.

Your love is like no other.

As I wrap this present in paper or bag,

I also wrap it in prayer for the one who will receive it.

Bless the receiver of this gift I prepare.

As You have blessed me through this person,

may they know how deeply loved they are by me and You.

As this gift is freely given, may it also be freely received.

May they enjoy it with no thought of guilt or need for reciprocity.

May my giving communicate love and gratitude,

as I am humbled to be able to practice this generosity.

Oh great God of grace and mercy,

the One who gives us gifts that are undeserved

while not letting us suffer what we ***do*** deserve.

Let the receiver not only like the gift I have chosen,

but may they also be pointed back to the love of our Savior,

the greatest gift we've ever received:

Jesus Christ, son of God and son of man.

Amen.

A PRAYER FOR STUDENTS

Jesus, my great teacher,

Help me to find **joy** in learning.

Thank You for the opportunities I have to expand my thinking, to grow.

Thank You for creating a world that I get to explore.

Thank You for those who have gone before me and for the lessons they teach.

I pray that I would have an extra dose of endurance, to stay organized and encouraged.

Remove distractions and noise.

Increase my capacity and resolve.

In the moments where I feel discouraged, give me **hope**.

In the moments where I feel tired and worn down, give me **rest**.

In the moments where I feel frustrated, give me **grace**.

In the moments where I feel overwhelmed, give me **peace**.

Show me how I fit into the big story You're writing.

Give me a greater understanding of who You are, and the plans You have.

Help me to see Your will at work today.

As I think of my future, help me to dream big dreams for Your Kingdom.

Guide and direct my steps, **lead me** on Your path.

You are the creator of all things.
As I study the world around me,
may I find You closer than I could ever imagine.

Amen.



A PRAYER FOR PEACEMAKING

Our Lord Jesus,

As you have forgiven me, help me to forgive another.

As you have brought peace to our world through Your blood, may I seek that peace and reconciliation in all that I do, *even when it costs me*.

Give me a humility that chooses not to fight or to defend, but to relate.

Give me a heart ready to engage and encounter instead of hiding or resisting.

Give me the courage to love, to reach out, and the resilience to never give up.

Give me peace, *Your peace*, which the world cannot give.

May it lead us to be One, as You and the Father are One.

And may I bring You glory as I seek this peace always.

Amen.

*Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.*

- Matthew 5:9

A PRAYER FOR PARENTS OF LITTLE ONES

God, how wise You were to allow us to parent little ones.

As *infants*, they are completely and totally dependent on us.

What a careful reminder they are for us to depend on *You*.
You clothe the flowers in the field and feed the birds of the air.

May we trust that You will provide and care for us unfathomably more.

As *toddlers*, they are exploring everything around them.
What a wonderful reminder to pay attention to the gifts with which You have surrounded us.

For every good and perfect gift comes from You and You are *unchanging* in Your love for us.

As *children*, they are delighted with imagination and adventure.

What a precious reminder that You are so much bigger than we can know.

For we are Your masterpiece created to join alongside You in the amazing things You've planned.

Heavenly Father, when You gave me this little one,
You gave me a glimmer of how
I am loved by you.

This little one, though exhausting at times,
Will forever be mine.

May I lavish my love on them
as You have lavished Your love on me.

May I show them grace
as you continue to offer it to me.

May I teach them in the way that they should go
as I look to You to guide my way.

May I continue to grow in understanding of You as I
parent this child.

Father, I don't know which path this journey will take us.
I can't control every decision my child will make
but may I have peace, knowing that
You hold this child in Your hands and
love them beyond my depth of understanding.

Amen.

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

- Ephesians 3:14-19



A PRAYER FOR A GOOD CONVERSATION

Lord,

Thank you for the gift and encouragement of a friend.

I needed those sweet, healing, powerful words
to wash over my heart today.

No matter what else today holds,

I pray that those words of **truth** stay at the forefront
of my mind.

I am imperfect and I admit I don't always get it right,
but I am asking for Your help today, Jesus.

I pray that today **my words** would be a breath of fresh air
to the people I come in contact with.

Help me to speak honest, wise, hopeful words over others.

As I have been blessed, may I now go and **bless others**.

Amen.

*Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and
healing to the bones.*

Proverbs 16:24

A PRAYER FOR THE LONELY

Living God,
You chose to become one of us.
Flesh and blood, Jesus You came near to us.
Meet me, Emmanuel, in the loneliness deep within my soul.
I ache to be fully seen, fully known, fully understood.

Share my pain and heal my wounds,
with a warm and tender hand.
I cannot overcome my worries, fears, and anxieties
on my own.
I need you, ***Emmanuel.***

You have walked on water and met me in the storm.
You were with me in my despair and confusion.
You stayed with me in my grief and bereavement.
You breathed hope and resurrected peace in me.

I am not meant to walk alone.
I was made for companionship and connection.
Yet shame still taunts me, and I hide behind distractions,
leaving me empty and disconnected.
Emmanuel, You alone can conquer the doubts
overshadowing me.
Interrupt the spiral of self-defeat.
Help me take inventory of the inputs that steal my joy
and choose instead to ***dwell on your Living Word.***

Emmanuel, You alone can bring hope to my discouraged heart.

In my relationships, give me the courage to desire connection over validation from others. Choosing intentionality over complacency.

Light of the world, You regarded our helplessness and came to live among us.

Comfort us now in our loneliness as we draw near to You, the God of our salvation.

O come, O come, Emmanuel!

*Listen! A virgin will be pregnant,
she will give birth to a Son,
and he will be known as "Emmanuel,"
which means in Hebrew,
"God became one of us."*

- Matthew 1:23

A PRAYER FOR HOPE

Help me Oh Lord to put my hope in Your word
not the empty promises of the world.

Only You can quiet a storm with Your voice.

Only You can conquer the grave and death itself.

Only You can heal wounds and broken relationships.

