

Written prayers

Recounting prayer

The Bible provides a number of examples of recounting prayers (e.g. Psalm 44) – prayers which proclaim back to God the things he has done, before going on to lift new petitions to him. These prayers act as praise, remind us of our perspective in God’s history, and feed our minds and hearts with the truth that he is faithful. They are especially helpful as a preface to prayer for difficult situations. By remembering situation after situation where God’s power and faithfulness has been proved, we are able to shift and lift our focus to one that realises God’s kingdom is more real and lasting than the world’s.

This recounting prayer was written for a specific prayer meeting, and has a corporate refrain (which was originally sung but can be spoken) and leads us to pray for the transformation of the UK, and our specific town or city. Use it in full, or if you want to pray for other nations or specific issues, use it only as far as the first dotted line, then fill in your own prayers before returning to the end section (after the second dotted line) to finish.

O God, you are our God,
And we will proclaim your faithfulness

You were faithful to Abraham
To Moses, Caleb and Joshua
You are faithful to your people.

You were faithful to David,
To Esther and Ruth,
To a thousand heroes of the faith
And millions more unknown to us
But not forgotten by you.

You were faithful to your people.
You led them to Egypt for safety
You delivered them from Egypt’s later oppression
You led them by cloud and fire
You fed them with manna from heaven
You brought them to a new land
And gave it to them through your power

You raised up a nation
And forgave it time and time again
When it repaid your faithfulness with faithlessness.
You raised up prophets to speak your truth
And forgave your people time and time again

When they did not listen to your truth

You delivered them time and time again
From hunger, aggressor and sin
Through miracles, victories and atonement.

You led your people out of exile
And rebuilt them again
And when they still would not listen to you, and receive your love
You gave your son, your very self, to die for them, and us –
To redeem all your people.
Through his death you have given us life
Through his stripes you have healed us
Through his resurrection, death has lost its sting
Forever.

**All of our hope and our salvation is found in you – Rock of the ages,
Faithful to a thousand generations – all our fountains are in you.**

You sent your Holy Spirit to be our constant companion
And through his work sent men of faith around the world to spread your truth
And bring your freedom
To nation after nation,
Generation after generation,
Denomination after denomination
A personal gift of freedom to each precious one you call child.

----- [either continue with the following section to pray about the UK and your town/city, or skip to the end section] -----

You have blessed our nation through men of God in countless generations
Who have risen up and spoken out for your truth and justice.
Through saints and martyrs
Monasteries and missions
Social action and service
Your word and priorities have stayed alive in our nation
And even blessed others.

Sometimes a blazing fire
Sometimes a just-there flickering candle
Your light has remained here

And even when we have been faithless
And built our kingdom not yours
In your name but for our glory,
Still you have continued to speak,

To redeem and rekindle.

Despite our faithlessness
You remain faithful
Though our nation may stumble and trip

Your hand of restoration is always stretched towards us
Faithful to answer
If we will only turn and repent.

**All of our hope and our salvation is found in you – Rock of the ages,
Faithful to a thousand generations – all our fountains are in you.**

You brought your gospel here
And established your kingdom in this city
Through the generations
You have continued to work here
Despite our faithlessness
You raised up men and women of God
To build houses of prayer
And to strive for good deeds.
Today you are active on our streets
And prompt us to build in unity
And turn new hearts to you.
Today you weep over the lost,
The broken, the sick, the dying,
The pain, the oppression, the suffering
And today you offer your hope if we will but turn to you.

**All of our hope and our salvation is found in you, Rock of the ages
Faithful to a thousand generations, all our fountains are in you.**

You are still sovereign in our city,
In our nation
And in the nations of the earth.

All that is good is sourced in you.

Every breakthrough for justice, establishment of peace
And meeting of a desperate need
Is all sourced from you.

Today, you still seek all who are lost
And bring them into the glorious light and freedom of Christ.

Your name is still to be praised.
Faithful God – Alpha and Omega.

You are the redeemer of the unredeemable
The restorer of what seems lost forever
You are the peacemaker that ends wars
And the freedom fighter that challenges oppression
You are faithful, you are good, and your love endures forever
All our hope and our salvation are found in you.

The one who was, and is, and is to come.

You are on the throne
To the end of the age, and throughout eternity.

----- [final section] -----

This is our God. The God we pray to. The God we bring the pain and perverseness of our world to,
He is big enough for it all.
For this is God Almighty, faithful, loving and true – his steadfast love has been proved over a thousand generations
and in ever nation.
Bless his name.
Amen.