

2 Versions of Scriptural Prayer.

 Guildhall DOCUMENT WALLET Ref: GDW4	

PSALM 51 A WOMAN'S MISERERE

Have mercy on me, O Life-giver, through your goodness
In your great tenderness sooth away my faults
Cleanse me of my guilt
do not hold my failures against me

For I have come to see that I fail you,
when I have not acknowledged with my whole being
that I am made truly in your image
in not walking in your ways
I have sinned against you

You are love and truth itself
and seek sincerity of heart
teach me the secrets of wisdom
Cleanse me from all that prevents me
from listening to your word

Let me cry out with joy and gladness
Leave behind me feelings of inferiority
Do not hold it against me
that I have fallen in with prejudice

Creator, call forth a willing response from me
infuse in me a new spirit of confidence
Let me be aware of your presence
and draw strength from your Spirit

Giver of life, source of salvation
Let me rejoice in serving you.
Keep my spirit responsive to you
and I shall show forth to the unenlightened
the true way to you

Save me from everlasting death, O God my Saviour,
and I shall acclaim your goodness.
Creator, give me the courage
to speak forth your truth,
and use all my being, body mind and soul, to give you praise

You call for a contrite heart
The placatory sacrifices on the altars did not please you
Our sacrifice is to do your will
to work unceasingly for the coming of your realm

Show forth your love to the women you have created
guide us in building true community
and a new age come where all live out your love

Prayers and meditations using enriching imagery

18

Eternal God, as you created humankind in your image,
women and men, male and female, renew us in that image:
God the Holy Spirit, by your strength and love comfort us,
as those whom a mother comforts.
Lord Jesus Christ, by your death and resurrection, give us
the joy of those for whom pain and suffering becomes,
in hope, the fruitful agony of travail:
God, the Holy Trinity, grant that we may together enter
into new life, your promised rest of achievement and fulfilment -
world without end. (1)

Glory to you, Source of All Being, Eternal Word and Holy Spirit (2)

The Father

Vulnerable God,
you challenge the powers that rule this world
through the needy, the compassionate,
and those who are filled with longing.
Make us hunger and thirst to see right prevail
and singleminded in seeking peace
that we may see your face.... (3)

God you are Love, and reveal yourself through
loving relationships,
You make women and men in your own image
and invite them to bear your likeness.
In motherly love you bring us to birth,
nourishing and sustaining us before we comprehend.
So you teach us the depth and strength of love
From the protection of fatherly love
You teach us to use the amazing gift of life
and we learn that power is for caring.... (4)

O God, the power of the powerless,
you have chosen as your witness
those whose voice is not heard.
Grant that, as women first announced
the resurrection though they were not believed
we too may have courage
to persist in proclaiming your word
in the Power of Jesus Amen (3)

The Son

Christ our true mother
you carried us within you,
laboured with us,
and brought us forth to bliss.
Enclose us in your care
that in stumbling we may not fall,
nor be overcome by evil,
but know that all shall be well (3)

Christ our true mother
you carried us within you,
laboured with us, and brought forth to bliss.
Enclose us in your care,
that in stumbling we may not fall
nor be overcome by evil,
but know that all shall be well.(3)

So when he made us God almighty was our kindly
father, and God all-wise our kindly mother...
By the skill and wisdom of the Second Person we
are sustained, restored and saved.. for he is our
mother, brother and saviour (5)

(chorus of song the Touching Place)
To the lost Christ shows his face
to the unloved he gives his embrace
to those who cry in pain or disgrace
Christ makes, with his friends,
a touching place.(6)

When we visit the sick
really visit,
being there for the other
with the whole of ourselves,
we find that we are visiting Christ,
to look into gaunt and hollow eyes
full of pain and longing and courage
to look into the eyes of Christ.
Christ is the one who is ill,
the one whom we tend,
the one who is vulnerable to our blundering (7)

The Spirit

Spirit of the Body of Christ,
uniting us in the church
with your life giving grace and hope.
Forgive our fragmenting of your church
and our failure to carry
your love into the world
Spirit of God, forgive us
and lead us to life in you. (8)

