

Prayer stations

Celebrating favourite saints past and present

These kinaesthetic prayer stations were originally devised to use on All Saints' Day (1st November) to help people engage with the day and use it to celebrate the amazing work and lives of Christians around the world throughout history and continuing today. However, they could also be used for any interactive session focusing on praying for the church and Christians, giving thanks for their sacrifices and achievements, and interceding for those in ministry and for the persecuted church.

Each station details what if any equipment you need to get together in advance, instructions for setting up, and the text for the instruction signs you will need to print and display – (simply copy and paste these into a word document, enlarging the font so that the instructions are clear enough to read).

Used together, the stations should take approximately 30-40 minutes to work round, but if you have less time you can obviously leave out a couple. You can use them within an intercessions slot, have them set up as an installation for a special service or day of prayer (such as All Saints' Day) where people can come and go independently and/or use them individually as prayer or intercession responses. If you are using them all together, they can be worked round in any order.

We suggest playing music in the background while people interact with the stations – we've put together a specially designed playlist for this so that you have some ideas of what songs to source on CDs or as mp3 download – you can get hold of all of these on amazon or iTunes if another location is not specified. You can also find recordings of all our songs as downloadable mp3 files at www.thesanctuarycentre.org/whereworldandworshipmeet-songs

Playlist – church

No	Song	Artist	Album
1	We still believe	Kathryn Scott	We still believe
2	I felt sad in church today	Joanna Hogg	Personal
3	City on the hill	Casting Crowns	The Well
4	We are in Christ	Liz Baddaley	Available at link specified above
5	They'll know we are Christians by our love	Jars of Clay	Redemption songs
6	Keep on shining	Liz Baddaley	Available at link specified above
7	We are blessed	Andy Flannagan	Available at www.andyflan.com
8	Break our hearts	Vicky Beeching	Eternity Invades
9	If we are the body	Casting Crowns	Casting Crowns
10	Does anybody hear her	Casting Crowns	Lifesong
11	Tear down the walls	Hillsong United	Across the earth: Tear down the walls
12	Jesus friend of sinners	Casting Crowns	The Well
13	Wedding day	Casting Crowns	The Well

1. Celebrating unity and diversity

Equipment needed: a range of photos or items to represent different churches from a range of denominations; a print-out of Psalm 133 or a bible opened on this Psalm; a bowl of different coloured and flavoured sweets (e.g. something like skittles would work well for this); and the sign you have created using the 'For display' text below.

Instructions for setting up:

1. **In advance:** Enlarge and print out the sign using the text in the 'For display' section, and also Psalm 133 (or find a bible that you can lay open at this Psalm); gather together photos or items to represent different churches from a range of denominations; and get the sweets and put them out into a large bowl.
2. **On the day:** Lay out the photos/items of the different churches/denominations, and place Psalm 133 and the bowl of sweets in front of them. Display the sign you have made.

For display:

Celebrating unity and diversity

- Look at all the different churches and denominations represented here – what does the variety tell you about both the unity and diversity of Christianity?
- Read Psalm 133 – how do you think God wants his church to operate?
- Take a single sweet from the bowl – as you chew on it, thank God that he calls us to unity and to work together for his glory.
- Now take a few different sweets and chew them together – think about how the flavours mix together to produce an entirely new flavour. Give thanks to God for how he has made each one of us different and how his call to unity also includes celebrating this diversity and the unique role we all have in his church.

2. Heartache

Equipment needed: A memo or notice board, ideally heart-shaped; small pieces of (optional: heart-shaped) paper and pens; a cross; red wool; scissors; information and stories about the persecuted church around the world (e.g. www.csw.org.uk is a good source for this) such as print-outs, magazine articles or prayer diaries; and a print out of the sign you create using the 'For display' text below.

Instructions for setting up:

1. **In advance:** Gather together the items needed, and enlarge and print out signs using the text in the 'For display' section
2. **On the day:** Place the memo/notice board beside the cross; place the paper, pens, red wool and scissors in front of the memo/notice board; lay out the information about the persecuted church at the front. Display the sign you have made.

