

# *Resources for compiling a Celtic liturgy*

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In recent years there has been an increase in the number of American churches – especially Episcopal churches – offering a service described as “Celtic.” At Redeemer, we call this a “Eucharist in the Celtic tradition” and further explain this as “a contemporary liturgy based on the theology of the ancient Celts enlivened with traditional music.” Our first Celtic service was in November of 2005; it was modeled on one from the Church of the Holy Communion in Memphis (as experienced by our clergy at a demonstration service in Atlanta in October of 2004). If you are using this liturgy in an Episcopal church, it is advisable that you not use it for your primary Sunday service due to deviations from approved liturgies. If you are from a more (or less) flexible liturgical tradition, be sure to follow your church’s protocols.

## **Theological background**

A Celtic liturgy can be refreshing and accessible because the theology is an upbeat one, and the addition of music from the Celtic tradition can make it fun and special. In the Celtic tradition Christians felt close to the divine, and sought God in their everyday activities, thereby enhancing their awareness of his presence. The classic example of this is the monk who finds God in washing dishes. There can be a mantra-like meditation quality to praying while washing dishes. Another emphasis of Celtic theology is the relation of humankind to the rest of creation. The Celts appreciated the whole of creation and saw humans as just another creature – not as the rulers of earth. God’s presence is to be found in all of creation, according to this view. A third emphasis is the goodness of humans (as opposed to the doctrine of original sin). God made us all (and loves us all) and so we are good – a viewpoint which can and should lead to joy.

## **Crafting liturgies to reflect Celtic theology**

The liturgical elements here were compiled with these theological points in mind. To begin with, the foundation consists of prayers and litanies from current scholars of Celtic liturgy (especially J. Philip Newell and David Adam). These elements were arranged in an order that was familiar and adapted to fit one of several seasonal themes. The theme for Pentecost and its season can be wind or fire; the wind is the breath of the Holy Spirit, and the fire are the tongues of flame by which the Holy Spirit arrives. Since Pentecost is so long, you can break it up a little by using the theme of water and cleansing for All Saints Day and/or the whole month of November (and any baptisms). Continuing with the elemental nature of the themes, Advent’s theme is sound – waiting and listening for God. Light for Epiphany, peace for Lent, and creation for Easter finish out the church year’s themes. The philosophy of the tradition is also incorporated technically into the liturgy by adapting prayers to 1) include lots of congregational participation (the creation-is-good-including-mankind theology), 2) mention the elements of creation a lot (the I-can-find-God-anywhere theology), and 3) use the technique of repetition (the-presence-of-God-as-everyday-mantra theology).

Included here are some standard elements laid out in the order that is most common in the Episcopal Church. Some liturgies from other traditions (including those labeled as Celtic) may arrange certain prayers and other elements of the service in an order unfamiliar to twenty-first century Americans, so that

order has been adapted. The specific wording has also been tweaked – usually at the suggestion of the clergy who have used the liturgies and have proposals for better flow of words. Due to the rearranging of liturgical elements, there is sometimes a choppyness to the, so transitions have or should be added, as well as rubrics indicating your own congregation’s customs for standing, sitting, etc..

### **Elements of a Celtic Holy Eucharist**

The service begins with an *opening sentence* with congregational response. This needs to convey praise to God and may incorporate something of the theme (light, creation, etc.).

The *lighting of the three lights* is next. Although this is not a standard element, it appears in a number of Celtic liturgies and really sets the tone nicely. It may be easier for a server or acolyte to light the candles, freeing the priest to attend to the accompanying words. The candles should be large and visible to as much of the congregation as possible. To keep the congregation engaged, the words can be said responsively. The *collect of purity* or another introductory prayer can be included next.

A *hymn of praise* now follows – in the standard prayer book service, this would be the Gloria. David Adam has a nice one that begins, “Glory in all my seeing,” which I like to divide up into men, women, all, etc. He also has a great one for Epiphany which begins “Christ as a light, illumine and guide us.”

The *collect for the day* is next – or you can use a collect specific to the theme – followed by the *lessons, Gospel and sermon*. It is nice to include the “Celtic Alleluia” right before the Gospel if you have music. In Lent you might want to insert a Kyrie somewhere in there.

After the sermon, it is time for the *creed*. Although the Celtic Church did not have a separate creed (they probably said the Nicene Creed), you may choose to say a different creed in such an otherwise contemporary service. Others here include the Affirmation of Faith from the New Zealand Prayer Book or a Celtic Creed written by a Canadian monk.

There are several versions of *intercessory prayers* adapted from the work of J. Philip Newell, as well as a nice one from the Anglican Church of Canada. The latter has the congregation responding, “Light of the world, be known to us.” This is especially good for Epiphany. Also included is one that is perfect for Advent and its themes of listening and waiting for God.

Celtic liturgies often do not include a *confession*. They believed in celebrating what was going right, not in groveling about what was going wrong. However, as Christians generally do confess, there are a couple offered – one from New Zealand. The confession is usually suppressed during the seasons of Christmas and Easter; during Lent it can be moved to the beginning of the service like the BCP’s Penitential Order. The words of the *peace* were taken from *The New Women Included* by the St. Hilda Community.

Almost all of the *Eucharistic prayers* are adapted from J. Philip Newell’s prayers in *An Earthful of Glory*. This is one of the few books that has Celtic-style communion liturgies, in addition to other prayers. The exception is the one used in Lent, which is taken from Newell’s *A Mass for Peace*. (I obtained a copy of this when with Philip on Iona in 2005; in addition, Redeemer used this liturgy when Philip came to our parish in 2007.)

There are several different *fraction* phrases. You can pick your favorite!

The Sanctus remains a part of every Eucharistic prayer and the words are the same as in the prayer book, so any standard musical setting will work if you will be singing it. We favor “Land of Rest.” The Sanctus from James Macmillan’s *Celtic Mass* is beautiful, but a little hard to sing.

The *postcommunion prayers* are mostly adapted from J. Philip Newell, but I wrote one and one is from *Wee Worship Book* which is used by the Iona Community. They can be said by the celebrant, by the people or by call and response (divide into two parts; celebrant says first part and people respond with second part)

Before the closing blessing, remember to extinguish the three lights. A responsive prayer accompanies this step. It is recommended that you take care of parish announcements at the beginning or in the middle of the service, because when you get to the end, you don’t want to break the magic. The postcommunion prayer and the *lights-out prayer* are quite special and deserve to be isolated from everyday announcements. You may choose the *blessing and dismissal*.

