

Prayers of the People Workshop

WHAT ARE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE?

- Prayers of the People are prayers prepared by the Licensed Lay Minister or Commissioned Lay Minister-in-Training which are delivered on behalf of the community of faith praying together.
- It's a means of standing in the gap for individuals who feel they don't know how to pray or are unable to pray at this time.
- It's praying for matters that are heavy on the hearts of your congregation.
- These prayers reflect the needs and concerns of the congregation, the community, the church and the world.
- And, we pray because our congregations feel relieved and comforted that their loved ones and world situations are being lifted up.
- And, for all of us, as believers, we know that when we pray, God hears our prayers - that should be what gives you the confidence to pray these prayers on behalf of those gathered in worship.
- So, your delivery should be prayerful. Remember you are **praying**, not reading.

PRAYERS FROM OUR PRAYER BOOKS

The Book of Common Prayer (BCP) provides Prayers of the People in the Holy Communion/Eucharist service on Pages 75-76. *Please note the instructions in red.*

Other prayers and thanksgivings can be found on Pages 37-61 of the Book of Common Prayer.

The Book of Alternative Services (BAS) provides Litanies for weekly Eucharist Worship found on Pages 110-128

Other prayers found in the BAS include:

- Holy Baptism - Page 155
- The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage with Eucharist - Page 533
- The Blessing of a Marriage without a Eucharist - Page 546
- Form I, Funeral Liturgy in the Church - Page 579
- Form II Funeral Liturgy - Page 593
- Additional Funeral Prayers - Page 601-603

- Occasional Prayers for specific occasions - Listed on Page 675
- Home Prayers - Page 691

WRITING YOUR OWN PRAYERS

- Begin with prayer to hear what the scripture is saying and for inspiration to write prayers which will speak to the congregation's needs and be reflective of the day's scripture.
- Personal reading of scripture in preparation for the coming week or when you are scheduled to serve - suggest you read the scripture at least 2-3 times.
- Make notes of what stands out for you - what words or themes do you see
- Sit with quiet music (if you like) and think about the readings
- Pray to be open to what God is saying in the readings
- Recall conversations you were a part of or heard throughout the week.
- What you have seen/heard on the news about the needs of the world?
- What you have heard about the needs of your community?
- Think about what may be happening in the scripture that relates to what is happening in our world right now.
- Be sure to use language that is inclusive. Inclusive means using words to describe God, not all of which are masculine.
- Your prayers should come from a heart of abundance, remembering the needs of others
- Your prayers can be about asking for something as well as giving thanks
- Create a draft of your prayers and then re-read scripture

RESPONSES TO THE PRAYERS

Think about the response to the prayers as this is where the congregation participates/interacts, and it should be reflective of the prayers. In the BAS, the Litanies provide responses, however, you may wish to use the following examples or something of your choosing.

Example - L: Hear us	R: Compassionate One
Example - L: God of Hope	R: Grant us your peace
Example - L: God of Light	R: Shine through us
Example - L: Healing God	R: Answer our prayer in love
Example - L: God of Love	R: Your will be done
Example - L: Your Kingdom come	R: Your will be done

Make sure the response is no longer than 4-6 words.

If the response is longer or difficult to remember, have it printed in the bulletin or if using screens, ask to have it included in the slides for the coming Sunday.

OTHER RESOURCES YOU CAN USE:

As we discussed above both the BCP and the BAS have a variety of prayers that we can use. We can also find various cycles of prayer on line as seen below.

Our Diocesan website publishes prayer cycles for all our parishes by the week. <https://www.nspeidiocese.ca/pages/prayer-cycles>

The Anglican Communion website publishes the part of the world for which we pray each week.

https://www.anglicancommunion.org/media/497162/acp_from-aba-to-divine-hope-via-zululand-2023-to-2026_webpdf.pdf

The Anglican Lutheran Moravian Cycle of Prayer is also online.

<https://www.anglicanlutheran.ca/wp-content/uploads/Lutheran-Anglican-Moravian-Cycle-of-Prayer-2024-2025.pdf>

The Internet: Be sure you are looking at Prayers which have been written for the Anglican Church (or the Lutheran or Moravian Churches) - the Year (A, B or C) and that these prayers reflect the readings for the day

For Example:

[Prayers | The Church of England](#)

[Three-Year Series Prayers - LCMS Worship - The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod](#)

Published books of Prayers of the People

- Prayers of Intercession - Susan Sayers

Other Licensed Lay Ministers who write their own prayers

•

Your Rector/Priest-in-Charge

Prayers relating to the theme of Creation:

Living Ecological Justice, Food Grains Bank, Creation Matters,
Seasons of Creation ([Diocesan Environment Network |
Ministries | Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island](#))

Licensed Lay Ministers' Association web site (Links & Resources and
Training Videos and Resources [Licensed Lay Ministers Home Page](#))

Resources used by your Parish for Sunday School or Liturgy
development