Spirit of truth and judgment
who alone can exorcize
the powers that grip our world:
at the point of crisis
give us your discernment,
that we may accurately name
what is evil,
and know the way that leads to peace,
through Jesus Christ Amen. (3)

- (1. WCC Community of Women & Men, Sheffield 1980 in "Celebrating Women"
2. New Companion to the Breviary, Carmelites, Indianapolis, 3. All Desires Known, Janet Morley:
4. Rosalind Wakely: 5 Revelations of Divine Love, Julian: 6. Iona Community in "Love from Below"
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Jesus taught us to pray:-

God, lover of us all
Most Holy One,
Help us to respond to you
To create what you want for us here on earth.
Give us today enough for our needs,
Forgive our weak and deliberate offences
Just as we must forgive others
When they hurt us.
Help us to resist weaknesses and
to do what is good.
For we are yours
endowed with your power
to make our world whole.

VERSIONS OF TRADITIONAL PRAYER

Lala Winkley

2.
Eternal Spirit, Life-giver, Pain-bearer, Love maker
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven!

The Hallowing of your Name echo through the universe!
the way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of Peace and Freedom sustain our hope and come on earth!

With the bread that we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and for ever, Amen.

Jim Cotter

STATEMENTS OF FAITH

We believe in God

- Maker, Redeemer and Sustainer of Life,
- without beginning or end,
- whose life-giving love was let loose on the first Easter Sunday
- and whose life-giving love we share and proclaim here today.

We believe in God

- who gave up the divine life and submitted to the darkness and terror of the grave
- and who enters with us into every darkness and terror we shall ever face.

We believe in God

- who raised Christ from the death of the grave to glorious new life
- and who raises our lives from sin and despair to newness and hope again.

We believe in God

- who met the grief-stricken Mary in the garden and called her into hope by the uttering of her name.
- and who meets us in our grief and gives us courage to hope again by tenderly calling our name.

We believe in God

- who sent Mary out from the garden to be the witness and apostle of the resurrection
- and who commissions us, like Mary, to be bearers of hope and good news in our world.

We believe in God

- Maker, Redeemer and Sustainer of Life,
- without beginning or end,
- whose life-giving love was let loose on the first Easter Sunday
- and whose life-giving love we share and proclaim today
- to all women and men, wherever and whoever they are,
- loved, blessed and called by God,
- without beginning or end.

Nicola Slee

We believe in God,
creating and giving life to the world,
mother and father of all, regardless of race, class, or gender,
love indescribable and beyond our imagining,
yet closer than our own breathing.

We believe in Jesus,
the Way of God confronting violence with self-giving,
the Truth of God challenging all hypocrisy and false values,
the Life of God inviting us to a realm of forgiveness and new beginnings.

God-with-us, embodied in our living.

We believe in the Spirit,
Breathing into us renewing power,
Interpreting our longings and searchings after truth,
And probing with us the depths of God's wisdom.

We believe in the company of God's people,
called to live and be one in Christ;
In the knowledge of forgiveness and the strength to stand as God's daughters
(and sons).

In the promise of God which sustains us in what we know and invites us to travel
discovery and hope.

Jan Berry

O God, embodied in a human life,
we believe and trust in you.
Jesus our brother, born of the woman Mary,
you confronted the proud and the powerful,
and welcomed as your friends those of no account.
Holy Wisdom of God, firstborn of creation,
you emptied yourself of power,
and became foolishness for our sake.
You laboured with us upon the cross,
and have brought us forth to the hope of resurrection
We commit ourselves to struggle against evil
and to choose life.

O God, life-giving Spirit,
Spirit of healing and comfort, of integrity and truth
we believe and trust in you.
Warm-winged Spirit, brooding over creation,
rushing wind and Pentecostal fire,
we commit ourselves to work with you
and renew our world.

Janet Morley

Phoebe Willett's version.