Only You can push back darkness with Your light.

Only You, God.

In a world that feels hopeless and beyond repair
You are my hope.

I can trust in Your promises and steadfastness.

Amen.



A PRAYER FOR A NEWLY MARRIED COUPLE

The planning, hard work, excitement and anticipation of a wedding day has passed.

The memories are still fresh and the excitement of that day still lingers.

But now, it's time to build a marriage.

Gracious God, help us to do the hard work of marriage each and every day.

We thank You for weaving our lives together with Yours, like a beautiful tapestry making us *One* together.

In the days and years to come, we don't know what we will face, but we are confident that we will not face it alone.

We will face it *together*, and because we chose each other and You on our wedding day, You, Lord, will face it with us, too.

Help us now to follow You more closely.

To love our spouse more fully.

To forgive our spouse continually.

To love our spouse without condition.

To consider our spouse above ourselves.

Draw near to us.

Protect our unity and this blessed marriage.
May we, as a couple, live in such a way that
brings You glory and brings light into our world.
It's in Jesus' precious name we pray.
Amen.



A PRAYER FOR YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Heavenly Father,
Thank You for placing me here.
I know You've planted me in this neighborhood for a reason.
Thank You for the people that live here,
people I know You love and care about.
Men, women, and children created in Your image.

I pray blessings over the families in my neighborhood.
I pray for marriages to be strengthened.
For patience between parents and their children.
Please help them to understand each other's perspectives,
to be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to anger.

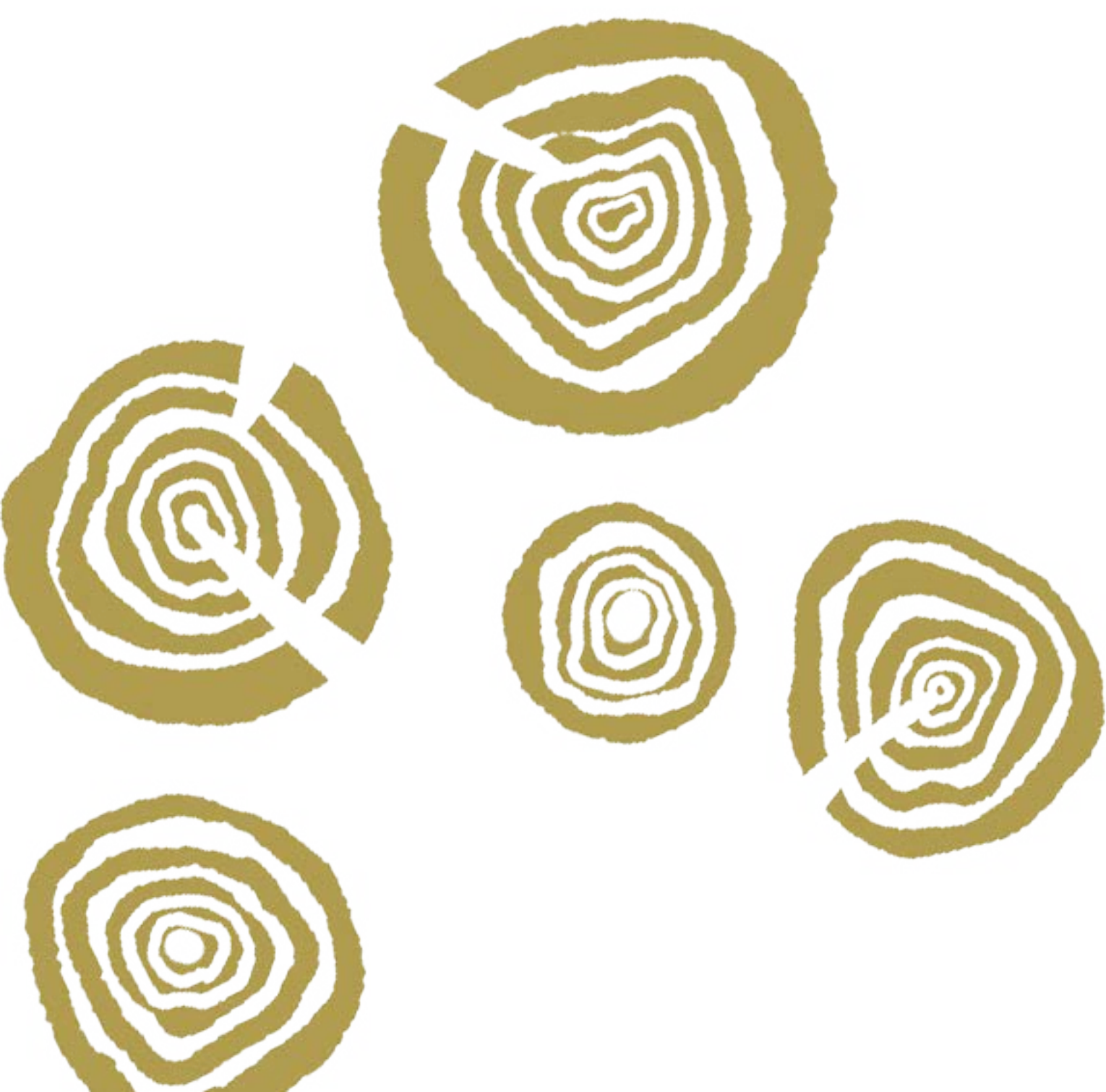
I also pray for the relationships between neighbors.
May we all learn and appreciate each other's differences
and find common ground with each other.
Help us, Jesus, to listen to each other really well.
I pray there would be a ***spirit of hospitality***
where people invite one another into their homes.

Lord, I pray that I would be that kind of neighbor too.
As a follower of Jesus, help me to take the ***first step***.

Help me to love my neighbors well and to be the one who points them to how great and awesome You are.

Lord, most of all I pray that my neighbors would come to know You in a personal way. That they would come to understand and know and be **undone** by your grace and mercy. Amen!

Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. - Romans 15:7



A PRAYER FOR YOUR LOCAL CHURCH

Jesus,

Thank You for your work within the Church.

Thank You that despite our human failures
and shortcomings,

You still use your Church to bring about Your purposes in
the world.

And You do this through local congregations and churches.

So, my faithful King, *draw near* to the leaders and pastors
of my local body.

Right now, help them sense Your presence and peace.

Grant them the strength, energy, and courage necessary
to lead Your people well.

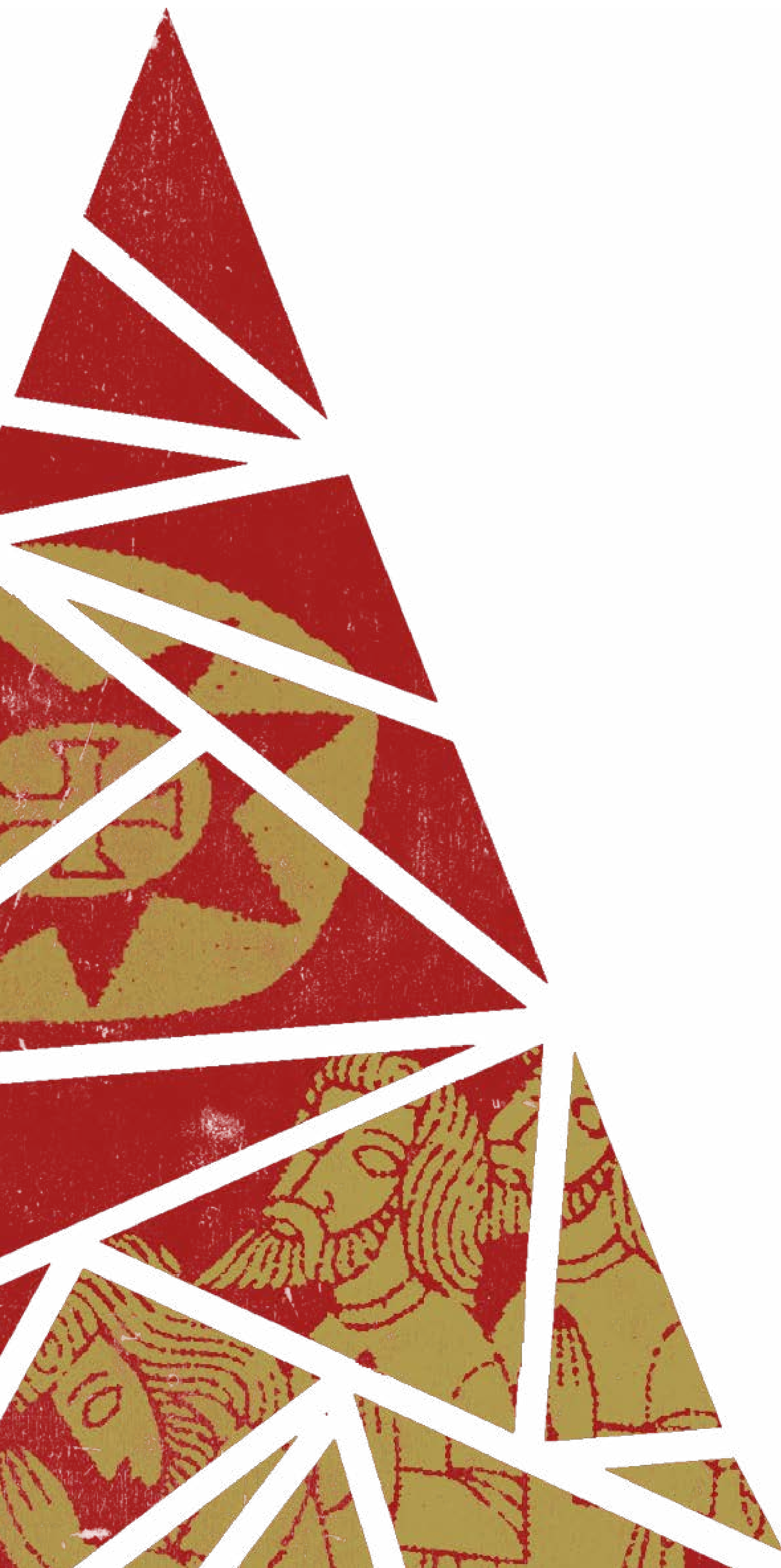
Send Your Holy Spirit to guide them and give them
supernatural wisdom and insight.

Keep the Evil One away because he hates the great work
You're doing through these men and women.

And *show me* what it looks like to participate in that
work, too.

As Your church, let us live as Your *ambassadors*,
carrying out the ministry of reconciliation that You have
entrusted to us.

Help us become One unified body,
modeling the love on display within the Trinity.
By the power of Your Holy Spirit, allow us to shine like a
city on a hill,
reflecting *Your light* in this dark world.
You are this world's last hope.
Amen.



A PRAYER WHEN YOU'RE DECORATING FOR CHRISTMAS

O God, my heart swells with anticipation of the season to come.

Christmas is a season of *hope*.

Our hope rests in Your faithfulness, God.

You will continue Your work in and through us.

Christmas is a season of *celebration*.

We celebrate that You kept Your promise to the generations

And sent Your son to make a way for us.

Christmas is a season of *joy*.

Our joy cannot be contained, because You are Emmanuel,

God with us.

With all there is to look forward to,

today, may we *slow down*.

May we thoughtfully prepare our home

and our hearts to reflect this season.

As we work to create warmth and beauty in this place

We praise You for the magnificent creation

You've given us in nature.

May the evergreen trimmings remind us of
Your unceasing faithfulness.

We thank You that You are unchanging,
yesterday, today, and forever.

May the red accents remind us
the way You made, cost a great sacrifice.

We worship You, God for sending Jesus,
fully God and fully man
To pay the price for our sins
on the cross.