If you want to include acoustic Celtic-style music, a minimum requirement would be a guitar and one melody instrument – recorder, flute, fiddle, concertina, etc. There are thousands of Celtic tunes out there; we don’t limit what we play to church music because most of it is without words. As long as the title is bulletin-printable, try it. (An example of tunes you might avoid because of the title is *Neil Gow’s Lament upon the Death of his Second Wife* or *Whiskey in the Jar*.) You can add singing as appropriate to your congregation and musician abilities.

One final note: if you use any of these prayers, please cite the source and credit the author. Those items that follow that are not specified as to source were written by Elizabeth Lovett Grover.

## Resources

David Adam, *The Rhythm of Life: Celtic Daily Prayer* (Morehouse Publishing, 1996)

J. Philip Newell, *An Earthful of Glory: Biblical prayers, liturgies, and meditations* (SPCK, 1996)

J. Philip Newell, *Celtic Treasure: Daily Scriptures and Prayers* (Eerdmans, 2005)

Brendan O’Malley, editor and compiler, *A Celtic Primer: The Complete Celtic Worship Resource and Collection* (Morehouse, 2002)

The St. Hilda Community, *The New Women Included: A Book of Services and Prayers* (SPCK, 1996)

Wild Goose Worship Group, *A Wee Worship Book: Fourth incarnation* (Chicago: GIA Publications, 1999)

## Opening sentences

### **OS#1 Pentecost (Wind)**

Celebrant The God of love is with us.  
People *The Spirit of love is in us.*  
Celebrant Blessed are you in the heights and the depths, O God.  
People Let the winds and all that stirs life into motion praise you.

### **OS#2 All Saints (Baptism)**

Celebrant The God of love is with us.  
People *The Spirit of love is in us.*  
Celebrant Blessed are you in the heights and the depths, O God  
People Let the eternal waters praise you. Let the seas and the rivers sing your glory.

### **OS#3 Advent (Sound)**

Celebrant The God of love is with us.  
People *The Spirit of love is in us.*  
Celebrant Blessed be the one God, whose prophets foretold the coming of the Light  
People And blessed be his Son, whose coming we await.

### **OS#4 Christmas**

Celebrant The God of love is with us.  
People *The Spirit of love is in us.*  
Celebrant Blessed is the one God, who gave us the gift of Jesus.  
People *Blessed is the Christ Child, who brings us the gift of love.*

### **OS#5 Epiphany (Light)**

Celebrant The God of love is with us.  
People *The Spirit of love is in us.*  
Celebrant Risen Lord, light of all peoples, come stand among us  
People Scatter the darkness before us that we may walk as children of light.  
Adapted from David Adam, *The Rhythm of Life*

OR

### **OS#6**

Celebrant The God of love is with us.  
People *The Spirit of love is in us.*  
Celebrant Blessed are you, O Christ, Light of the world.  
People You descend into our darkness to lift us into the realm of light.

### **OS#7 Lent (Peace)** (a slightly longer opening)

Celebrant Come, come, O Christ, and stand in our midst  
as you did stand in the midst of your disciples,  
and speak to us words of peace.  
People *Peace to each one who comes in need.*  
Celebrant Peace to each one who comes in joy.  
Women *Peace to each woman,*  
Men *Peace to each man,*  
People *Peace to each family, peace to each child,*  
Celebrant Peace to the creatures,  
People *Peace to the nations,*

Celebrant Peace in our hearts,  
People *Peace in our world.*  
Celebrant Come, come, O Christ, and stand in our midst  
as you did stand in the midst of your disciples,  
and speak to us words of peace.

Adapted by J. Philip Newell (in *A Mass for Peace*) from a Mozarabic prayer

**OS#8 Easter (Creation)**

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
People The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia! *The Book of Common Prayer*

**OR #9**

Celebrant The God of love is with us.  
People *The Spirit of love is in us.*  
Celebrant Creator, Father of all, give us life, you give us love, you give us yourself,  
People Help us to give our lives, our love, ourselves to you. *David Adam, The Rhythm of Life*

**The Lighting of the Three Lights**

Adapted from J. Philip Newell, *Celtic Treasure*

**LTL #1 Pentecost (wind)**

Celebrant We will light a light in the name of the Maker  
People God, who breathed life into all creation.  
Celebrant We will light a light in the name of the Son  
People Jesus who taught of the love that flows in all.  
Celebrant We will light a light in the name of the Spirit –  
People The Holy One encompassing us like the wind.

**LTL #2 Pentecost (fire)**

Celebrant We will light a light in the name of the Maker  
People who created fire.  
Celebrant We will light a light in the name of the Son  
People who engulfs us in a blaze of love.  
Celebrant We will light a light in the name of the Spirit  
People who descends upon us like flaming tongues.

**LTL #3 All Saints (Baptism)**

Celebrant We will light a light in the name of the Maker  
People who moved over the face of the waters.  
Celebrant We will light a light in the name of the Son  
People who was baptized in the water of the River Jordan.  
Celebrant We will light a light in the name of the Spirit  
People who cleanses and refreshes us as the cool spring water.

**LTL #4 Advent (Sound)**

Celebrant We will light a light in the name of the Maker,  
People God who spoke in the silence and gave us the gift of sound.  
Celebrant We will light a light in the name of the Son,  
People Jesus whose human ears heard the sounds of his Father's creation.  
Celebrant We will light a light in the name of the Spirit  
People The Almighty who speaks to us with a still, small voice  
and sings with us in praises to the Holy One.

### **LTL #5 Christmas**

Celebrant We will light a light in the name of the Maker  
People *Who gives us the power of life.*  
Celebrant We will light a light in the name of the Son  
People *Who gives us the power of love.*  
Celebrant We will light a light in the name of the Spirit  
People *Who gives us the power of hope.*

### **LTL #6 Epiphany (Light)**

Celebrant We will light a light in the name of the Maker  
People who said, "Let there be light!"  
Celebrant We will light a light in the name of the Son  
People whose birth was announced by the shining of a star.  
Celebrant We will light a light in the name of the Spirit  
People whose love enlightens our hearts.

### **LTL #7 Easter (Creation)**

Celebrant We will light a light in the name of our Lord  
People God the Creator of all life.  
Celebrant We will light a light in the name of the Son  
People Jesus who gives us new life.  
Celebrant We will light a light in the name of the Spirit  
People The Holy One whose presence blesses all creation.

### **Opening prayers**

#### **OP #1: Collect for Purity**

Almighty and eternal God, to you our hearts are open and our inmost desires known. We cannot hide our most intimate secrets from you. Be present at all times in our thoughts and hearts and purify them with your Holy Spirit, so that we may love you with the love of the Spirit and praise your name with humility and joy; through Christ our Lord. *Adapted from The Book of Common Prayer*

#### **OP #2 Lent**

God of all peace, whose Spirit fills our hearts, be with us as we seek to share your peace, that those whom we encounter on this earthly journey may see in our lives a reflection of your love; in the name of Christ. Amen.