For display:

Heartache

- Read one or two of the stories about the persecution Christians experience in countries around the world – what is your reaction?

- Look at the cross, and reflect on how Jesus endured persecution at the hands of oppressors and ultimately death – share your heartache with him by writing down your questions, feelings and prayers about what you've just read onto a piece of paper.
- As you fold it up and place it onto the heart memo board, thank Jesus that he is with every Christian undergoing persecution today and ask for him to intervene with saving power, protection and transformation into the situation you have just read about.
- Cut a piece of red wool and tie it around your wrist – use it to show that you are standing in solidarity with your fellow Christians who being persecuted around the world and as a reminder to keep on interceding for them throughout the day.

3. Inspired to live for him

Equipment needed: Print outs of stories and/or testimonies of inspiring Christians from the Bible, from history and alive today (if you have time in advance, ask others to send you a short account of which Christians have inspired them in their faith journey and why); paper and pens; a table; and a print off of the sign you create using the 'For display' text below.

Instructions for setting up:

1. In advance: Enlarge and print out a sign using the text in the 'For display' section, and print off the other stories or testimonies you have gathered together about inspiring Christians.
2. On the day: Lay out the stories and testimonies onto the table – if you have plenty, it might be helpful to lay them out into categories (e.g. From the Bible / From history / Alive today) – and place the plain paper and pens beside them. Display the sign you made.

For display:

Inspired to live

- Read a few of the stories and testimonies of inspirational Christians – how do they encourage you?
- Think about anyone – whether from the Bible, in history, alive today or known to you personally – who has had a big influence on your faith and how you've lived your life.
- Thank God for them.
- To inspire others, write down a short summary of the impact that they have had on your faith and how (feel free to keep who you are writing about anonymous if you'd like to)

4. All God's Children

Equipment needed: A world map; post-it notes and pens; a few print-outs of the song 'He reigns' by the Newsboys; and a print out of the sign you create using the 'For display' text below.

Instructions for setting up:

1. In advance: Enlarge and print out a sign using the text in the 'For display' section, and a few copies of the song (see lyrics below). Gather together the other items.
2. On the day: Lay out the world map on the floor, with the song lyric print outs, post-it notes and pens beside it. Display a copy of the sign you have made.

It's the song of the redeemed
Rising from the African plain
It's the song of the forgiven
Drowning out the Amazon rain
The song of Asian believers
Filled with God's holy fire
It's every tribe, every tongue, every nation
A love song born of a grateful choir

It's all God's children singing
Glory, glory, hallelujah
He reigns, He reigns
It's all God's children singing
Glory, glory, hallelujah
He reigns, He reigns

Let it rise about the four winds
Caught up in the heavenly sound
Let praises echo from the towers of cathedrals
To the faithful gathered underground
Of all the songs sung from the dawn of creation
Some were meant to persist
Of all the bells rung from a thousand steeples
None rings truer than this

And all the powers of darkness
Tremble at what they've just heard
'Cause all the powers of darkness
Can't drown out a single word

When all God's children sing out
Glory, glory, hallelujah
He reigns, He reigns
All God's people singing
Glory, glory, hallelujah
He reigns, He reigns

He reigns
© Newsboys

For display:

All God's children

- Read the song lyrics that celebrate the amazing vibrancy and variety of the world-wide church

- Reflect on what inspires you when you think about your brothers and sisters worshipping and serving in their own unique way around the world
- Write a prayer of thanks for the church in a particular country, region or continent that inspires you because of their faith, creativity or endurance on a post-it note and stick it on that place on the world map

5. Something old, something new

Equipment needed: a collection of worship resources from a variety of traditions (e.g. some old hymns, modern worship songs, older-style written prayers, newer interactive prayer aids, devotional pictures etc); a flip chart; plain paper and pens; and a print out of the sign you create using the 'For display text below.