May the twinkling lights that shine remind us that
You are the light of the world.

You were born under the light of a bright star
and still today You continue to push back darkness
around us.

We thank You, Emmanuel,
for guiding us through this season and
blessing us with these gifts.

May we lavishly bless others as our hearts and home
are prepared for this joyous season.
Amen.

A PRAYER FOR AN ANXIOUS HEART

Heavenly Father,

May *Your presence* light up the dark places in my life.

Because in that darkness, there is fear.

It is a fear that grips my heart and consumes my attention.

The darkness is full of unknowns and what-ifs.

It is full of worst-case scenarios and defensive positions.

It is full of mistrust and unforgiveness.

The challenges I face and the ones I worry about facing
make my heart afraid and rob my life of peace.

But in Isaiah 43, You tell me not to fear.

You remind me that You are the One who created me.

You are the One who formed me.

And not only do You have the power to breathe life into me,
but You have purchased my freedom at a costly price.

You have called me out by name

and have declared that I belong to You.

That I belong *with You*.

You remind me that whatever I face, You will be by my side.

In this life, when I find myself in deep waters,

You will be with me.

When I go through rivers of difficulty,

I will not drown.

When I walk through fires of oppression,
I will not be burned up and the flames will not consume me.
Why?

Because You are the Lord my God.

You are the ***Holy One***.

The utterly transcendent One whose righteousness and
justice never fail.

And You are my refuge. My protection.

My Savior.

Lord Jesus,

draw near to me and drive out the darkness
that I am still holding onto.

Let Your light bring peace to this anxious heart.

Amen.



A PRAYER FOR WASHING THE DISHES

There is so much to be done.

Would You meet me here in the middle of everything?

I believe You can speak to me even while I go about my long list of tasks.

I confess sometimes I hurry too much and ignore the help You'd like to give me.

You have my attention.

I admit that in this season of busy, I forget to listen for Your voice.

I'm listening now.

What obstacles are between me and You?

Open my eyes.

I don't want to be like the Pharisees,
who only clean the outside of the dish, when the inside
is filthy.

I need to start with the inside, with my ***own*** heart.

Is there anything in me You'd like to wash out?

What areas of my life are soiled by sin?

I'll be quiet for a moment and listen for Your kind voice,
the ***Voice of truth.***

Create in me a clean heart, oh God.

Give me a calm and quiet spirit that is
ready to hear from You every moment.

Give me courage to hear Your truth
and trust in Your forgiveness, grace and lovingkindness.
For You are good, Father. *So good.*

I'm washing these dishes because
You've provided me with food, clean water, and shelter.
I'm washing these dishes because
my body is healthy and able to do so.

Your gifts to me are amazing!

I pray now for those who don't have all these gifts.
Lord, please bless and provide for them.
Show me how I can bless and give to them
out of the abundance You've given me.

Thank You for giving Your Son to make a way.
I am undone by You, God.
That I am able to have an intimate conversation
with the God of the Universe while I wash dishes,
I am in awe of Who You are, and how much You love me!
Amen.

A PRAYER FOR PARENTS OF TEENAGERS

Father,

You are the greatest gift giver.

It is an **extraordinary gift** and responsibility to be a parent.

I am overwhelmed by the gift of Your son, Jesus.

I am comforted by the promise that You are with us always.

Thank you for the joy that my teenager brings into my life.

Hearing them laugh and seeing their smile,

watching them use the gifts and passions You've instilled,

witnessing kindness, patience, and wise decisions,

and learning what is on their heart are all incredible gifts.

Help me to lead and love my child well.

Navigating this world can be confusing and growing in

independence, confidence, and wisdom is monumental

at this time for them.

Help them look to You for a sense of identity and belonging.

Place friends and mentors in the life of my teen,

who will encourage, have fun with, and bring wisdom into

their life.

When my child feels lost, isolated, anxious, or fearful,

God, show up in a way that they feel **Your presence**

in a personal way that they cannot deny.

This Advent may my family cling to Your goodness and promises.

May we have great joy in togetherness, sharing old and new traditions, making memories that we will carry with us for years to come.

May we focus on Jesus, and the gift He is.

And, may we find ways to shine our light in the darkness, so that others will see You through us.

I am grateful for Jesus, my Teacher, Friend, Miracle Worker, Savior, and Lord, and it's in His name I pray, Amen.

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. - James 1:17



A PRAYER FOR THE LEAST OF THESE

Creator God,

Give me a heart that is compassionate for others,
especially those people that the world ignores.

Though they may look different from me or
have different struggles,

they are a *child of God*, just like I am.

Soften my heart, remove my cynicism.

Help me to hear the stories of my
brothers and sisters and to treat them
with dignity, compassion, and grace.

I confess that sometimes I look past others
instead of taking the time to enter into their
pain and situation.

Forgive me, God.

In a tangible way, help me to reflect the love of
Jesus to people who are marginalized and forgotten.

Give me grace, gentleness, wisdom, and mercy.

Amen.

