

**Dear Lord and Father of Mankind – a prayer**

*To be played reflectively, on piano (perhaps with woodwind accompaniment), as a meditational hymn of repentance, interspersed with prayers of petition to be spoken over the continuing music.*

**Dear Lord and Father of mankind  
forgive our foolish ways;  
re clothe us in our rightful mind;  
in purer lives thy service find,  
in deeper reverence, praise,  
in deeper reverence, praise.**

*Merciful Father,  
Together, we come before you in worship  
to acknowledge our fallen humanity,  
to confess our sins,  
and to commit ourselves to you once again.*

**In simple trust like theirs who heard  
beside the Syrian sea  
the gracious calling of the Lord,  
let us, like them, without a word  
rise up and follow thee,  
rise up and follow thee.**

*Lord Jesus Christ,  
We come  
as those who have tried to follow you in the past  
but so often failed .  
Preoccupied by our preferences or prejudices,  
stumbling in our sin or senselessness,  
we've neglected the paths you have set before us.  
Come to us now and renew our calling, we pray.*

**O sabbath rest by Galilee!  
O calm of hills above,  
were Jesus knelt to share with thee  
the silence of eternity,  
interpreted by love,  
interpreted by love!**

*Gentle Holy Spirit,  
You promise us peace, and holy rest,  
but so often  
we choose to fill our lives with noise and clutter.*

*Forgive us,  
and grant us those sacred, timeless moments,  
of prayer and devotion.  
Let us find time for you.*

**With that deep hush subduing all  
our words and works that drown  
the tender whisper of thy call,  
as noiseless let thy blessing fall  
as fell thy manna down,  
as fell thy manna down.**

*Loving God,  
you have always provided for your people,  
yet still we trust in our own strength,  
and walk in our own ways.  
As you forgive us,  
help us to learn a reliance on you,  
a trusting faith, and an obedient heart.*

**Drop thy still dews of quietness,  
till all our strivings cease;  
take from our souls the strain and stress,  
and let our ordered lives confess  
the beauty of thy peace,  
the beauty of thy peace.**

*Come, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
renew our lives with your peace,  
restore us in your image,  
revive us with your love.*

**Breathe through the heats of our desire  
thy coolness and thy balm;  
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;  
speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,  
O still small voice of calm,  
O still small voice of calm.**

*After the last verse (no music):  
May almighty God have mercy on us,  
forgive us our sins,  
and keep us in life eternal. Amen.*