

# Home Prayers

January 24, 2021 • Third Sunday after the Epiphany

(adapted from the *Book of Alternative Services*, pages 685-679)

*If you are praying with one or more others, the service can be divided between the plain and bold text.  
If you are praying by yourself, you can say all of the prayers aloud or silently.*

*During the season of Epiphany, the Christmas candle can remain lit.*

## The Preparation

Arise, shine, for our light has come.

**And the glory of the Lord has dawned upon us.**

*A hymn may be sung. This one can go to the tune Kelvingrove.*

1. Will you come and follow me  
if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know  
and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown,  
will you let my name be known,  
will you let my life be grown  
in you and you in me?
2. Will you leave yourself behind  
if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind  
and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare  
should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer prayer  
in you and you in me?
3. Will you let the blinded see  
if I but call your name?  
Will you set the prisoners free  
and never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean,  
and do such as this unseen,  
and admit to what I mean  
in you and you in me?
4. Will you love the 'you' you hide  
if I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside  
and never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you've found  
to reshape the world around,  
through my sight and touch and sound  
in you and you in me?
5. Lord, your summons echoes true  
when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you  
and never be the same.  
In your company I'll go  
where your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow  
in you and you in me.

Words: John Bell (1949- )

*The collect of the day may be said.*

Lord Jesus Christ,  
with those you called by the lakeside,  
may we follow you,  
proclaiming the reign of God,  
and sharing your mission to bring good news to all;  
for you live and reign  
with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

## **Reading**

*Mark 1:14-20 is the Gospel appointed for the Third Sunday after the Epiphany:*

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.'

As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake—for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fish for people.' And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

*Following the reading you may contemplate in silence, or discuss the scripture passage with others, or read a related work of literature.*

## Apostles' Creed

I believe in God,  
the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again  
to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

## Intercessions

*Prayers may be offered for the church, those in authority, the world, those in need, and the departed.*

In you, O God, we place our trust: hear us as we bring our prayers for the world and for the church.

We pray for the peoples of the world: for all who experience the horrors of war, famine, or disease; for all who suffer the loss of freedom and dignity. Help us to answer your call to leave behind our ways of aggression and greed, that we may proclaim your gospel to our broken world.

God in whom we trust and hope,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for this country: for the preservation of the natural treasures of this land; for all who live here, for inhabitants from ancient times and for new arrivals. Help us answer your call to leave behind our ways of prejudice and intolerance, that we may proclaim your gospel to a broken world.

God in whom we trust and hope,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for the church, its clergy and people: for prophets today who call us to repentance; for our diocesan family and all who minister in our congregations. Help us to answer your call to leave behind our arrogance and division, that we may proclaim your gospel to our broken world.

God in whom we trust and hope,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for the communities in which we live: for our families and friends and all who give us love and companionship; for all whose work sustains our communities. Help us answer your call to leave behind our ways of alienation and apathy, that we may proclaim your gospel to our broken world.

God in whom we trust and hope,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who are in need: for those whose lives are filled with grief, loneliness, or despair; for the disabled, the infirm, the sick and the dying and for all who care for them. Help us to answer your call to leave behind our ways of selfishness and neglect, that we may proclaim your gospel to our broken world.

God in whom we trust and hope,  
**hear our prayer.**

We give you thanks for your faithful servants of every age: for Andrew, Peter, James, and John, and those in every generation who have followed you. Help us, like them, to answer your call to leave behind all that separates us from you, that we may find new life in your eternal presence.

God in whom we trust and hope,  
**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions can be offered.*

*This concluding prayer can then be said:*

**O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go forward with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

## **Conclusion**

**The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. Amen.**