A PRAYER WHEN YOU'RE WARM BY THE FIRE

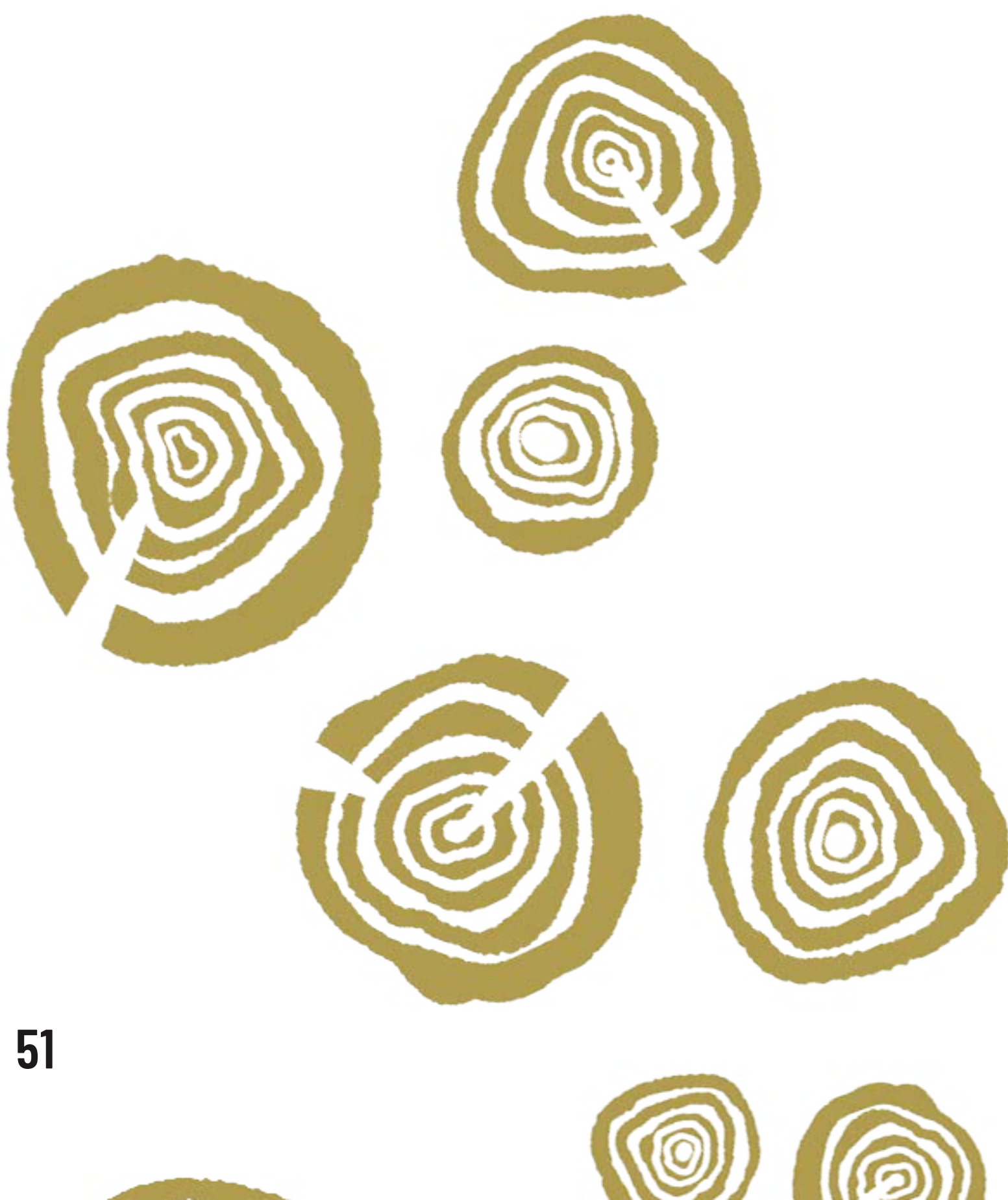
God, thank You for the warmth of this fire.
The crackle and pop of the logs as they burn,
the dancing flames of yellow and orange,
the warm glow that radiates from it fills this room
and my heart with contentment, gratitude and peace.

God, thank You for the warmth of this fire.
Let this blaze before me spark a prayer *within me*.
Help me to have a heart that is ablaze for You.
Help me to be willing to open my heart to Your guidance
and direction according to the truth of Your word.
Help me to fully surrender my heart to You,
allowing You to fan the flames of
obedience, sacrifice and humility.
Stir up the embers of mercy, love and forgiveness
within me so that I can embrace my family, friends
and neighbors with sincere love and grace.
May I be a reflection of Your warmth and light,
just like this fire is warmth and light to me.

God, thank You for the warmth of this fire.
As I sit here safe, cozy and warm,
this fire reminds me that there are those
who are battling the elements today.

I pray for those who have no warm shelter.
God have mercy on them!
Provide them with a place to rest and be safe.
Surround them with warm hearts of those who are willing
to serve them.
Give them a refuge and provide shelter for them in the
days to come.
May I never forget *how blessed I am* to have a warm place
to live and rest!

God, thank You for the warmth of this fire.
Amen.



A PRAYER FOR BEDTIME

Jesus,

Thank You for today.

Whether challenging or easy,
joyous or sad, seemingly mundane,
and everything in between,
it was a gift.

A new day to work and laugh and cry
and struggle and grow and breathe.
A new day to learn how to follow You
better than I did yesterday.

Thank You for walking with me
through every moment.

Through the highs and the lows,
the peaks and the valleys,
the triumphs and disappointments,
You were there.

And as I end today and turn toward sleep,
I ask this all in Your name,
my good and faithful King.

Forgive today's shortcomings.

Calm any leftover anxiety.

Help me to sense Your presence.

May Your peace that passes all understanding
guard my mind, thoughts, and dreams tonight.
Draw near as I close my eyes and drift off to sleep.
Grant me the needed rest to enter
tomorrow expectant and excited,
remembering that You will meet me in the morning.
No matter what awaits, You'll be here.
So now, I lay my burdens down at Your feet
and choose the rest that You offer.
And by the power of your Holy Spirit,
may I follow You tomorrow more faithfully
than I did today.

Amen.

A PRAYER FOR GATHERING WITH FRIENDS

Our great God. Author of love and creator of friendship.

You are the model of *perfect unity*.

Thank You that we get to be together today.

We are grateful.

I pray Your blessing on each person gathered here.

May Your face shine upon us.

May we sense Your presence through the presence of each other.

May we serve one another, encourage one another, and share in one another's celebration and sorrow.

May we laugh deeply because You've filled us with such joy.

May we love openly because You first loved us.

And may our conversation bring glory to

Your name and light to Your world.