Instructions for setting up:

1. In advance: Collect together a variety of worship resources, and find a flip chart you can use. Enlarge and print out a sign using the text in the 'For display' section.
2. On the day: Lay out the worship resources in front of the flip chart, with the paper and pens beside. Display the sign you have made.

For display:

Something old, something new

- Look through the range of worship resources before you – which catch your eye as something you would want to use to worship God with or through?
- Reflect on which styles you find most helpful – is it the older items, or perhaps something more modern? Why is that?
- Write up your reflections on the flip chart stating which resources you like best and why.
- Then spend a bit of time giving thanks for all the Christians over the ages who devoted themselves to writing music, hymns, songs, prayers, liturgy and more... thank God for how their talent has enabled you to worship him more fully, and pray that as a church we would learn how to celebrate the old and the new.
- If you'd like to, use the pens and paper provided to create your own item – whether song, prayer, picture or anything else – and add it to the selection of other worship resources as yet another expression of a Christian sharing their God-given talents for the benefit of others.

6. Christians in need

Equipment needed: pens, paper, scissors, and a template outline person for people to draw round (see example below) or cut out; blue-tack and place for people to stick their people onto; and a print out of the sign you create using the 'For display' text below.

Instructions for setting up:

1. In advance: Create your template person in card, or print out copies of the outline on paper for people to cut out themselves. Enlarge and print out a sign using the text in the 'For display' section.
2. On the day: Lay out everything that is needed, and display the sign you have made.

For display:

Christians in need

- Using the outline, cut out a person shape.
- As you do so, ask God to bring to mind a particular Christian that you know who is in need right now.
- Write your prayer for them onto the back of the person (keeping it anonymous).
- Stick your person up onto the board/window in front of you, and thank God that he hears our prayers and is acting in that person’s life already.



7. Unsung heroes

Equipment needed: a long piece of string or a camping washing line; pegs and plain paper; pre-prepared scripture cards (see below); and a print out of the sign you create using the ‘For display’ text below.

Instructions for setting up:

1. In advance: Create the scripture cards using the information/template below, and on the reverse of each one, draw a large ‘?’. Enlarge and print out a sign using the text in the ‘For display’ section.
2. On the day: Hang the line and on it, peg the scripture cards with the ? side showing. Leave the spare pegs and paper beside it. Display the sign you have made.

Matthew 6:17-19

But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

Luke 21:1-4

As Jesus looked up, he saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. “Truly I tell you,” he said, “this poor widow has put in more than all the others. All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.”

<p>Matthew 6:1-4 Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honoured by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.</p>	<p>Matthew 25:34-36 “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’”</p>
<p>Mark 10:31 But many who are first will be last, and the last first.</p>	<p>Matthew 16:24-26 Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?”</p>

For display:**Unsung heroes**

- Our culture is fascinated by celebrities – and sadly, sometimes so are we. But God’s kingdom celebrates what people do for him, often unseen.
- Take one of the cards with a ? showing off the line – turn it over and reflect on what Jesus is telling us about what it means to truly follow him.
- Put it back on the line with the ? showing, and repeat this with as many of the other ? cards as you’d like to.
- What do these scriptures tell you about true heroes of the faith?
- When you’re ready, think of a Christian who you know who is rarely in the limelight, but who is often humbly serving and giving, whether or not their acts are seen or known by others.
- Write their initials down on one of the pieces of plain paper and peg it to the line in celebration of all they have done, and will do, to further advance God’s kingdom on earth.

8. Taking the church out of the building

Equipment needed: pens and paper and a print out of the sign you create using the ‘For display’ text below.

Instructions for setting up:

3. In advance: Get together pens and paper and print out a copy of the sign you have made.
4. On the day: Lay out everything that is needed, and display the sign you have made.

For display:**Taking the church out of the building**

- Before finishing this time of prayer and leaving, take a few moments to glance back at the different stations and reflect on what has inspired or challenged you.
- Jot down any things you want to remember to pray for, or perhaps to take action about on a piece of paper.
- Take this reminder of the wider church away with you and keep it somewhere where you will see it often this week.