

## Examples of Opening Prayers

Father God,

We praise you for your faithfulness, your love and your mercy,  
and we thank you for your many blessings.

As we come together in your presence today,  
please guide us by the promptings of your Holy Spirit,  
and draw us closer to you,  
through your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Come now, [little man,]

put aside your busy-ness for a while,  
take refuge for a time from your troublesome thoughts:  
throw away your cares, and let your burdensome worries wait.

Take some time off for God:

rest a while in him.

Enter the secret room of your mind:

put out everything except God, and whatever helps you to find him.

Close the door of your mind, and seek God.

Say now to God, with all your heart:

“I seek your face, Lord. Your face I seek.”

*St Anselm, 1093-1109*

Lord God,

You have made us for yourself,  
and our hearts are restless,  
until they find their rest in you.

Please help us, as we meet this day,  
to draw closer to you and to each other,  
For Jesus' sake.

Amen.

*Adapted from Augustine of Hippo*

## Examples of Closing Prayers

Our Father in heaven,  
we thank you for your family, the worldwide church,  
and for that part of it in which you have placed us.  
By the unseen working of your Holy Spirit,  
make it more fit to be the Body through which our saviour Christ can work:  
make it strong, where it is weak;  
make it holy, where it is strong;  
purify it, where it is corrupt;  
unite it, where it is divided;  
and protect it, where it is persecuted;  
for Jesus' sake, who created it.

Amen.

*Adapted from 'Some Daily Prayers for Church of England People'*

Almighty God,  
we thank you for sending your holy and life-giving Spirit  
to inspire all that is good in mankind,  
to be the giver of life in the Church,  
to help us to grow in the likeness of Christ,  
and to serve you as a holy people, spreading your gospel among all nations.

Amen.

*Adapted from 'Some Daily Prayers for Church of England People'*

Father God,  
we ask you, from the wealth of your glory,  
to give us power through your Spirit to be strong in our inner selves,  
and that Christ will make his home in our hearts, through faith.  
We pray that we may have our roots and foundations in love,  
so that we, with all God's people,  
may have the power to understand  
how broad and long and high and deep is Christ's love.  
May we come to know his love,  
and so be completely filled with the very nature of God.

Amen.

*Adapted from Ephesians 3*

Jesus said,

*If you love me, do what I tell you to do:*

*Love God first, with your whole being;*

*Love all people you meet as much as you love yourself;*

*Love your fellow church members as I love you;*

*Celebrate the Eucharist in memory of me;*

*Forgive others as God forgives you;*

*Make disciples of all people everywhere, and baptise them;*

*Remain united to me all your life, and you will share in my eternal life;*

*Pray to God your Father.*

Lord, Jesus Christ,

have mercy upon us

and help us to obey you.

Amen.

*Adapted from 'Some Daily Prayers for Church of England People'*