We thank You for the presence of those we love.

We will not take these moments for granted.

Let this time be a *sanctuary* of peace and grace.

We will notice Your kindness,

recognize Your faithfulness,

and rest in Your goodness.

We will praise Your name in our words,

our deeds, and the fun we will share together.

Amen.

A PRAYER FOR THOSE THAT ARE SINGLE

Creator God,
As you spoke our world into existence,
You said it's not good for us to be alone.
You designed us for close and personal relationships.
But we acknowledge that, at times, it feels like
those relationships are few and far between.
Being single brings challenges.

I feel lonely.

Many days, I feel frustrated and isolated.
Yet, I'm also happy and am grateful
for the relationships that I do have.
Most importantly, I'm thankful for my relationship with You.

You are always close.

Loving Father,
help me lean into Your presence.
Please help me find real ***intimacy*** in You.
Allow me to be content with the gifts You
have given instead of pining after the ones I don't have.
Continue to bring people into my life to love,
support, encourage, convict, and champion me.

May I see my singleness as a *gift*,
one of Your many good and perfect gifts,
and may I use it for the sake of Your Kingdom and glory.
I ask this all in the name of Jesus.
Amen.



A PRAYER FOR HEALING

You are the ultimate healer and redeemer.

You take broken pieces and put them back together
for Your glory.

God, I humbly ask that You take the brokenness in my own
life and heal me.

You know the cries of my heart - the pain, the burdens, the
questions I have.

Please intervene.

When I feel hopeless, be my **confidence**.

When I feel weary, be my **strength**.

When I feel anxious, be my **peace**.

When I feel lost, be my **guide**.

God, I can't do this without You. I don't want to do this
without You.

Come in close. Help me to feel Your presence here now in
this moment.

Amen.

*Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of
grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in
time of need.* - Hebrews 4:16

A PRAYER FOR WATCHING THE SUNRISE

As the sun rises,
we declare with a heart of worship,
and in some cases with defiance towards
our circumstances,
that You are the sovereign God of the universe.
You cause the sun to rise each day.
Even when it feels like darkness has overcome us,
the sunrise reminds us of the hope of eternity.
Today ***I declare*** that Your mercies are new and that
You are faithful.
Whatever foibles and follies came from yesterday,
I repent and receive Your grace and forgiveness.
Whatever anxieties and worries I bring into today,
I pray that you would give me what I need to be sustained
for this day.
I relinquish control of tomorrow and trust in
You with today.
I believe that this is the day that the Lord has made,
and ***I will rejoice*** and be glad in it.

A PRAYER FOR WATCHING THE SUNSET

I thank you for this day that You created.

You are the master artisan.

You paint the sky every morning and every evening.

As the colors change from yellow and orange

to blue and purple and black,

help me to soak up this moment.

To be still.

To quiet the thoughts running in my head.

At every time and in every place—

from the moment the sun rises to the moment

the sun sets—

may the name of the Eternal be high in the hearts of

His people.

- Psalm 113:3

Another day comes to a close.

Lord, open my eyes.

Help me to see Your beauty in the world

and in the people around me.

Just as You are the creator of sunsets,

You created us in Your image.

Help me to rest tonight knowing that

I am a child of the Most High God.

You created me and You love me.

A PRAYER FOR THE WEARY

Lord,
Thank you for the invitation to come to You
when we are weary and when we carry heavy burdens.
You are not a Savior who is unfamiliar with
physical, emotional, and spiritual weariness.
You walked this earth as one of **us**,
experiencing this world in all its brokenness and pain.
You **entered the chaos** to bring us Your peace and
Your comfort.
You are humble and gentle in heart.

We come to You during this Advent Season
acknowledging our personal and collective weariness.
We bring to You our heavy burdens of
illness, fear, relational conflict, financial stress,
racial divides, unrest, and all that weighs us down.
Give **me** the grace to lay it all at Your feet and
to take Your yoke upon **my** shoulders, for it is light.

Thank You for the promise of rest.
May I, Your child, experience Your peace and rest.
Teach me to share the love You have shown me
with the hurting world, to those who do not yet know
Your peace.
Send me to the weary, to the hurting, to the lonely
with Your message of hope.

You, my everlasting God, never grow tired or weary.
We look to you to give strength to the weary and
increase the power of the weak.
Amen.



A PRAYER FOR GRANDPARENTS

Our dear Father,

We pause to thank you for the gift of family.

We are grateful for the children You have placed
in our homes.

As grandparents, we are also grateful for the children
You have placed in the homes of our own children.

We ask that Your holy presence fills their homes.

May they have **wisdom** and **grace** during challenging times.

May they have **patience** when the days are long.

May they have a **strength** that comes from You when
they are tired.

May they have **peace** as chaos surrounds.

We ask that You protect our children and grandchildren
from all fear and sickness and danger.

Be their refuge and fortress in times of trouble.

Your Word says that every good thing we have
comes from You.

Please bless our grandchildren with good things.

Fill their hearts with thanksgiving and joy as they recognize
that all good things have come from **You**.

As your disciples did, we ask that You teach these children how to pray.

May their worship and prayers be pleasing to You.

May each of our grandchildren recognize ***Your voice*** and come to know You and acknowledge You as their own personal Savior.

May they bear much fruit for Your glory.

Amen.



A PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

You are a God who gives grace and love to sinners.
Which means *You love me*.

Forgive me for times that I hurt You or others,
intentionally or unintentionally.

Forgive me for my words or actions that
injured someone.

Forgive my thoughts that were dark or evil.

Forgive my attitude that didn't honor You.

Forgive me, wash me clean, and help me start new.

And then help me forgive others that have hurt me,
intentionally or unintentionally.

I'm choosing today, God, to forgive them of their sins just
as You forgive me of mine.

