

# Lent to Pentecost

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## An opening prayer

Lord God, your commitment to us is clear:  
We see it in the life of Jesus.  
Your commitment to us is complete:  
We see it in the crucifixion of Jesus.

Our commitment to you is often mixed:  
What do we want for ourselves?  
What shall we give to you?  
With what measure of love shall we serve you?

Help us now, in this time of Lent,  
to walk with Jesus on his Calvary journey,  
that our commitment may be clear  
and our love complete.

Duncan Tuck

## Hold us tight Lord

Take us Lord, to the end of the road.  
Take us Lord, to the cross.  
Lead us Lord, to the centre of our being.  
Lead us Lord, where things fall apart  
where people are denied life.

Hold us tight Lord, as we cross



*All*    **So set a table in our hearts,  
          and call it acceptance.  
Spread a cloth  
          and call it forgiveness.  
Come and sit with us, Lord,  
          where we are,  
          as you always do.  
Amen.**

### ***A prayer after Communion***

Bread is broken,  
          and his love revealed,  
Wine is poured,  
          and the promise sealed.  
Hands reach out,  
          and lives are filled,  
Hope is born  
          and conflict stilled.  
Christ who entered sin and death  
          is now our life, our very breath.

Duncan Wilson

### **Eucharistic prayer for Lent**

*All*    Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal:  
          **Have mercy upon us.**

In the beginning your Spirit moved across waste and void  
and you formed a world of wonderful beauty out of nothing.  
You called forth life in many forms;  
you looked on all that you had made  
and saw that it was good.  
Yet we could not bear to live in harmony with your will.  
We spoiled the beauty of creation;  
we lost the peace you gave us,  
and still we pollute and we destroy.

*All*    Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal:  
          **Have mercy upon us.**

Out of this lawless world you called a people to be your light;  
you fed them in their wanderings and gave to them your Law.  
Many prophets called them to repentance;  
few were those who heard them  
and walked the paths of justice and of peace.

*All*    Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal:  
          **Have mercy upon us.**

Finally you sent your own beloved Son.  
His was a birth both poor and humble,



But faced with such devastation  
we reach out with Ezekiel  
to touch the eternal promise  
that you will make all things new.

*All*

**This is our faith**

Broken families, failed relationships,  
hard work come to nothing:  
– an endless variety of hard knocks  
do not prevent your grace  
from loving new life into being.

*All*

**This is our hope**

Out of the fragments of the past, dear Lord,  
build anew your temple within us  
and take the sobs and sighs of grief or regret  
and make of them the first breaths  
of our re-creation.

*All*

**This is our prayer,  
for you are the bringer of life.  
Amen.**



Gracious and patient God.  
it can be hard to bear rejection at any time  
but especially so  
when we are trying to give our best to others.  
Like your Servant,  
    we have sought to console the weary  
    with a timely word –  
and in a busy world,  
    to follow the Maker's instructions,  
    to sharpen our ears to your voice,  
and to shrug off life's knocks, if we can, with a smile.

Today we rejoice in the final journey  
of the Prince of hard knocks,  
the Servant King –  
    who bore so patiently  
    his fragile and short-lived popularity,  
    the unpredictability of his followers  
    and the lonely walk towards our salvation.  
Teach us, therefore, with him,  
to lift our eyes  
to that greater purpose  
you cherish for all humanity  
compared to which  
all present discomfort with our fractious world  
fades

Enter our world  
of strutting armies and commercial empires  
and cure our addiction  
to worldly notions of power and glory.

*All* **Come,  
cry over our cities,  
the endless trail of refugees,**







Praise be to God  
that you have not changed Lord,  
on countless Good Fridays  
you let our sins nail you to cruel, unyielding crosses,  
your love unbreaking,  
powerful beyond our imagining  
in powerlessness.

And from your love flows forgiveness  
and new opportunity

Lord, we confess our sins,  
and we crave your forgiveness

Hear the words of Jesus:  
– Father, forgive them, they know not what they do.

David G Cornick

## **Good Friday 1**

### **Opening Scripture: Romans 4**

It was while we were still helpless that,  
at the appointed time,  
Christ died for us whilst we were sinners  
and that is proof of God's love towards us.

And so, since we have been made right  
by Christ flows

How many times, dear Lord,  
you must have wished for blessed solitude –  
from the daily demands of people hungry for hope,  
    anxious for healing or reassurance –  
    a crust, a touch, a word from God.  
And then the constant surveillance  
    of hostile eyes and ears  
    and the nagging drip  
    of disapproval.