My heart is bubbling over with joy
with God it is good to be a woman
from now on tell all peoples, proclaim
it is a wonderful gift to be.
The One in whom power truly rests
has lifted us up to praise,
God's goodness shall fall like a shower
on the trusting of every age.
The disregarded have been raised up
the pompous and powerful shall fall ...
God has made good the word
given at the dawn of time

BLESSINGS AND AGAPES (food blessings)

Blessed be God for the faithfulness of Mary,
who went out from the garden
to do her beloved's bidding,
who joyfully proclaimed his resurrection
to those to whom he sent her,
and risked her self in bold believing.

In her proclamation we find courage to speak out.
In her acclamation we gain strength to share our stories.
In her vindication we know the recognition of our redeemed and vindicated lives.

Make us faithful like Mary,
when faith is sent out
into the noon of Easter morning.

Until we come at last
to share in the full glory
of Resurrection day.

O God our dance,
in whom we live and move and have our being;
so direct our strength
and inspire our weakness
that we may enter with power
into the movement of your whole creation,
through our partner Jesus Christ, Amen.

Nicola Slee

My soul proclaims your greatness, O my God;
and my spirit has rejoiced in you, my Savior,
For your regard has blessed me,
poor, and a serving woman.
From this day all generations
will call me blessed,
For you, who are mighty, have made me great.
Most Holy be your Name.
Your mercy is on those who fear you
throughout all generations.
You have showed strength with your arm.
You have scattered the proud in their hearts' fantasy.
You have put down the mighty from their seat,
and have lifted up the powerless.
You have filled the hungry with good things,
and have sent the rich away empty.
You, remembering your mercy,
have helped your people Israel—
As you promised Abraham and Sarah.
Mercy to their children, forever.

USA Carmelites, New Companion to the Breviary

May holy Wisdom,
kind to humanity,
steadfast, sure and free,
the breath of the power of God;
may she who makes all things new, in every age,
enter our souls,
and make us friends of God,
through Jesus Christ, Amen.

J. Morley

Blessing of food and drink (taken from the agape prayers of the Didache)

Leader Blessed are you, O Lord our God, creator of this food and drink that we share
together as a sign of your kingdom, which is to come in glory, and yet is already here now
in so far as you live among us in the love we have for one another.
(wine is poured out)

All We give thanks to you, our creator, for this wine, remembering Israel your people,
brought like a vine out of Egypt, and planted in the promised land (wine is passed round)
(the bread is broken and passed round and all say)

All As we break the bread we thank you O creator for the life and knowledge of yourself
which you gave us through Jesus Christ. To you be glory for ever.

As this broken bread was scattered upon the mountains, but was brought together
and became one, so let your children, Lord, be gathered together from the ends of the
earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory and the power through Jesus Christ for
ever. (all eat)

Blessing of the food

All: We share this loaf today, as a sign that we are all one in the body of
Christ. Just as many grains came together into the one loaf, so we are all
one in Christ Jesus. Help us to reflect the life giving love of the Creator,
Redeemer and Spirit in all our relationships and actions.

CPW Teignmouth 1999.

CREDAL STATEMENTS

" I believe in God my Creator, who loves me unconditionally, to live my life in harmony "

**" God is creator of all we experience.
I believe in Jesus who came to redeem us.
I believe in the Holy Spirit who breathes life into us.
I believe in the unconditional love and forgiveness of God.
I believe that there is a purpose in creation and a meaning in human life "**

" God is love - we should love others "

" Our God is a loving, forgiving and sustaining God, who is revealed to us in history and through the Hebrew prophets, and later on in Jesus, God's son, who was born as a human being, taught, healed, loved, forgave, suffered, died and rose from the dead. We believe in the Spirit of God, who is within and among us, animating and supporting us "

" We believe in God, the creator and his presence among us as Jesus Christ, and as a Spirit enlivening the universe. We believe in development of his presence and the building of the Kingdom of God here and now, and forever "

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 and my spirit has rejoiced in you, my Savior,

For your regard has blessed me,
 poor, and a serving woman.

From this day all generations
 will call me blessed,

For you, who are mighty, have made me great.
 Most Holy be your Name.

Your mercy is on those who fear you
 throughout all generations.

You have showed strength with your arm.
 You have scattered the proud in their hearts' fantasy.