Jesus, I'm choosing to pray and live out these words from
scripture this Advent season:

*Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved,
clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility,
gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive
one another if any of you has a grievance against someone.
Forgive as the Lord forgave you.*

– Colossians 3:12-13

Help me to continue to forgive others.

Every day.

And please give me the courage to confess my sins to You.

Every day.

Because I know in that confession,

I am forgiven and ***You set me free.***

And for that I am grateful.

Amen.



A PRAYER WHEN THE WEATHER CHANGES

Everlasting Father, Creator of the world.
You hold all things in Your hands because

You made all things with Your hands.

I marvel at the beauty of Your creation,
and anticipate the glorious renewal of all things.

In Your wisdom and divine creativity,
You created an ecosystem that constantly
needs change in order to function properly
and for that ***I give You praise.***

With every sunny day, with every rainy day;
with every hot day and with every cold day;
with every spring and fall, summer and winter,

I praise Your creative genius.

I see Your beauty in every budding flower
and every sun-soaked summer day.

I praise Your name with every colorful fall day
and every warm fire on a winter's night.

Only You, God, could plan winter, spring, summer, fall
and I learn more about You through each one.

May I find Your peace in every changing season.

Amen.

For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made.

-Romans 1:20



A PRAYER FOR JOY

I come before You today and thank You, Jesus
that You brought good news of great joy.

Thank You for Your grace.

Thank You that I've been **ransomed** and **rescued**
by the price of Your blood on the cross.

Thank You for unfailing and unconditional love.

You are the God of Hope and Your love never fails.

My joy is found in You, Jesus.

Help protect my heart, don't allow the things of this
world to rob me of the joy of my salvation.

Forgive me for the times I've allowed people and
circumstances to suck the joy and peace out of my life.

Fill me with the joy of Your presence today knowing that
I'm a child of the King and that the Spirit of the Living God
dwells in me.

Help me to trust You in every area of my life today.

Through my words and actions, may they reflect the delight
that comes only from following You.

May those around me experience the joy of knowing You.

I love You, I trust You, I praise You, I adore You.

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you
trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the
power of the Holy Spirit. – Romans 15:13*

A PRAYER FOR SPENDING TIME WITH FAMILY

Jesus,

There is one thing I can apply to every family situation I face,
one thing that will never fail - *love*.

As I spend time with my family,
those I easily love and those who are difficult to love,
help me to be a broker of love.

The one quality that always protects, always trusts,
always hopes, always perseveres, and never fails.

Help me to protect my family members and *preserve unity*
by choosing words wisely and being quick to listen,
slow to speak, and slow to become angry.

Show me how to increase my trust in You by praying
for my family.

Surrendering them to You, Your plans for them, and the
power of Your Spirit.

Show me how to keep my heart in a *continuous
posture of prayer*
as I spend time with them.

Teach me how to focus on the hope that You hold in
Your heart for each of these people in my family.
Help me to see them through Your eyes of hope.

When times are tough, help me to persevere by
demonstrating love
through my actions, my words, and my attitude.
Jesus, I want to continually grow in my relationships
with them
just as You continuously pursue Your relationship with me.

You ask me to love my family as You have loved me.
Your love never fails. I can rest assured that no matter
the situation, demonstrating Christlike love toward my
family will never fail.
I might not see results in the moment, but I can trust that
Your love,
Your presence never fails.
Thank You for this time we have to spend together.
Amen.

*Love always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always
perseveres. Love never fails.*

1 Corinthians 13:7-8

A PRAYER FOR BLESSING

From the rising of the sun every morning,
to the turning of the seasons every year
Your grace and mercies offered each day
humble me.

I praise You for the simple blessings
that surround me.

I glorify You for sustaining me
through times of gladness and sorrow.

I bless Your name for who You are
and how You have created me.

And as Your child, I ask you for Your blessing.

Elohim - Creator of the Universe,

You have fearfully and wonderfully made me
uniquely, as I am.

Bless my mind with clarity and direction
to do Your will.

El Roi - The God Who Sees,

You know my heart.

You gave me the passions that move me.

Bless my heart to love as You have loved me
and see others through Your eyes.

Jehovah Jireh - The Lord will Provide,

Use me as Your hands and feet on this earth.
Bless my hands to offer mercy and grace
as You have shown me over and over again.

Yahweh-Shalom - The Lord of Peace,

You bring peace,
unlike anything in this world.
Bless my lips to speak life,
and never to harm.

El-Deah - God of Knowledge,

How deep is Your wisdom
and trustworthy Your decisions!
Bless my work to honor You.
May I join alongside the ministry
of reconciling this world back to You.

For You, alone, are good, gracious, and sovereign.
Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me,
bless His holy name!



A PRAYER FOR THE HEARTBROKEN

Merciful Father,
You have always heard the cries of Your children,
And our heartbreak has always been Yours, as well.

Today I ask for you to comfort me.
I am hurting, exhausted, grieving.
Draw close to my brokenheartedness,
with the fullness of Your presence and love.
Grant me hope for the path forward even as
You tend to the wounds of my heart.

Bless me with a community of kindness,
friends who are attentive to my needs and longings,
who listen well and remind me of Your faithfulness.
I cannot walk alone in this hour of need.

Shower me with Your compassion and mercy,
Your tenderness and wisdom, Your steadfast love.

And with this love You can bring beauty out of ashes, hope
out of despair.

Father, **only You** can heal the hearts of Your children who
are hurting
with Your love that has overcome the grave.
Amen.

A PRAYER FOR WISDOM

You promised that in this world we would have trouble.
I confess that Your words all too often have proven right.
And despite that hard reality, You have also promised us
victory because ***You have already overcome this world.***
Because of You, Jesus, we can meet the troubles of this
world head-on.
And by your grace, we can do it wisely.

In Your word, You promise to give wisdom to all who ask for
it, so I'm asking for it.

Please give me Your wisdom.

