

Healing and Reconciliation Services

from the Methodist Worship Book

PRAYER WITH THE DYING

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Many sources have contributed to the compilation of this book, and not all of them are now traceable. Individual members of the Committee prepared drafts, which were revised more or less drastically by the Committee, often resulting in final versions which looked little like the original drafts. Among the casualties of this sometimes protracted process was the identity of many of the sources; they could not be recalled, nor did there seem to be any way to track them down. The Panel wishes to record at once both its indebtedness to any who may recognise in this book rhythms and patterns, expressions and phrases, ideas and images which are their own, and its regret that it became impossible to ask permission or seek consent for their inclusion...

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HEALING AND RECONCILIATION

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PRAYER WITH THE DYING

INTRODUCTION

Prayer with the Dying may be part of the process of reconciliation with God. There is no more fitting way to spend the final moments of our life than in prayer to God who brought us into being and into whose arms we will pass. This is a service of readings and prayers which may be used either near or at the point of death. The words, 'Go forth upon your journey . . .', have traditionally been said either before or shortly after death.

NOTE

The way in which this service is used will depend greatly on the condition of the one who is dying. Even if the dying person cannot register a response it is still appropriate to pray with her or him. If necessary, the words printed in **bold** type may be said by the leader alone.

1 One or both of the following sentences:

Peace be to this house and all who dwell in it.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with you all. **Amen.**

2 One or both of the following may be said:

Saint Paul said: 'The Lord is near; do not be anxious, but in everything make your requests known to God in prayer and petition with thanksgiving. Then the peace of God, which is beyond all understanding, will guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.'

Jesus said: 'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.'

3 Let us pray.

Heavenly Father,
bless N in this time of weakness,
and comfort her/him
with the promise of eternal life,
given in the resurrection of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

4 **EITHER**

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff –
they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit:
**as it was in the beginning, is now,
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Psalm 23

OR

I lift up my eyes to the hills –
from where will my help come?
My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.
He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.
He who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.
The Lord is your keeper;
the Lord is your shade at your right hand.
The sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.
The Lord will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.
The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in
from this time on and for evermore.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit:
**as it was in the beginning, is now,
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Psalm 121

OR

O Lord, my heart is not lifted up,
my eyes are not raised too high;
I do not occupy myself with things
too great and too marvellous for me.
But I have calmed and quieted my soul.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit:
**as it was in the beginning, is now,
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Psalm 131:1-2a

5 Let us in silence confess our sins to God.

Silence

EITHER

A Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

OR

B **Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbours,
in thought and word and deed,
in the evil we have done
and in the good we have not done,
through ignorance, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past;
and grant that we may serve you
in newness of life;
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

To all who truly repent
this is his gracious word:
'Your sins are forgiven.'

Amen. Thanks be to God.

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6 Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace:
your word has been fulfilled.
My own eyes have seen the salvation
which you have prepared in the sight of every people:
a light to reveal you to the nations
and the glory of your people Israel.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit:
**as it was in the beginning, is now,
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

7 One or both of the following prayers may be said, or the
minister may pray in her/his own words:

Remember, O Lord,
those who are sick or suffer pain
and those who are close to death,
especially our *sister/ brother N*.
Comfort us with your presence,
sustain us by your promises,
and grant us your peace;
in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

God of glory,
make bright with your presence
the path of those who walk in the valley of darkness.
Deliver *N's* family and friends from anxiety and fear,
that they may live in peace and be at one with you;
through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

8 The Lord's Prayer

EITHER

We say together the prayer
that Jesus gave us:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily
bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who
sin against us.
Save us from the time of
trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom,
the power and the glory
are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

OR

As our Saviour taught his
disciples, we pray:

**Our Father, who art in
heaven,
hallowed be thy Name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our
daily bread.
And forgive us our
trespasses,
as we forgive those who
trespass against us.
And lead us not into
temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

9 **EITHER**

A Go forth upon your journey, Christian soul,
in the name of God the Father
who created you;
in the name of Jesus Christ
who suffered for you;
in the name of the Holy Spirit
who strengthens you;
in communion with the blessed saints,
with angels and archangels
and with all the heavenly host.
May you rest in peace
and may the City of God
be your eternal dwelling. **Amen.**

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OR

B May God the Father,
who created you,
have mercy on you.
May God the Son, Jesus Christ,
who conquered death for you,
have mercy on you.
May God the Holy Spirit,
who sanctifies you,
have mercy on you.
May God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
grant you eternal rest and peace. **Amen.**

OR

C Mighty God,
we commend your *daughter/son N*
to your everlasting love and mercy.
Give *her/him* joy and gladness in your presence;
give *her/him* the assurance of your forgiveness and love;
give *her/him* your peace, now and for ever. **Amen.**

10 The peace of God,
which passes all understanding,
keep *your/our* hearts and minds
in the knowledge and love of God
and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord;
and the blessing of God,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
remain with *you/us* always. **Amen.**