What wouldn't you give, just now,  
for one friendly, familiar face or voice!

You expected it would come to this  
    and in the Garden it is finally settled.  
Among the olives  
    you have wrapped your love  
    around the fragments of humanity,  
    the discards and disasters,  
    and borne the gross weight  
    of history's damned, appalling record.

This is your cup.  
It will cost you everything.  
But we cannot ask it not to do.  
Our life is hidden in your death,  
our hope in your despair.  
In the very moment  
when you feel you are forsaken, poured out,  
generations are graced into life.

Duncan Wilson

## **Good Friday 2**

### **Opening Scripture: John 12 paraphrased**

Jesus said:  
in very truth I tell you,  
unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies,  
it remains a solitary seed and nothing more;  
but if it dies, it bears a rich harvest.

Whoever loves himself is lost,  
but he who disregards himself in this world  
will be kept safe for eternal life.  
If anyone would serve me, they must follow me;  
where I am is where my servant will be.

Now my soul is in turmoil and what am I to say?  
'Father save me from this hour?'  
No, it was for this very purpose that I came to this hour.

Now is the hour of judgement for this world;  
now shall the prince of this world be driven out.  
And when I am lifted up from the earth  
I shall draw everyone to myself.

This he said to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

## **2 Corinthians 5**

For anyone united to Christ,  
there is a new creation:  
the old order has gone,  
the new order has already begun.

God was in Christ  
reconciling the world to himself  
no longer holding our misdeeds against us.

Christ was innocent of sin, and yet God made him one  
with the sinfulness of humanity

so that in him  
we might be made one  
with the righteousness of God.

## **Prayers of approach**

1. We gather to worship, O God,

## **Good Friday – Evening**

**Scripture: Ephesians 1 and 2 paraphrased**

Blessed be the God and Father



### Lord my heart sings

Lord my heart sings,  
like the blackbird,  
feathered faunist,  
serenading the snowdrops,  
heralding the spring.

Lord my soul leaps  
like a hare,  
bounding across the fields.  
Bursting with energy,  
heralding the spring.

Lord my spirit soars,  
like a bird, high above,  
descending to gather twigs,  
build a nest,  
heralding the spring.

Lord my hearts sinks,  
plummeting into black despair,  
caught in a severe late frost,  
confronted with a sealed tomb,  
winter with no hope of spring.

Lord, bird song proclaims your victory,  
light floods the garden,  
revealing an empty grave,  
Christ is risen!  
My heart sings.

Risen Lord, you sprang forth,  
strode out,  
into all the world,  
meeting people on their own patch,  
my soul leaps.

Living Lord, we are uplifted!  
filled with joy and hope  
legacy of your costly victory,  
gaining direct access to God.  
My spirit soars.

Lord my heart sings,  
a glorious Easter anthem,  
proclaiming Christ is risen,  
happiness surges within me,  
Lord, I will never stop singing.

Y Mochyn Daear

## Easter morning

Wow!

Amazing.3 (r) 1Adr5A212.8 ()-1.6 (! )]Td 2.69.ib (o)-5.l (o)-1.6 1arAoo0.3.2.8 (i)3.3kooA-2







## Easter 3

### *The risen Christ in everyday life*

Can it be you, Lord?  
The way the sun,  
filtering through the leaves  
strikes the muddy pool  
and makes it gleam,  
as if it were clear and clean –  
    Can it be you, Lord, doing the same with me?

Can it be you, Lord?  
The flicker of recognition  
in a stranger's face  
that quickens to a smile  
as though finding

## **Easter 4**

**Reading: John 10:1-11**

**Prayer: Good Shepherd Jesus**

Good Shepherd Jesus,  
inwardly, we hunger and thirst  
but most of the time  
no-one suspects we do.  
Surrounded by people, even family,  
we can still feel isolated, undervalued, even unloved.  
We hunger for recognition, intimacy, assurance –  
we thirst for absent joy.

Can you, will you, nourish and refresh us,  
Good Shepherd Jesus?  
Can you, will you, love and cherish us?

We hunger also for peace and for truth.  
Our world sets before us a diet of deceptions,  
plying us with a thin gruel of empty attractions  
and unpalatable attitudes  
that neither fill nor feed our spir

nor our feed

## Prayers for other people

Lord Jesus Christ,  
who, in the image of the Good Shepherd  
revealed not only your love  
but also your responsibility for all humankind,  
we would be good shepherds too.