Send Your Spirit to guide me and lead me to all truth.
I desire the necessary courage to approach every situation
and circumstance in a way that honors You, that I might
model the grace, humility, and love that You show me daily.
Let me serve all people the way that You have served me.
Transform and renew my mind that I might wisely walk in
Your will for my life.

In a world where people are slow to listen and quick
to interrupt,
give me the wisdom to model a different way. ***Your way.***
A way this world desperately needs.
Amen.

A PRAYER FOR SERVING OTHERS

Lord, thank You for another day.

Thank You for making a way for me to serve.

Today, Father, help me to approach serving with *humility*.

Give me ears to hear the stories of those I'm serving.

Open my mind so that I can understand the experiences of individuals,

especially when they are different from my own.

Make me a bridge builder.

Show me the *Imago Dei* in each person that I meet.

Remind me that I can never fully know what another person is going through.

Give me the ability to have deep compassion and patience, even when I don't fully understand.

Help me to know when to extend my hand and when to just sit and be next to my brother or sister.

Help me to be quick to listen and slow to speak.

When I do speak, put Your words in my mouth.

Through this service, may a little bit of Your Kingdom be seen and felt here on Earth.

Amen.

A PRAYER FOR PATIENCE

Almighty Father,

We confess that many things in this world grab our attention and shift it away from You.

We have become hurried and impatient people.

We have become so tunnel visioned that we have forgotten to care about the journey.

But still, You are merciful.

Teach me how to be patient again.

Help me learn to look for You ***while*** I'm waiting.

Help me to learn how to grow closer to You even as I longingly wait for You to draw near.

May I learn to trust You in the process.

May I experience firsthand Your perfect timing, ***even when*** it is at odds with my agenda.

As I develop my patience with You,
may that then reflect in developing patience with others,
my family, my neighbors, my co-workers, and even
my enemies.

May my life bear fruit that brings You glory.

Thank You for being ever so patient with me,
Amen.

A PRAYER FOR A QUIET MORNING AT HOME

Heavenly Father,

Draw close to my heart.

In all that I do today, help me to be motivated by Your love and grace.

In the stillness of my morning, I will **fix my gaze** on You and You alone.

No matter what is on my to-do list or what today holds, I will be still in this moment and trust in You.

Be my champion and my advocate.

Give me energy and enthusiasm to face the day.

Help me to trust in **Your sovereign plans**.

I don't need to know the whole path, Lord.

Just give me wisdom to know what the next step is that You are calling me to take.

Amen.

*Let the dawning day bring me revelation
of your tender, unfailing love.*

Give me light for my path and teach me, for I trust in you.

Save me from all my enemies, for I hide myself in you.

I just want to obey all you ask of me.

So teach me, Lord, for you are my God.

*Your gracious Spirit is all I need, so lead me on good paths
that are pleasing to you, my one and only God!*

- Psalm 143:8-10

A PRAYER FOR CONTENTMENT

Jesus,

The world is trying to convince me that I am lacking,
nothing is ever enough.

In this season, I admit that I am easily swept away into
feeling like

I don't have enough,

I don't do enough,

I'm not enough.

But that is so far from **Your truth**.

Your word teaches me that being with You
and putting **my identity** in You is most important.

*Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content
with what you have, because God has said, 'Never will I leave
you; never will I forsake you.'* - Hebrew 13:5

I can be content because I have You.

When I am being swept away in hurry or comparison,
remind me that Your presence is with me.

Bring me satisfaction in You alone.

Remind me that **You bring joy** no matter what this
season holds.

Let your Spirit move in close and remind me that I am
incredibly loved
just exactly the way I am, a *beloved child* of the King.
Thank You for being content to be born on this earth, laid
in straw and dust.
Thank you for being content to die on the cross for me.

Spirit, grow true contentment and peace in my heart that
allows me
to love others, myself, and You freely and passionately.
Amen.



A PRAYER FOR LAUGHTER

Spontaneous.

Unexpected.

Hearty and boisterous,
or breathy and giddy.

It might be a chorus, so lyrical and loud as to fill the air like
a waterfall.

The corners of your mouth curl into a smile.

It's the sound of *laughter*.

It's the sound that happens when the lid to joy has
been kicked off.

It's the sound that allows the soul to dance.

Oh Triune God, did You laugh as every star appeared
in the heavens?

Was there a chorus of raucous delight as Adam uttered his
first words?

Heavenly Father I pause right now to thank You for this
extravagant gift.

You, who created our every tendon, muscle and bone saw
fit to create laughter,

for the sheer purpose of expressing joy and delight.

Laughter delights and it also has the power to heal.

O God, I open Your Word and am reminded:

A joy-filled heart is curative balm, - Proverbs 17:22.

Heavenly Father, allow this balm of laughter to wash over any stress and the busyness of this day.

May this laughter be contagious and *fill my heart* as well.

Good Father, I breathe in this moment of joy and exhale gratitude to You.

Amen.



A PRAYER FOR EXPERIENCING EMMANUEL – GOD WITH US

Jesus,
Christmas reminds me of the most amazing,
lavish gift ever given to mankind – *You*.
You are God and have always existed.
Yet, because of love, You left your heavenly home,
became human and chose to make Your home among us.
You were even given the name Emmanuel, which means
God with us.
All because of love.

Although I cannot physically kneel by You at the manger,
or walk beside You on roads in Nazareth,
or stand with You on the banks of the sea,
help me remember You are no less near.
You are still Emmanuel. God with me.
You promise to be with me and to never leave me.
You assure me that Your presence lives in me and
surrounds me.
You still dwell with me, with my family, my city, my nation.
Help me to drink in the *nearness of You* each and
every day.
Reveal Your unfailing love to me in a way that helps
me know
that I am deeply, securely, unconditionally loved.

Remind me of Your faithfulness in my life now, today,
as well as all the times You showed up in my past.

Emmanuel. God with us.

You are with me and I celebrate You.

Amen.

*The Word became human and made his home among us.
He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. - John 1:14*