#### **OP #3 Christmas and Epiphany**

Almighty God, who by the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ dispelled the darkness of the world and gave light to all peoples, protect us as the darkness descends. Keep us ever in your light, and continue to enlighten our lives by your great glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

## Hymns of praise

### **Hymn#1 Pentecost**

Celebrant Let us join together to praise the God of all things.  
Glory in all my seeing  
Women Glory in all my being  
Men Glory in all my speaking  
All Glory in all my seeking  
Celebrant Glory in all my hearing  
Women Glory in every appearing  
Men Glory in all my feeling  
All Glory in God's revealing  
Celebrant Glory of the mighty Three  
Women Glory entwining round me  
Men Glory in the opening day  
All Glory in the rocky way  
Celebrant Glory in the morning light  
Women Glory in the darkest night  
Men Glory there for beholding  
All Glory ever me enfolding  
Glory of God, hand above  
Glory of Christ, heart of love  
Glory of Spirit, covering dove

David Adam, *Tides and Seasons* (from *The New Women Included*)

### **Hymn #2 All Saints (Baptism)**

Celebrant Let us praise the God of all things.  
How wonderful, O Lord, are the works of your hands!  
People *The heavens declare your glory.*  
Celebrant In your love you have given us the power  
People *to behold the beauty of your world in all its splendor.*  
Celebrant The sun and the stars, the valleys and the hills,  
People *the river and lakes all disclose your presence.*  
Celebrant The roaring breakers of the sea tell of your awesome might.  
People *The gentle babble of a brook celebrates the comfort of your love.*  
Celebrant The waters of baptism mark our covenant with you.  
People *Glory to our life-giving God!*  
*May we give thanks for all his works,*  
*praise him in all we do,*  
*and share his love with the communion of saints.*

Adapted from a Jewish prayer

### **Hymn #3 Advent (Sound)**

Celebrant Let us praise the God of all things.  
How wonderful, O Lord, are the works of your hands!  
People The heavens declare your glory.  
Celebrant In your love you have given us the gift of hearing

People That we may hear the sounds of your creation in all its splendor.  
 Celebrant The silent beauty of the sun and moon, the soft rustle of leaves  
 People The gurgle of water, the roaring winds all glorify your Name.  
 Celebrant The song of a bird, the babbling of a baby, the laughter of children  
 People The music of instrument and voice, tune and harmony all glorify your Name.  
 Celebrant As we await the coming of the Holy Child, may we listen --  
 People May we listen for your still small voice amid the noises of our life.  
 All Glory to our life-giving God!  
 May we give thanks for all his works,  
 sing the praises of our God in all we do,  
 and share his love with all who hear us. Amen.

Adapted from a Jewish prayer

#### Hymn #4 Epiphany (Light)

Celebrant Christ as a light  
 People *illumine and guide us.*  
 Celebrant Christ as a shield  
 People *overshadow and cover us.*  
 Celebrant Christ be under us, Christ be over us.  
 People *Christ be beside us, on left and on right.*  
 Celebrant Christ be before us.  
 People *Christ be behind us.*  
 Celebrant Christ be within us.  
 People *Christ be without us.*  
 All *Christ as a light*  
*O, illumine and guide us. Amen.*

David Adam, *The Rhythm of Life*

#### Hymn #5 Lent (Peace) (replace Hymn of Praise with Penitential Litany in Lent)

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins;  
 People *His mercy endures for ever.*  
 Celebrant Christ who died for our sins, forgive the penitent.  
 People *Lord, have mercy.*  
 Celebrant Christ, who shared our griefs, comfort the sorrowing.  
 People *Lord, have mercy.*  
 Celebrant Christ, who thirsted on the cross, bring relief to the hungry.  
 People *Lord, have mercy.*  
 Celebrant Christ forsaken by all, be with the lonely and the sad.  
 People *Christ, have mercy.*  
 Celebrant Christ mocked and scorned, support the outcasts and rejected.  
 People *Christ, have mercy.*  
 Celebrant Christ who suffered great pain, be a strength to the weak.  
 People *Christ, have mercy.*  
 Celebrant Christ who died for us all, grant us your salvation.  
 People *Lord, have mercy.*  
 Celebrant Christ crucified, done to death and buried, give us hope.  
 People *Lord, have mercy.*  
 Celebrant Christ who descended into hell, raise us to glory.

People *Lord, have mercy.*  
Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins;  
People *His mercy endures for ever.*

David Adam, *The Rhythm of Life* and *BCP*

### **Hymn #6 Easter (Creation)**

*Celebrant* The Lord of creation be with you.  
*People* *And also with you.*  
*Celebrant* In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.  
And God said, "Let there be light!"  
*People* *Let the light and the dark bless you, O Lord,*  
*for you are the God of all creation.*  
*Celebrant* The winds of new beginnings stirred  
and the deep and everlasting waters flowed.  
*People* *Let the winds and the waters bless you, O Lord,*  
*for you are the God of all creation.*  
*Celebrant* God created the earth and the earth grew green,  
Green with trees and fields and valleys.  
*People* *Let the mountains and hills, the fields and the valleys*  
*all join to bless you, O Lord,*  
*for you are the God of all creation.*  
*Celebrant* The great light ruled the day and the gentle light ruled the night  
and they guided the seasons and marked the days and years.  
*People* *Let the sun and moon praise you, O Lord,*  
*for you are the God of all creation.*  
*Celebrant* The waters brought forth living creatures  
and the creatures filled the seas, roamed the earth, and rose up to the sky.  
*People* *Let the birds and the fish, the dogs and cats,*  
*the cows and ostriches and giraffes all praise and bless you, O Lord,*  
*for you are the God of all creation.*  
*Celebrant* God formed humans in his own likeness,  
and so we carry your life within us, O Lord.  
*People* *Let the people all praise you,*  
*and let everything that can sing bless your Name, O Lord,*  
*for you are the God of all creation.*

Adapted from J. Philip Newell, *Celtic Treasure*

### **Hymn of Praise #7 – Christmas**

*Celebrant* Let us give glory and praise to God.

*Celebrant* Glory, glory, glory!  
*People* *For your child born among us, O God.*

*Celebrant* A promised birth, conceived and awaited in love,  
*People* *Heaven's son come among us, sent to redeem the earth.*

*Celebrant* Glory, glory, glory!  
*People* *Stars of the open sky, sun that shines and moon that glows,*  
*Celebrant* All glimmer with gladness at this birth.