As we have received all creation as a gift from you  
and as you have made us brothers and sisters  
to one another,  
may we watch with you over those people  
who are least able to protect themselves.

Make us ready to challenge exploitation and abuse  
wherever we find it  
and to stand with those who feel powerless  
against commercial interest and political greed.

Make us sensitive also  
to those whose lives stand to be ruined  
by personal experiences of rejection or failure.

In our relationships with others help us to imitate  
your gentleness and mercy with us.

Amen.

Duncan Wilson

## Easter 5

### Opening Scripture: Psalm 31 paraphrased

In you, Lord, is our refuge;  
you do not expose us to shame  
but by your power you save us,  
you bend and hear us  
and hasten to our rescue:  
You lead and guide  
where evil will not ensnare us  
and, therefore, in you we put our trust  
and your face shines upon your servants  
with unfailing love.  
Amen.

### The Gospel: John 14:1-14 'Put your fears to rest'

We do worry, dear Lord,  
especially about fending for ourselves  
when the guidance and confidence  
of leaders we have come to depend upon,

## **Prayers for peace**

Lord Jesus,  
sometimes we feel that the world is falling apart.  
Perhaps every generation has thought the same.  
We see the breakdown of family ties,  
the gradual erosion of community,  
and poor people cast adrift  
by a world more wealthy than ever before.  
But your life and teaching strike a different note  
that calls for building each other up.

Help us find ways to do this.

Give us grace

to discover you in both friend and stranger,  
to accept other people with open hand and heart,  
to be ready to share whatever we have.

Help us to say and do

whatever will give people greater confidence in you  
and help them realise how much you care.

Help us make fast with bonds of peace

the unity which your Spirit gives.

Amen.

Duncan Wilson

### **Easter 6**

#### **Prayer**

As so often happens, dear Lord  
you come to us when least expected,  
when we are busy and preoccupied  
and least inclined to turn to you.

It makes us wonder  
at the depth of your thoughtfulness,  
your anticipation of our moods.

God of surprises,  
come near when least expected  
and make ordinary moments bright.

As to Peter and Thomas, and all their friends,  
so to us you come

Just when we are looking back at wasted effort,  
or facing the day empty handed,  
you turn disappointment into anticipation.  
Tired or discouraged,  
your companionship transforms us.  
God of surprises,  
show us how good can come

*All* Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!  
Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendour!  
Christ has conquered! Jesus Christ our King is risen!  
;`cfm`U`g`mc i`°8Uf\_bYgg`jUb]g\Yg`Zcf`YjYf°  
Rejoice, O Mother Church!  
The risen Saviour shines upon you!  
Let this place resound with joy,  
echoing the mighty song of all God's people!

Therefore with all your people in heaven and on earth  
we sing the triumphant hymn of your glory:

*All* Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest!



*All* **By his power sin is purged,  
innocence restored to the fallen,  
joy to the mourners;  
hatred is vanquished, tyranny laid low;  
harmony reigns, heaven and earth are united  
and humanity is reconciled with God.  
The Morning Star has risen, never again to set.**

His light is become our light; his Spirit is ours;  
may our lives shine with the radiance of his glory  
and this bread and wine lead us to the feasting of the Kingdom,  
where we shall be raised up to see him face to face,



Spirit of peace, you pour out your comfort into all who are in conflict,  
we pray for all those who are caught up in war, violence  
and estranged because of hostility.  
May your peace lead us towards reconciliation,  
so that all are living in unity.

*All* **Ubi Caritas**

Terry Oakley

## Peace-making Christ

Jesus said to them 'Peace be with you.'

Peace making Christ,  
our world is racked with violence and disquiet.  
The politics of terror and calculated response  
leave behind rivers of broken lives and tormented consciences.  
The pressures of living gather like storm clouds  
and sometimes they break and batter and bruise us,  
driving us to the very edge.

We come open-handed,  
eager for your gift of peace,  
ready to be enfolded in your Father's blessing,  
longing to see the universe from the perspective of your love  
and know in the depths of our souls  
that you are Lord  
and that all shall be well.  
And every manner of thing be well.

Lord, give us the gift of peace.

Jesus said to them, 'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.'

Commissioning Christ,  
uncertainty reigns.  
There is no centre any longer.  
People turn this way and that,  
seeking a fulfilment which always eludes them,  
their laughter tinged with sadness,  
their success haunted by hollowness.

