

Written prayers

Celebrating answered prayer and testimony

Gathering prayer celebrating the coming together of many stories

Leader: Lord Jesus we come together to praise you with one voice,
Weaving our lives together in unity and diversity as a representation of your body.
We are all different but we have the same maker;
We have unique stories but the same author
Who writes again and again on our hearts his miracle testimonies
Of transformed lives, answered prayers and changed perspectives
Each of us has countless stories to tell of his goodness.
And today we choose to bring them together for his precious names' sake.
And as a testimony to ourselves, each other and the world of his kingdom's rule.

All: **We gather together to share our stories,
To build our fellowship
To spur each other on to grow in faith
– individually and as a community –
And to persevere more in prayer for the things on his heart.**

**We seek Jesus' righting of every wrong and his re-writing of every troubled story
Until it reflects his best plan,
And the truth that he is alive and moving today.
This is the God we gather to worship.
This is the God we unite to praise.
Able; Almighty; Active; Kind.
Amen.**

Prayer of thanksgiving

All: **Faithful God,
We give you thanks and praise
For every story of faith found,
Every testimony of healing given,
Every experience of hope strengthened,
And every revelation of your love received
Gathered here today.**

**Generous God,
Make us generous with our praise.
We want to be eager tellers of your stories
Proclaiming your transforming work in our lives
To each other, and to those who are new to your love.
May you find us faithful in sharing our testimonies
And expectant and watchful for what you will do next.**

Prayer of confession and absolution

Prayer of confession

**All: Faithful God — present, active and mighty to save today,
We confess that we have not loved you with our whole hearts;
We have been slow to come to you in prayer
And reluctant to believe you will answer.
We have qualified the truth of your word
And been quick to label prayers as ‘unanswered’
When we have not received what we wanted
In the timescale we wanted it.
And when we have seen situations transformed
We have qualified again – preferring to hedge our bets and entertain ‘coincidences’ –
Rather than proclaiming our faith in the God who answers prayer.
And we have not been diligent in storing and treasuring our testimonies
To recount in praise and to fuel our faith.
We have been quick – and even at times eager – to fit in with our culture
Which denies the spiritual and worships the rational
And tells us that our own actions – rather than coming to our God in prayer – are what will bring
about the biggest change.
We are truly sorry and turn from our sin.
We ask you to renew our minds and assure us once more of who is Lord.**

Prayer of absolution

**Leader: Faithful God — present, active and mighty to save today,
We thank you that you have already answered our prayer for forgiveness,
Making a way for us to be reconciled to you
Through sending us your son, Jesus Christ.
Promised by your prophets, and interceded for by your people,
He came.
He lived, died, rose and ascended
And has restored us to you once and for all.
We receive your grace to us – made possible by your living Word
And your strengthening of faith to ask and believe and proclaim**

The truth of your goodness and the daily reality of your saving love.
 Open our eyes to see you at work
 Open our hearts to believe your promises
 And open our mouths to boldly declare your miracle wonders again –
 Knowing our mistakes are covered,
 And your transforming power is the hope for our world.
 We choose now to risk our reputations for you – who became sin for us so we could stand faultless before you.

All: Amen.

Prayer of thanks for a specific answer to prayer, and declaration of God's faithfulness

This prayer is based on some of the lyrics from Liz Baddaley's song 'You're the God who answers prayer' – the mp3, chord sheet and story behind the song are all available at www.thesanctuarycentre.org/whereworldandworshipmeet-songs

Leader: Almighty and all caring God,
 We thank you for this answered prayer,
 Which we want to praise you for
 And to remember as another testimony in our journey.
 It tells us again that you are present and active among us.
 And we recognise and receive it as an act of kindness from you,
 And as another demonstration of your great power, and your loving faithfulness to us.

**All: Almighty and all caring God
 This answered prayer gives us more faith to believe
 That you are who you say you are.
 You were the one who gives us strength to pray this prayer.
 And now you have once again done all you said you would do.
 We thank you for this answered prayer
 But even more for another revelation that you are the God who answers prayer.**

Leader: Almighty and all caring God
 We thank you for this miracle,
 And for another chance to lift your name
 In songs and prayers of love and praise.
 It tells us again that you are present and active among us.
 Every time you give us another story of your goodness
 We find we have another rock of grace and faith to stand on as we pray for more.

**All: Almighty and all caring God
 We know it is not just for your praise that we need to recognise and celebrate this answered prayer -
 Though we would hate to rob you of any of your glory.
 We also need to declare the truth of your wonders for each of our own sakes, and for our journey**

together with you.

For we do not want to deny ourselves the faith and expectancy that comes from this testimony.

So we thank you for this answered prayer

And even more for this new demonstration of your loving care and transformational presence.

Amen.

Extended prayer of praise based on, and inspired by, Psalm 136

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good!

All: His faithful love endures forever.

Leader: Give thanks to the God of gods.

All: His faithful love endures forever.

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord of lords.

All: His faithful love endures forever.

Leader: Give thanks to him who alone does mighty miracles.

All: His faithful love endures forever.

Leader: Give thanks to him who made creation so skilfully.

All: His faithful love endures forever.

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord who sent his Son to save us.

All: His faithful love endures forever.

Leader: Give thanks to him who left his Spirit to comfort, counsel and guide us.

All: His faithful love endures forever.

Leader: Give thanks to him who gave us his word to lead, challenge and inspire us.

All: His faithful love endures forever.

Leader: Give thanks to him who speaks to us today as we seek to walk in relationship with him.

All: His faithful love endures forever.

Leader: Give thanks to him who provides, protects, heals and transforms.

All: His faithful love endures forever.

Leader: *[Here the leader should either introduce specific lines relevant to recent and longer-term answers to prayer and demonstrations of God's faithfulness to this particular worshipping community or invite different members of the congregation to pray out spontaneously.]*

All: [The response to each line/open prayer remains the same] His faithful love endures forever.

Amen