

Count on it

Living in the certainty of God's Word



Prayers

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Please draw from or incorporate any of the following prayers in your Bible Sunday service.

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Almighty God;

By your spoken word you created all that is.

By your living Word, Jesus, you bring us to salvation.

By your Spirit, source of your written Word through prophets and apostles,
You guide and renew us.

God, our Creator and our Provider,

A: Help us to receive your Word.

Help us to believe your Word.

Help us to release your Word.

CONFESSION

Merciful Lord,

You created us and you love us.

In your image you created us, and as a Father you love us.

You never cease to provide, even giving up your Son for our lives.

And yet too many times we do not recognise you.

So often we forget to acknowledge your gifts, and so often we refuse to accept them.

Lord, have mercy on us.

In times of need, in times of worry – how often we turn our heads from you Lord, the only answer, the only way.

Lord, have mercy on us.

We do not reflect the true beauty of you Lord, when we lose patience with others and we speak with bitter words.

Lord, have mercy on us.

We put others and ourselves above you Lord. We are preoccupied with trivial things and thoughts.

Lord, have mercy on us.

King of Kings,

We put you back on the throne.

As ruler over all and director of our lives,

We worship you.

Take our wrongs and make us pure.

Recreate us as your innocent children.

Transform our lives with your Word and with your love. Amen.

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THANKSGIVING

Lord God, lover of my soul;

We thank you that your love is all encompassing and never-ending. We are not worthy of such love and grace, yet you lavish us with it as your precious children. Thank you that you do not give up on us, that your love will never fade; we praise you for your consistency when so often things on earth let us down. Loving God we praise you that your arms are always open wide.

Lord, who is past, present and future;

We thank you that we can count on you. Before our birth you had a plan for us, and through life you walk with us and guide us. Thank you that our future is in your hands. We give you our worries and our concerns for we know that we can trust your ways and that you lead our every step. We praise you that you are waiting for us, that eternity lies in the promise of you.

Lord God, Living Word;

We thank you that you have provided us with your guide and helper. Lord we look to you in creation, in people, in the quiet, in the noise, in family and friends, and in your Word. We thank you that you give us instruction and encouragement, through stories, songs, poems, and letters. Lord your Word is certain and true; you do not falter, you do not lie. Thank you that we can put our trust in you.

INTERCESSION

Heavenly Father,

We pray for your people.

In a world where so many do not recognise you as King; where there is poverty and hunger; where there is selfishness and hate.

We ask that they may know your love – that they may feel peace and restoration amongst the loneliness and strife. Let them know that they can count on you.

We pray for your people.

For those who are sick.

(Take this time to pray for people of your congregation who are unwell)

Lord give them strength. Let them know your peace when things seem too hard to manage. Comfort them with your unfailing love. May they have faith to count on you.

We pray for your people.

For the leaders of our nation.

We ask for your guidance in decision making, and the trust to follow your ways and not our own. May we and our leaders promote justice and peace within our land, continually striving to be Christ-like in our thoughts and our actions – always counting on you.

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We pray for your people.

For those who do not know your Word.

Reveal to them your love and instruction. Allow them to receive your Word into their hearts and minds. Place people in their lives that can teach and encourage. Give them willing open hearts to accept your Word, letting them see that they can count on you. May they believe that they can count on you.

We pray for your people.

For the work of the Bible Societies in Ireland and across the world.

We ask that you will be a constant source of strength for the many people carrying out your work in over 200 countries. We pray for all involved in the translation, distribution and production of the Bible, in print, online or in Braille, or using new technology to provide digital formats for audio. For the many projects in different countries, we ask that you would bless each person who comes into contact with your Word. May it provide new life to each person who reads, hears and sees it, encouraging them to count on you.

ENDING THE SERVICE: A CLASSIC PRAYER

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.
Amen. (*Book of Common Prayer*, 1979)