You have put down the mighty from their seat,
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You have filled the hungry with good things,
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Blessing of food and drink (taken from the agape prayers of the Didache)

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 together as a sign of your kingdom, which is to come in glory, and yet is already here now
 in so far as you live among us in the love we have for one another.
 (wine is poured out)

All We give thanks to you, our creator, for this wine, remembering Israel your people,
 brought like a vine out of Egypt, and planted in the promised land (wine is passed round)
 (the bread is broken and passed round and all say)

All As we break the bread we thank you O creator for the life and knowledge of yourself
 which you gave us through Jesus Christ. To you be glory for ever.

As this broken bread was scattered upon the mountains, but was brought together
 and became one, so let your children, Lord, be gathered together from the ends of the
 earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory and the power through Jesus Christ for
 ever. (all eat)

Blessing of the food

All: We share this loaf today, as a sign that we are all one in the body of
 Christ. Just as many grains came together into the one loaf, so we are all
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really visit,
being there for the other
with the whole of ourselves,
we find that we are visiting Christ,
to look into gaunt and hollow eyes
full of pain and longing and courage
to look into the eyes of Christ.
Christ is the one who is ill,
the one whom we tend,
the one who is vulnerable to our blundering (7)

The Spirit

Spirit of the Body of Christ,
uniting us in the church
with your life giving grace and hope.
Forgive our fragmenting of your church
and our failure to carry
your love into the world
Spirit of God, forgive us
and lead us to life in you. (8)

Spirit of truth and judgment
who alone can exorcize
the powers that grip our world:
at the point of crisis
give us your discernment,
that we may accurately name
what is evil,
and know the way that leads to peace,
through Jesus Christ Amen. (3)

- (1. WCC Community of Women & Men, Sheffield 1980 in "Celebrating Women"
2. New Companion to the Breviary, Carmelites, Indianapolis, 3. All Desires Known, Janet Morley:
4. Rosalind Wakely: 5 Revelations of Divine Love, Julian: 6. Iona Community in "Love from Below"
7. Healing More or Less, Jim Cotter: 8. McMahon in "In Spirit & in Truth", WCC)

SHORT SELECTION OF BOOKS ON LITURGY

WOMEN, CHURCH AND SOCIETY: AN ANNOTATED BOOKLIST Revised ed. Autumn 95.

Lumen Religious Books Trust (Christian Women's Resource Centre), 36 Court Lane, London SE21 7DR tel: 0181 693 1438 (reference Library and bookelling. fix appointment before to visiting) Books sent by post: add on 20% for Europe outside Britain. Cheques (sterling only) to "Lumen Books".

All Desires Known Janet Morley 2nd Extended edition SPCK £6.99-. Alternative collects, litanies, canticles, eucharistic prayers etc. A valuable collection

Bad Language in Church ONE for Christian Renewal Publications £1.25 Reprinted from the United Church of Canada's Guidelines on using Inclusive Language.

Bread of Tomorrow: praying with the world's poor Ed Janet Morley SPCK/Christian Aid £6.99 An enriching collection of prayers, poems and meditations.

Celebrating Women Ed Ward, Wild and Morley. SPCK £9.99 An expanded edition of this pioneering collection of women's prayer and liturgy.

God Beyond Gender: Feminist Christian God-Language Gail Ramshaw Fortress (USA) £8.95 God language and gender issues.

Human Rites: Worship Resources for an Age of Change Ed Hannah Ward & Jennifer Wild Mowbray £16.99 A collection of services and rituals demonstrating liturgy "from the ground up". A very useful resource.

Inclusive Language and Imagery about God The Methodist Church Faith and Order Committee £1. Perhaps the best of all the denominational reports on this subject.

The New Companion to the Breviary Carmelites of Indianapolis (USA) £5.50 An excellent psalter using inclusive language. (With seasonal readings, £12.50)

Prayer at Night Jim Cotter £4.95. Excellent selection in inclusive language. Also 2 books of new psalm versions each £4.95.

Sexism and God Talk Rosemary Ruether SCM £12.95 Invaluable for those approaching the question from a theological viewpoint. language, meaning of creation,

What Language shall I Borrow? Brian Wren SCM £9.95. Subtitled "God Talk in Worship: A Male Response to Feminist Theology" An insightful book on the need for new inclusive language.