People            *The whole earth's radiance shines forth to welcome the Savior.*  
Celebrant        *Glory, glory, glory!*  
People            *To God born to us, God born among us, God born within us. Amen.*

**Collect for the Day – from the BCP**

**Lessons, Gospel and Sermon** (I like doing the Magnificat <BCP, p.91> instead of the psalm during Advent and the Third Song of Isaiah <BCP, p.87> for Epiphany – Arise, shine, for your light has come)

**Creeds**

**Creed #1        Nicene Creed**

*Book of Common Prayer*

**Creed #2        Affirmation of Faith**

You, O God, are supreme and holy. You create our world and give us life.

Your purpose overarches everything we do. You have always been with us.  
You are God.

You, O God, are infinitely generous, good beyond all measure.

You came to us before we came to you. You have revealed and proved your love for us in Jesus Christ, who lived and died and rose again. You are with us now.  
You are God.

You, O God, are Holy Spirit. You empower us to be your gospel in the world.

You reconcile and heal; you overcome death. You are our God. We worship you.

*A New Zealand Prayer Book*

**Creed #3        Tirechan's Creed**

Our God is the God of all humans, the God of heaven and earth, the God of sea and rivers,  
the God of sun and moon, the God of all heavenly bodies,  
the God of the lofty mountains, the God of the lowly valleys.

God is above the heavens; and he is beneath the heavens,

Heaven and earth and sea, and everything that is in them, such he has as his abode.

He inspires all things, he gives life to all things, he stands above all things, he stands beneath all things.

He enlightens the light of the sun, he strengthens the light of the night and the stars,

he makes wells in the arid land and dry islands in the sea,  
and he places the stars in the service of the greater lights.

He has a Son who is co-eternal with himself; and similar in all respects to himself;

and neither is the Son younger than the Father, nor is the Father older than the Son;  
and the Holy Spirit breathes in them.

And the Father and the Son and Holy Spirit are inseparable. Amen.

*The Patrician Texts from the Book of Armach AD 670 (Ludwig Bieler) in A Celtic Primer*

**Creed #4        A Celtic Creed**

We believe in God above us, maker and sustainer of all life,  
of sun and moon, of water and earth, of male and female.

We believe in God beside us, Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh,  
 born of a woman, servant of the poor, tortured and nailed to a tree.  
 A man of sorrows, he died forsaken.  
 He descended into the earth to the place of death.  
 On the third day he rose from the tomb.  
 He ascended into heaven, to be everywhere present,  
 and his kingdom will come on earth.

We believe in God within us, the Holy Spirit of pentecostal fire,  
 life-giving breath of the Church, Spirit of healing and forgiveness,  
 source of resurrection and of eternal life. Amen.

Brother John-Anthony of Our Lady of the Rock Hermitage

**Intercessory Prayers**

**Prayer #1**

*Celebrant* We pray now for the needs of the church, the world and all those in need, knowing that God is able to bring light to any darkness, and to transfigure any circumstance into a moment for blessing.  
 Let us pray.

*Intercessor* Gracious God, empower the church throughout the world in its life and witness. Break down the barriers that divide, so that united in your truth and love, the church may confess your name, share one baptism, sit at one table, and serve you with one accord.

*People* *Light of the world, be known to us.*

*Intercessor* Guide the rulers of the nations. Move them to set aside their fear, greed and vain ambition. Incite them to strive for justice and peace, so that all your children may be free.

*People* *Light of the world, be known to us.*

*Intercessor* Hear the cries of those who are hungry, homeless, and suffering, those near and those far. Give those of us who consume most of the earth's resources the will to reorder our lives, so that all may have their rightful share of food, care, shelter, and fullness of life.

*People* *Light of the world, be known to us.*

*Intercessor* Look with compassion on all who suffer illness and distress, especially those we name now. <Pause>  
 Support them with your love and lead us to be healers to all we encounter, in the name of Christ.

*People* *Light of the world, be known to us.*

*Intercessor* With thanksgiving, we remember those saints who bore witness to your light. Allow us to persevere in faith, mercy, and love and at the end of our lives to behold your glory.

*People* *Light of the world, be known to us.*

*Celebrant* O God, in your loving purpose, answer our prayers for your creation. By your grace, grant us the will and the wisdom to make this world new and all for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. *Amen.*

Anglican Church of Canada

**Prayer #2**

*Celebrant* As the people of God, we are called to love one another because love is from God. Let us now express that love by praying for the concerns of all.  
 Let us pray.

*Intercessor* God of justice and peace, you stand with those who are poor,

People You ask us to be the voice of the voiceless. <Silence>  
 Intercessor We call upon you for those who are suffering the injustice  
 of war and greed,  
 People From the depths of our very being we cry to you. <Silence.>  
 Intercessor Compassionate God, we call upon you to comfort those who suffer pain and fear,  
 People May your love surround and heal them. <Silence.>  
 Intercessor Creator God, you know what we need, without our words.  
 People Hear our prayer and also hear our silence. <Silence.>  
 Intercessor Grant us those things we cannot or dare not voice.  
 We make these prayers through our brother Jesus. *Amen.*  
 Adapted from the Oxford Women's Liturgy in *The New Women Included*

### Prayer #3

Celebrant Let us now express our gratitude and our love by remembering the concerns of all. Let us  
 pray.  
 Intercessor We give thanks, O God, for every blessing in life, for the gifts of the past,  
 People *For family and friends, for moments of happiness and generosity.*  
 Intercessor And as we remember these with gratitude, we pray for people everywhere who are in the  
 midst of trials, who are experiencing loss, illness, danger or despair,  
 People *For those who are troubled, frightened, suffering or grieving.*  
 Intercessor Compassionate God, we call upon you to comfort them and we ask you to send your  
 Holy Spirit into their midst.  
 People *May your love surround and heal them.*  
 Intercessor Creator God, you know what we need, without our words.  
 People *Hear our prayer and also hear our silence.*  
 <A PERIOD OF SILENCE IS KEPT.>  
 Intercessor Grant us those things we cannot or dare not voice; in the name of your Son Jesus Christ  
 our Lord.  
 People *Amen.*  
 <THE CELEBRANT ADDS A CONCLUDING PRAYER.>

Adapted from J. Philip Newell, *An Earthful of Glory*

### Prayer #4 Easter

Celebrant Let us pray.  
 Intercessor Blessed are you, O God, for the silence at the heart of creation from which sounds of joy  
 and gladness come forth;  
 People For the songs of the birds, the laughter of children and the words of human love.  
 Intercessor As we give thanks for the gift of life and for the sounds that signal its goodness, we pray  
 for those places within our world and within our lives where joy and gladness are not  
 heard;  
 People For cities in ruins and war-torn people and nations; for those held captive physically or  
 emotionally;  
 Intercessor For those who are weary or weakened by troubles  
 People And those who are dying and frightened;  
 Intercessor For *all* people, for our loved ones and ourselves,  
 People We pray, asking that we may know your stillness within us, O God, and that our lives  
 may give voice to joy and gladness.

