

# Historic Prayers

*On those occasions when we are not quite sure how to pray, it helps to have the prayers of those saints who were practiced in the art. I have found these prayers of value. Steve Stuckey*

Lord, you know what is best for me. Give me what you will and when you will and as much as you will. Do with me what you think best and as it please you and brings you the most honor. Place me where you will and use me according to your wisdom. I am in your hand as your servant ready to do all that you command. I want to live not for myself, but for you. I want to serve you fittingly and perfectly.

*Thomas a Kempis*

My God and my love, you are mine and I am yours. Deepen your love in me, O Lord, that I may learn how joyful it is to know you and serve you. Let your love take hold of me and raise me above myself, that I may be filled with devotion because of your goodness. Then I will sing to you a song of love. I will follow you, and my soul will never grow tired of praising you.  
Amen

*Thomas a Kempis*

O Lord you know what is the better way; let everything be done as you please. Give me what you will, how much you will, and when you will. Deal with me as you know, how best pleases you and is the most for your honor. Set me where you will and deal with me in everything as you will. I am in your hands; turn me round and turn me back again, even as a wheel. I am your servant, Lord, prepared for all things, for I desire not to live for myself, but for you. And Oh that I may do that worthily and perfectly.

*Thomas a Kempis*

O Lord my God, to you and your service I devote myself, body soul and spirit. Fill my memory with the record of your mighty works; enlighten my understanding with the light of your Holy Spirit; and make all the desires of my heart and will center in what you would have me do. Make me an instrument of your salvation for the people entrusted to my care, and let me by my life and speaking set fourth your true and living Word. Be always with me in carrying out the duties of my salvation; in praises heighten my love and gratitude; in speaking of you give me readiness of thought and expression; and grant that, by the clearness and brightness of your holy Word, all the world may be drawn to your blessed kingdom. All this I ask for the sake of your Son my savior Jesus Christ. Amen

*From the Divine Hours- Prayers for Wintertime, page 160*

*I pray for the grace that all my intentions, actions and operations may be directed purely to the praise and service of the Divine Majesty. (The Spiritual Exercises, no. 46) You might try these words:*

Lord, I so wish to prepare well for this time.  
I so want to make all of me ready and attentive and available to you.  
Please help me to clarify and purify my intentions.  
I have so many contradictory desires.

I get preoccupied with things that don't really matter or last.  
I know that if I give you my heart,  
whatever I do will follow my new heart.

In all that I am today, all that I try to do,  
all my encounters, reflections - even the frustrations and failings  
and especially in this time of prayer,  
in all of this may I place my life in your hands.  
Lord, I am yours. Make of me what you will. Amen.

Friends, as you go on your way, may Jesus go with you:  
Before you to show you the way, behind you to encourage you, above you to watch over you,  
below you to uphold you, within in you to give you his peace, and beside you to be your Friend.  
In the faithful love of the Father, the amazing grace of the Son and the guiding power of the  
Spirit. Yes! Yes! Yes! Amen

May you have many friends and may they be as mature in taste and health and color and as  
sought after as the contents of this glass.

May you have warm words on a cold evening, a full moon on a dark night, and a road downhill  
all the way to your door.

May every hair on your head turn into a candle to light your way to heaven. And may God and  
his Holy Mother take the harm of the years away from you.

And...may you have no frost on your spuds, no worms on your cabbage. May your goat give  
plenty of milk, and if you should buy a donkey please, God, she be pregnant!

*An Irish Blessing, quoted in Against an Infinite Horizon by Ronald Rolheiser Page 30*

Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins and give us, we pray, the liberty of  
that abundant life which you have shown to us in your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ;  
who lives and reigns with you, in union with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
*Amen.*

*Book of Common Prayer, page 164*

Gracious God

Our sins are too heavy to carry,  
Too real to hide,  
and too deep to undo.

Forgive what our lips tremble to name,  
What are hearts can no longer bear,  
and what has become for us  
a consuming fire of judgment.

Set us free from a past that we cannot change;  
Open to us a future in which we can be changed;  
And grant us grace to grow more and more

In your likeness and image;  
Through Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

Amen

*Prayer used at Pasadena Covenant on 2/11/07*

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace!

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;

Where there is injury, pardon;

Where there is doubt, faith;

Where there is despair, hope;

Where there is darkness, light

Where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console,  
to be understood as to understand,

To be loved as to love,

For it is in giving that we receive,

It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,

And it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life.

*Anonymous; used by St. Francis of Assisi*

I am giving thee worship with my whole life,

I am giving thee assent with my whole power,

I am giving thee praise with my whole tongue,

I am giving thee honor with my whole utterance,

I am giving thee love with my whole devotion,

I am giving thee kneeling with my whole desire,

I am giving thee love with my whole heart,

I am giving thee affection with my whole heart,

I am giving thee affection with my whole sense,

I am giving thee my existence with my whole mind,

I am giving thee my soul O God of all gods.

*A Celtic Prayer When Dressing*

Father, I abandon myself into your hands; do with me what you will. Whatever you may do, I thank you; I am ready for all, I accept all. Let only your will be done in me, and in all your creatures. I wish no more than this, O Lord, into your hands I commend my soul; I offer it to you with all the love of my heart, for I love you, Lord and so need to give myself, to surrender myself into your hands, without reserve, and with boundless confidence.

*Charles de Foucauld*

*Grant me, even me, my dear Lord, to know you, and love you and rejoice in you. And if I cannot do these things perfectly in this life, let me at least advance to a higher degree every day, till I come to do them in perfection. Let the knowledge of you increase in me here, that it may be full hereafter. Let the love of you grow every day more and more here, that it may be perfect hereafter; that my joy may be great in itself, and full of you. I know, O God, that you are a God of truth; Oh make good thy gracious promises to me, that my joy may be full. Amen.*

*Augustine of Hippo 354-430*

O heavenly Father, in whom we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray for you to so guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you but remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

*Book of Common Prayer*

I arise today  
Through a mighty strength:  
God's power to guide me,  
God's might to uphold me,  
God's eyes to watch over me;  
God's ear to hear me,  
God's word to give me speech,  
God's hand to guard me,  
God's way to lie before me,  
God's shield to shelter me,  
God's host to secure me.

First millennium - Brigit of Gael

You are the peace of all things calm  
You are the place to hide from harm  
You are the light that shines in dark  
You are the heart's eternal spark  
You are the door that's open wide  
You are the guest who waits inside  
You are the stranger at the door  
You are the calling of the poor  
You are my Lord and with me still  
You are my love, keep me from ill  
You are the light, the truth, the way  
You are my Savior this very day.

Celtic oral tradition - 1st millennium