The world needs your Word,  
for in it lies the Truth  
that all life is woven from your Father's love,  
and that meaning is to be found in returning to him  
and living lovingly.

So we pray for your Church,  
the bearers of your commission.  
We give thanks for this place  
where your word has been spoken and heard  
your comfort received and your challenge heeded.  
We ask that you will send us out again  
to be bearers of your love and heralds of your Word  
that the world may hear and rejoice.

Lord commission us anew.

'He breathed on them, and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit."

Pentecostal Christ,  
the task seems overwhelming,  
our resources so slender  
just as once it did in Jerusalem,  
the world hustling and bustling,  
speaking every language but yours.

Then the breath of your Spirit  
transformed weakness into strength,  
forging the world's hope from the crucible of despair,  
reversing Babel  
with good news which each heard in their own language.

Touch us with Pentecostal fire,  
breathe your Spirit into our lives.

David G Cornick

## **Transforming Spirit**

Gentle breath of God,  
whispering comfort to our ears,  
bringing messages of hope and healing,  
speaking truth and building confidence  
come and inspire us now.

Strong wind of God, blowing love through the nations of earth,  
challenging injustice and confronting violence  
stirring change and bringing liberation,  
come and move us now.

Hurricane of God,  
sweeping purposefully across the universe,  
overturning deceit and hate,  
removing hunger and poverty,  
eradicating inequality,  
come and change us now.

Terry Oakley

## Blessed be you Spirit of God

Blessed be you Spirit of God  
for you inspire us, you renew our life  
you restore our faith and revive our love.

Blessed be you Breath of God  
for you inspire us, you remove our selfishness  
you relieve our stuffiness and redeem our situation.

Blessed be you Wind of God  
for you inspire us, you redirect our priorities  
you recharge our enthusiasm and refill our hopes.

Blessed be you, Spirit of God,  
for you rouse, refresh, reinvigorate us.

Amen.

Terry Oakley ~~Diavvo~~ **Diavvo**

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When we are frightened, holding our breath,  
give us confidence to face our fears.  
When we are complacent, careless, apathetic,  
shake us up, challenge us to care.  
When we are selfish, greedy, hateful,  
lead us to remorse and repentance.

Here and now, we acknowledge our need for courage.  
Here and now, we ask to be awake to injustice.  
Here and now, we confess our sin  
and promise renewed commitment in love.  
Creative, forgiving, holy God forgive us  
and empower us with your Spirit.  
Amen.

Terry Oakley

### **Kairos:** Mark 13:33

Suddenly it arrived,  
like a violent wind.  
Rattling the windows.  
Tongues of fire resting on each.  
Words are inadequate  
to describe this momentous moment.

Spot on. Impeccable timing.  
Being in the right place.  
At the precise moment.  
Anxious awaiting the promised gift.  
United in a common purpose.  
Resolved to serve.

Even more amazing,  
was the resultant change.  
In the gathered few.  
No longer afraid.  
Unlock the door,  
got out into the world.

No longer tongue tied.  
Speak out boldly.  
Proclaim the truth.  
To those who want to hear  
good news for every one

## Trinity

God –  
*All* **Your love surrounds us**  
Christ –  
*All* **Your peace enfolds us**  
Spirit –  
*All* **Your breath awakens us**

Vaughan Jones

**God, Christ, Spirit**

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Therefore with all your people in heaven and on earth  
we sing the triumphant hymn of your glory:

*All*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest!  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest!**

Yet we drove him out from among us,  
and he whose dying words were of forgiveness  
was made the victim of our sin.  
From the silence and darkness of death he rose;  
his victory is ours by faith,  
proclaimed and shared in this, the harvest of his sacrifice.

[The Lord Jesus on the night he was betrayed  
took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it  
and said:

‘This is my body which is broken for you.

Do this in remembrance of me.’

In the same way he took the cup also after supper, saying:

‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup,

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We praise you, almighty God,  
Creator, Redeemer, Giver of life.  
that amid the shadows of our journey you make yourself known.  
You brought order and beauty out of primeval chaos;  
you gave a child of promise to Abraham and Sarah;  
you summoned Moses from the burning bush to fight injustice  
and in cloud and darkness revealed your will on Sinai.  
Hannah and Manoah saw you in ascending fame,  
your name too wonderful to speak.  
Elijah knew you in a still, small voice;  
you called Isaiah when the temple shook



In the same way he took the cup also after supper, saying:  
'This cup is the new covenant in my blood.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.  
For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup,  
you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.']

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

*All* **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

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