### Prayer #5 Lent

Intercessor Please join me in offering your prayers of thanksgiving and intercession. Blessed are you, O God, for you have filled the temple of creation with the glory of life that glows.

People *We give thanks to you.*

Intercessor We bless you for the light of the sun and the moon and the stars, for the whiteness of mountain snow and the glistening of waters.

People *We give thanks to you.*

Intercessor We give thanks for the goodness that grows from the ground, and from which health and wholeness come.

People *We give thanks to you.*

Intercessor In remembering with thanks the times and places of plenty and well-being in our lives, we stand also in prayer with those who are denied these things, and ask that they not be forsaken in their time of trouble.

People *Do not forsake us, O Lord.*

Intercessor Let the cry of the poor be heard, O God, in heaven and on earth; let the hungry be fed, and the oppressed be set free.

People *Do not forsake us, O Lord.*

Intercessor Let those in our community who are sick or suffering know healing in body and soul. <A silence – during which worshipers may add their own prayers silently or aloud.> O God of all peace,

People *Do not forsake us, O Lord.*

Intercessor Let nations at war cease their strife, neighbors in conflict stop their arguments, and loved ones find peace at home.

People *Do not forsake us, O Lord, but grant us your peace.*

Adapted from J. Philip Newell, *An Earthful of Glory*

### Prayer #6

*Intercessor* Heavenly Father, you have promised to hear when we pray in the name of your Son. Therefore, in confidence and trust we pray for the Church.  
*(Particular intercessions/thanksgivings are offered.)*

*All* Father, enliven the Church for its mission  
*that we may be salt of the earth and light to the world.*

*Intercessor* Breathe fresh life into your people.  
*All* *Give us power to reveal Christ in word and action.*

*Intercessor* We pray for the world.  
*(Particular intercessions/thanksgivings are offered.)*  
Creator of all, lead us and every people into ways of justice and peace

*All*                    *that we may respect one another in freedom and truth.*

*Intercessor*        *Awaken in us a sense of wonder for the earth and all that is in it.*  
*All*                    *Teach us to care creatively for its resources.*

*Intercessor*        *We pray for the community.*  
*(Particular intercessions/thanksgivings are offered.)*  
*God of truth, inspire with your wisdom those whose decisions affect the lives of others*  
*All*                    *that all may act with integrity and courage.*

*Intercessor*        *Give grace to all whose lives are linked with ours.*  
*All*                    *May we serve Christ in one another, and love as he loves us.*

*Intercessor*        *We pray for those in need.*  
*(Particular intercessions/thanksgivings are offered.)*  
*God of hope, comfort and restore all who suffer in body, mind or spirit.*  
*All*                    *May they know the power of your healing love.*

*Intercessor*        *Make us willing agents of your compassion.*  
*All*                    *Strengthen us as we share in making people whole.*

*Intercessor*        *We remember those who have died and those who mourn.*  
*(Particular intercessions/thanksgivings are offered.)*  
*We remember with thanksgiving those who have died in the faith of Christ, and those*  
*whose faith is known to you alone.*  
*All*                    *Father, into your hands we commend them.*

*Intercessor*        *Give comfort to those who mourn.*  
*All*                    *Bring them peace in their time of loss.*

*Intercessor*        *We praise you for all your saints who have entered your eternal glory.*  
*All*                    *May their example inspire and encourage us.*

*Intercessor*        *We pray for ourselves and our ministries.*  
*(Particular intercessions/thanksgivings are offered.)*  
*Lord, you have called us to serve you.*  
*All*                    *Grant that we may walk in your presence:*  
                          *your love in our hearts, your truth in our minds,*  
                          *your strength in our wills,*  
*until, at the end of our journey,*  
                          *we know the joy of our homecoming*  
                          *and the welcome of your embrace,*  
                          *through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

*A New Zealand Prayer Book*

**Prayer #7 Advent**

*Celebrant*        *With prayers for a world waiting in hope,*  
                          *let us turn to the Lord, and we shall be saved.*  
*Intercessor*        *For the Church, still waiting for unity,*

still hoping for renewal. <PAUSE FOR PEOPLE TO ADD PRAYERS>

May all the faithful be blessed by the sound of the Gospel  
proclaimed to the ends of the earth.

*People*  
Intercessor *Come, Lord Jesus, hear our prayer.*  
For all nations, still waiting for peace,  
still hoping for an end to war  
still searching for common ground. <PAUSE>

May all peoples be blessed by the sound of understanding  
between clans and tribes, rulers and races.

*People*  
Intercessor *Come, Lord Jesus, hear our prayer.*  
For those who have lost hope,  
still waiting for a job,  
still hoping for a cure,  
still searching for a place to call home. <PAUSE>

May those without joy this season be blessed  
by the sound of God's promise for them fulfilled.

*People*  
Intercessor *Come, Lord Jesus, hear our prayer.*  
For travelers and visitors, families and friends,  
still waiting for welcome,  
still hoping for reconciliation,  
still searching for a way to mend what has been broken. <PAUSE>

May everyone we encounter this season be blessed  
by greetings of peace, compassion, and hospitality.

*People*  
Intercessor *Come, Lord Jesus, hear our prayer.*  
For the sick and the dying and those who care for them,  
still waiting for results, still hoping for a miracle,  
still searching for courage and comfort,  
including those we now name. <PAUSE>

May all the sick be blessed by the sound of God's healing word  
and the strength of our prayers.

*People*  
Intercessor *Come, Lord Jesus, hear our prayer.*  
For the dead, loved ones whom we miss this season,  
forgotten ones who died alone,  
innocent ones caught in the crossfire of violence,  
including those we now name. <PAUSE>

May all who have died be blessed  
by the sound of God welcoming them home.

*People*  
Celebrant *Come, Lord Jesus, hear our prayer.*  
You are near to us, Lord,  
as close to us as the child in the womb of her mother.  
And yet we wait in expectant hope for your coming.  
Attune our ears to hear your voice in all those we meet,  
and open our eyes to see your abiding presence in our world. Hear our prayers and make  
us turn to you  
that we may leap for joy at the sound of your saving Word,  
Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us, for ever and ever. Amen.

Roman Catholic Diocese of San Jose

## Prayer #8

- Celebrant We pray now for the needs of the church, the world and all those in need, knowing that God is able to bring light to any darkness, and to transfigure any circumstance into a moment for blessing.  
Let us pray.
- Intercessor Almighty God, Creator of all things, Maker of all people, grant that we may find a spirit of unity in you,  
*People that we may all be joined together in a bond of peace,*
- Intercessor May we also in unity share, with justice, the rich resources of the world,  
*People that no one may suffer hunger, need or oppression.*
- Intercessor Give us courage and compassion to offer shelter to the homeless, clothing to the naked and comfort to all the sick,  
*People that through our hands your love may be known to the world.*
- Intercessor Give rest to all who have died, and solace to those who mourn;  
*People May your healing love surround them.*

## Prayer #9 – Christmas

- Intercessor Christ, heralded by the angels, open our eyes to your presence.  
*People Graciously hear us, Lord.*
- Intercessor Christ, born of the blessed Virgin, teach us obedience to your Word.  
*People Graciously hear us, Lord.*
- Intercessor Christ, born in a stable, give hope to the homeless.  
*People Graciously hear us, Lord.*
- Intercessor Christ, visited by the shepherds, strengthen all who work on the land.  
*People Graciously hear us, Lord.*
- Intercessor Christ, adored by wise ones, guide all rulers and governments.  
*People Graciously hear us, Lord.*
- Intercessor Christ, exiled in Egypt, give comfort to all refugees.  
*People Graciously hear us, Lord.*
- Intercessor We pray for our own needs and for those of others.  
<HERE THE PEOPLE MAY ADD THEIR OWN PRAYERS EITHER SILENTLY OR ALOUD.>
- Celebrant Gracious God, you have revealed your love by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ into our world. Help us to welcome him with joy, and to make room for him in our lives and homes, that we may abide in him and he in us; through the same Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, O God, and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.  
*People Amen.*

David Adam, *The Rhythm of Life*

## The Peace

- Celebrant God makes peace within us  
People Let us claim it.  
Celebrant God makes peace between us.  
People Let us share it. <The people exchange the peace with one another.>

*The New Women Included*

## Confessions

### Confession #1

Celebrant Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these."  
Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All *O God of life, eternity cannot hold you, nor can our little words catch the magnificence of your kindness. Yet in the space of our small hearts and in silence you can come close and repair us.*

Celebrant O God of life, grant us your forgiveness  
People *For our careless thoughts, for our thoughtless deeds, for our empty speech and the words with which we have wounded.*

Celebrant O God of life, grant us your forgiveness  
People *For our false desires, for our hateful actions, for our wastefulness and for all we have left untended.*

Celebrant O loving Christ, hanged on a tree yet risen in the morning, scatter the sin from our souls as the mist from the hills; begin what we do, inform what we say, redeem who we are.  
All *In you we place our hope, our great hope, our living hope, this day and evermore. Amen.*

*Wee Worship Book*

### Confession #2

Celebrant From the fragmented world of our everyday lives, we gather together in search of wholeness. Our sin separates us from God and from one another. Let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor.  
People *Heavenly Father, we have sinned in thought, word and deed, and have failed to do what we ought to have done. We are sorry and truly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ who died for us, forgive us all that is past and lead us in his way to walk as children of light. Amen.*

Celebrant Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy on you and set you free from sin, strengthen you in goodness and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*A New Zealand Prayer Book*

### Confession #3

Between me and each evil deed, come, Lord Jesus.  
Between me and each sinful act, come, Lord Jesus.  
Between me and each wicked thought, come, Lord Jesus.  
Between me and each wrong desire, come, Lord Jesus.  
The Cross between me and all ill,  
The Cross to foil the devil's skill,  
The Cross between me and all harm,  
The Cross to foil all evil's charm.

David Adam, *The Edge of Glory*

## Eucharistic Prayers

All may begin with:

Celebrant The God of Love [Holy One] [God of peace] [Lord] be with you  
People And also with you

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.  
*People* *We lift them to the Lord.*  
*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
*People* *It is right to give God thanks and praise.*

Celebrant All things are yours, O God of all creation,  
People ***And so we return our gifts [of treasure] to you.***  
*Celebrant* Blessed are you, O God of all creation, through whose goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made;  
*People* *May it become for us the bread of life.*  
*Celebrant* Blessed are you, O God of all creation, through whose goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands;  
*People* *May it become for us the cup of blessing.*  
*Celebrant* Receive these gifts, dear God and accept in them the sacrifice of ourselves.  
*People* *In life and in death may we be an offering to you for ever.*

J. Phillip Newell, *An Earthful of Glory*

### **EP#1** Lent

Celebrant Great Creator Spirit, from whom all life comes forth,  
here we gather again with bread and with wine,  
seeking your presence, longing once more to be nourished,  
hungering for wholeness in our lives,  
for unity on earth and for peace among the nations.  
People *Here we gather with bread and with wine  
but with more than bread and wine.*

Celebrant Here we gather with creation's elements all around us.  
With earth, air, fire, and water still expanding through the universe,  
with the glory of the sun, the whiteness of the moon,  
the glittering of heaven's lights off flowing waters.  
People *Here we gather with bread and with wine  
but with more than bread and wine.*

Celebrant Here we gather with the firm fecundity of the earth,  
the growing and greening of trees, creatures of the day and night,  
birds of the air, all full of your glory,  
all bearers of your presence, all part of the great harmony  
that we long to touch and taste and become one with again.  
People *Here we gather with bread and with wine  
but with more than bread and wine.*

Celebrant So with everything that we see and sense around us

with visible and invisible energies that pulse with life,  
we join our souls in the song that vibrates  
throughout the whole of creation,  
Holy, holy, holy God, your presence fills all things.

*Sanctus*

Celebrant Blessed are you, O God, and blessed are your messengers and prophets who have proclaimed good news to the poor and liberty to captives. Blessed is your servant Mary and the holy child of her womb, born to make known your mysteries, to seek out and to save what is lost in life, and to heal and bring wholeness by the forgiveness of sins. Blessed is he who in life and in death revealed your glory, who was betrayed and rejected, abused and killed, but who rose at the third day's dawn and awakens in us the hope that all powers of evil will fall and the earth will be saved from its enemies.

Jesus had taught his disciples that to find life was first to lose it and had spoken of the suffering that would be his. On the night when he was betrayed, Jesus took bread, and having blessed it, he broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he took wine and having given thanks for it, he poured it out, and gave the cup to his disciples, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

All *Remembering his eternal self-giving, we proclaim the mystery of Christ among us. Made one with him, and one with each other, we offer these gifts and with them ourselves, a single, holy living sacrifice.*

Celebrant Come upon us with your Holy Spirit, O God, and upon this bread and this wine, that we may be renewed once again, and that as the whole of life is made new, we may find your peace within and around us. We ask this in the Name of God who creates us, who redeems us, and who sustains us. *Amen.*

J. Philip Newell, *A Mass for Peace*

**EP #2** Easter – creation ( or Pentecost with [] changes)

*Celebrant* We offer you praise and hearts lifted high, O God, [by whose word the heavens were formed and the earth was brought forth from the waters] [you breathed into us your Spirit and by the blowing of the gentle breeze you remind us of that Spirit]. The reflection of your glory [shines][breathes] in each created thing, and though earth's flowering fades, you plant within us imperishable seeds for our salvation and call life out of death into the [light][breath] that endures forever. And so with heaven and earth's host of light,[with the wind that howls and the gentle breeze that soothes] with the sainted women and men of every nation, and with those who now live in the spirit as you are Spirit, we join in the song of your unending greatness.

*Sanctus*

*Celebrant* Blessed are you, O God, for the great day of salvation prepared from the beginning of the world, when Christ, though rejected on earth, will be seen by all to be chosen and precious in your sight. We bless you for Christ who carried in his body to the tree sin's destructive powers that we and all people might be set free. Through Christ you inspire the hope in us that earth's forces of darkness will be scattered and angels of glory and principalities of light will bring a new heaven and a new earth.

Just as prophets long before Christ had spoken of the sufferings that would be his, so Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and having blessed it, he broke the bread, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take, eat; this is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he took wine and having given

thanks for it, he poured it out, and gave the cup to his disciples, saying: “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

*People*                    *Remembering his eternal self-giving, we proclaim the mystery of Christ among us. Made one with him and thus one with each other, we offer these gifts and with them ourselves, a single, holy living sacrifice.*

*Celebrant*                Bless us with your Holy Spirit, O God, and this bread and wine, that through them we may be made strong again with the strength that only you supply. May our inner selves be nourished that in the outward things of life we may follow the way of Christ and grow more and more into salvation; through Christ, by whom, with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty God, world without end. Amen.

J. Philip Newell *An Earthful of Glory*

### EP #3 Epiphany

*Celebrant*                We offer you praise and hearts lifted high, O God, who as the Father of Light, has given light and life to all that is. Your light enlightens every person coming into the world, offering us always hope for new life. And so with the whole realm of nature around us, with earth, sea, and sky, with the light of sun and stars, with angels of light who envelop us, with saints of heaven and of earth, we join in the song of your unending greatness.

*Sanctus*

*Celebrant*                Holy in the heights of heaven, holy in the depths of earth, O God, your glory knows no bounds, and your love is without end. The Word that was in the beginning, and through whom all things were made, you sent to dwell among us, full of grace and truth, that believing in him we may have springs of life within. We bless you that in love for the world, your Son laid down his life and overcame death’s powers to be our hope of life everlasting; that in love he poured out his Spirit to lead us through encircling darknesses into all truth; and that in love he returned to the Source of Light to draw the earth and all its people to himself.

To the very end Jesus loved those whom he had been given, and prayed that his love might be in them. On the night when he was betrayed, Jesus took bread, and having blessed it, he broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take, eat, this is my body which is broken for you. This do in remembrance of me.” In the same way he took wine and having given thanks for it, he poured it out, and gave the cup to his disciples, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. This do as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

*All*                         *Remembering his eternal self-giving, we proclaim the mystery of Christ among us. Made one with him, and one with each other, we offer these gifts and with them ourselves, a single, holy living sacrifice.*

*Celebrant*                Hear us now, O Christ, and breathe your Spirit upon us, and upon this bread and this wine, that they may be heaven’s food and drink for us, for you are the living bread that comes down from heaven to give life to the world; you are the true vine without whom we can do nothing and by whom, with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty God, world without end. Amen.

J. Philip Newell, *An Earthful of Glory*

#### EP #4 Advent – sound

Celebrant We offer you praise and hearts lifted high, O God, who is Father of all life and of all sound. Though our days vanish like mist, the form and shape of things disappear like flowers in a field, and the sounds of the earth fade away in the distance, still your Spirit is within all life and every human soul is born in your likeness.

And so the whole created order, with the stars of the open skies and all that glistens with life's glory, with the wind that howls and the gentle breeze that soothes, with the roaring of the waves and the gurgle of the brook, with heaven's messengers of light and with saints before and beside us, we join in the song of your unending greatness.

#### *Sanctus*

Blessed are you, O God, whose wisdom from above has inspired men and women through the ages to fulfill on earth your purposes, to hear the cry of the poor, to act with mercy and to live together in gentleness and peace. We bless you for the coming of Christ, who in life and in death embodied the law of love, and whose rising again and gift of the Holy Spirit has implanted among us the hope that saves the soul from death and guides us in the conflict with evil that rages around and within us.

It was in following the way of God's liberty that Jesus chose to offer his life in love. On the night he was betrayed, Jesus took bread, and having blessed it, he broke the bread, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my body which is broken for you. This do in remembrance of me." In the same way he took wine and having given thanks for it, he poured it out, and gave the cup to his disciples, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. This do as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

People *Remembering his eternal self-giving, we proclaim the mystery of Christ among us. Made one with him, and one with each other, we offer these gifts and with them ourselves, a single, holy living sacrifice.*

Celebrant O God, whose generosity is unbounded and who wills that we should lack no good thing, bless this bread and this wine with your Holy Spirit that in receiving them into ourselves we may be made whole again, strengthened not merely to hear the truth, but to do it, and be blessed in our doing. Through Christ, by whom, with whom and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty God, world without end. *Amen.*

Adapted from J. Philip Newell, *An Earthful of Glory*

#### EP #5

Celebrant Great Creator Spirit, from whom all life comes forth, here we gather again with bread and with wine, seeking your presence, longing once more to be nourished,

People *We hunger for wholeness in our lives, for unity on earth and for peace among the nations. And we know that only in your love can such peace and unity be found. And so with all that we are and all that we can give, we join with all of creation as we sing your praises:*

#### *Sanctus*

Celebrant       The earth is full of your glory, O Lord and for the earth we give you thanks and ask your blessing. We now also ask you to bless this offering of bread and wine, to accept it fully, to make it perfect and worthy, that it may become for us the Bread of Life and the Cup of Blessing. We remember Jesus, who on the night before he suffered, took bread and, lifting it up and giving thanks to you, he blessed it, broke it and gave it to his friends, saying: "Take and eat this, for this is my body which is given for you." Then he took the cup, blessed the wine and gave it to them, saying: "Take and drink this, for this cup is my blood, which shall be shed for the forgiveness of all. Whenever you do these things, you shall remember me."

And so, Lord, in memory of Jesus, we your children offer to you these gifts. We call on your Holy Spirit now to bless them – the holy bread of life and the cup of eternal blessing – and to make them worthy to please you. Accept with them the sacrifice of our hearts that all who share in this bread and this cup may be blessed in your love. We pray this in the name of Jesus, your Son. Amen.

#### **EP#6 – The Gelasian**

Most merciful Father, we humbly pray and implore you, through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord, to be pleased to receive and bless + these gifts, these holy unblemished offerings.

We offer them to you in the first place for your holy Church throughout the whole world. Be pleased to keep her in peace, to watch over her, and to gather her in unity and to guide her, and also for [N] your servant our bishop, and all the bishops and all right believing teachers of the Catholic apostolic faith.

Remember, Lord, your servants and handmaids [N and N] and all here present whose faith and devotion are known to you. We offer for them, or they themselves offer, this sacrifice of praise for themselves and all their own, for the redeeming of their souls, for their hope of safety and salvation; and they now send up their prayers to you, the eternal, living and true God.

Being in fellowship we reverently bring to mind, firstly the glorious Mary, ever virgin, Mother of our God and Lord Jesus Christ, and then your blessed apostles and martyrs; Peter and Paul, Andrew, James, Bartholomew, Matthew, Simon and Jude, David, Ninian and Patrick, Columba, Teilo, Brigid, Deiniol and Samson, Asaph, Illtud, Dyfrig, Petroc, Padarn and all your saints: grant by their merits and prayers that at all times we may be defended and helped by your protection. Through the same Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Be pleased, O God, to bless + this offering, to accept it fully, to make it perfect and worthy to please you, so that it may become for us the Body and Blood of your dearly beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

*Who, the day before he suffered, took bread into his holy and venerable hands, and with his eyes lifted up to heaven, to you, God, his almighty Father, giving thanks to you, he blessed, broke and gave it to his disciples saying: Take and eat you all of this, for this is my body.*

*In like manner, after he had supped, taking also this chalice into his holy and venerable hands, again giving thanks to you, he blessed and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and drink you all of this for this is the chalice of my blood, of the new and eternal testament: the mystery of faith: which shall be shed for you and for many for the remission of sins. As often as you shall do these things, you shall do them in memory of me.*

Wherefore, Lord, in memory of the blessed passion of the same Christ, your Son, our Lord, of his resurrection from the dead and of his ascension to heavenly glory, we your servants and with all your holy

people offer to your sovereign majesty, from among your gifts bestowed upon us, a victim perfect, holy and spotless, the holy bread of everlasting life and the chalice of everlasting salvation.

Be pleased to look upon these offerings with a favourable and gracious countenance; accept them as you were pleased to accept the offerings of your servant Abel the righteous, the sacrifice of our father Abraham, and that of Melchisedech, your high priest, a holy sacrifice, a spotless victim.

We humbly implore you, almighty God, that these offerings be carried by the hands of your holy angel to your altar on high, in the sight of your divine majesty, that all who are partakers at the altar of the precious Body and Blood of your Son may be filled with all heavenly grace and blessing. Through the same Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Adapted from the *Stowe Missal* (in *A Celtic Primer*)

**Fraction Acclamations** (all may be said by priest or responsively by priest and congregation)

**Fraction #1** Wise and gracious God, you spread a table before us;  
nourish your people with the word of life and the bread of heaven  
Church of England, *Common Worship*

**Fraction #2** Broken bread, poured out wine, signs of Christ's self-giving;  
Broken bread, poured out wine, food for the human soul;  
Broken bread, poured out wine, sacrifice for the world's peace.  
Adapted from J. Philip Newell, *A Mass for Peace*

**Fraction #3** The Bread of heaven is broken for the life of the world.  
J. Philip Newell, *An Earthful of Glory*

**Fraction #4 – Advent**  
He who was with God in the beginning is with us in this bread.  
He of whom the prophets spoke now speaks to us in this cup.  
*Wee Worship Book*

**Fraction #5 – Lent**  
He who has suffered for our injustices is now present in this bread.  
He whose body was hung on a cross is now offered to us in this cup.  
*Wee Worship Book*

**Fraction #6**  
Bread of life, nourish our souls  
Light of the world, shine in our hearts.

**Postcommunion prayers**

**PCPrayer #1**

We give you thanks, O God, for calling us together [this evening] and for sustaining us with this holy meal. This place is sacred, this time is sacred, and in this place and this time we have shared a mystery. May we in every place and time recognize the sacredness of life and may we accept the mystery as we accept your love – with joyful faith and eternal hope. In Christ's name. Amen.

**PCPrayer #2**

In gratitude, in deep gratitude for this moment, this meal, these people, we give ourselves to you. Take us out to live as changed people because we have shared the Living Bread and cannot remain the same. Ask much of us, expect much from us, enable much by us, encourage many through us. So Lord, may we live to your glory, both as inhabitants of earth and citizens of the commonwealth of heaven. Amen.

*Wee Worship Book*

### **PCPrayer #3**

O God, who has bestowed earth's gifts on all people, free us from setting closed boundaries on our giving and receiving. Like the blessed bread and wine of this table freely offered and equally shared, so may our lives be generously offered in service to you. And as we seek you in your creation each day, grant us perseverance like those who sow seeds in the ground and wait patiently through sun and through rain. So may we wait for the fullness of your coming in all things, O God. Amen.

J. Philip Newell, *An Earthful of Glory*

### **PCPrayer #4 – Pentecost**

O God, you have lovingly called us to be your people and have given us this bread and wine as a reminder of your love, help us to feel the flame of your love rekindled in our hearts by this holy meal and to follow the light that leads us home to you; in the name of God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier. Amen.

### **PC #5 – All Saints/Baptism**

O God, you have lovingly called us to be your people and have given us this bread and wine as a reminder of your love, cleanse us with your Holy Spirit as gentle and pure as the cool spring water, that renewed by this holy meal, we may go forth into the world to serve your people; in the name of God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier. Amen.

### **PC #6 – Advent**

O God, you have lovingly called us to be your people and have given us this bread and wine as a reminder of your love, help us to listen for your presence in silence and in sound – the voices of your people, the noises of your animals, the music of creation – that reconnected with you through this holy meal, we may hear the voice which calls us home to you, our Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier. Amen.

### **Lights-out Prayer**

Celebrant	Lord of all light, as we go forth into the world, we extinguish the lights that here represent the presence of the Holy in our midst,
People	But we will carry the light in our hearts, and we pray that as we go about our work in the world, we will shine with the love of God. Amen.

### **Blessing**