Woman, Language and the Church Resource Pack Assoc. for Inclusive Language education pack. Wide ranging materials at different levels on inclusive language, women in the bible, examples of liturgy, list of resources etc.

VERSIONS OF THE PRAYER JESUS TAUGHT US

Jesus taught us to pray:-

God, lover of us all
Most Holy One,
Help us to respond to you
To create what you want for us here on earth.
Give us today enough for our needs,
Forgive our weak and deliberate offences
Just as we must forgive others
When they hurt us.
Help us to resist weaknesses and
to do what is good.
For we are yours
endowed with your power
to make our world whole. (L.W)

2.
Eternal Spirit, Life-giver, Pain-bearer, Love maker
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven!

The Hallowing of your Name echo through the universe!
the way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of Peace and Freedom sustain our hope and come on earth!

With the bread that we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and for ever, Amen.

(J.C.)

Lord God, far above our understanding
Father and Mother to all of us
Blessed be your name in our hearts and our deeds
May your goodness reign in all our ways
Your will command our days.

Give us this day all consolation of our needs
Forgive us our faults and our wickednesses as we try to forgive the harm done
to us by ourselves or others
keep us from all evil-doing.
Let no injustices take over our minds
And give us strength against the temptations that beset us
For in you, Lord God, can be found all that is good and true, loving and honourable
For ever and ever.

(TVM)

Questions

1. Do you find repeating set prayers over and over dulls their meaning? Would the occasional use of different versions as above help? Which do you like best, and why?
2. Try writing your own Our Father.

4. What action can be taken in our local situation to bring in a wider variety of images of God and promote understanding of the issues of inclusive language?

(turn over for examples of inclusive prayers)

Prayers and meditations using enriching imagery

Eternal God, as you created humankind in your image,
women and men, male and female, renew us in that image:
God the Holy Spirit, by your strength and love comfort us,
as those whom a mother comforts.
Lord Jesus Christ, by your death and resurrection, give us
the joy of those for whom pain and suffering becomes,
in hope, the fruitful agony of travail:
God, the Holy Trinity, grant that we may together enter
into new life, your promised rest of achievement and fulfilment -
world without end. (1)

Glory to you, Source of All Being, Eternal Word and Holy Spirit (2)

The Father

Vulnerable God,
you challenge the powers that rule this world
through the needy, the compassionate,
and those who are filled with longing.
Make us hunger and thirst to see right prevail
and singleminded in seeking peace
that we may see your face.... (3)

God you are Love, and reveal yourself through
loving relationships,
You make women and men in your own image
and invite them to bear your likeness.
In motherly love you bring us to birth,
nourishing and sustaining us before we comprehend.
So you teach us the depth and strength of love
From the protection of fatherly love
You teach us to use the amazing gift of life
and we learn that power is for caring.... (4)

O God, the power of the powerless,
you have chosen as your witness
those whose voice is not heard.
Grant that, as women first announced
the resurrection though they were not believed
we too may have courage
to persist in proclaiming your word
in the Power of Jesus Amen (3)

The Son

Christ our true mother
you carried us within you,
laboured with us,
and brought us forth to bliss.
Enclose us in your care
that in stumbling we may not fall,
nor be overcome by evil,

No. 2 1991 c/o 36 Court Lane, London SE21 7DR

Contents:

1 & 2 Prayer: AGM Resolutions: Attack on SJIA (UK)
 3 & 4 Priesthood, Precedent and Prejudice & Two American Insights
 5 & 6 Female Genital Mutilation & Feminist Theology Courses
 7 & 8 "Be Not Afraid" Report: Oxford SJIA Open Day

LIFE LOOM

accept the offering of ourselves
 women and men...men and women
 our separate strands,
 to be woven in and out
 over and under and through
 as we seek to become together
 the strands...

men and women...women and men

a part of life

a part of church

A PART OF YOU

give us a vision of the tapestry you weave....

with our willingness to be shuttled back and forth,

women and men...men and women....back and forth...

as the tapestry of days becomes the tapestry of years,

but the visions of tapestries remain.....

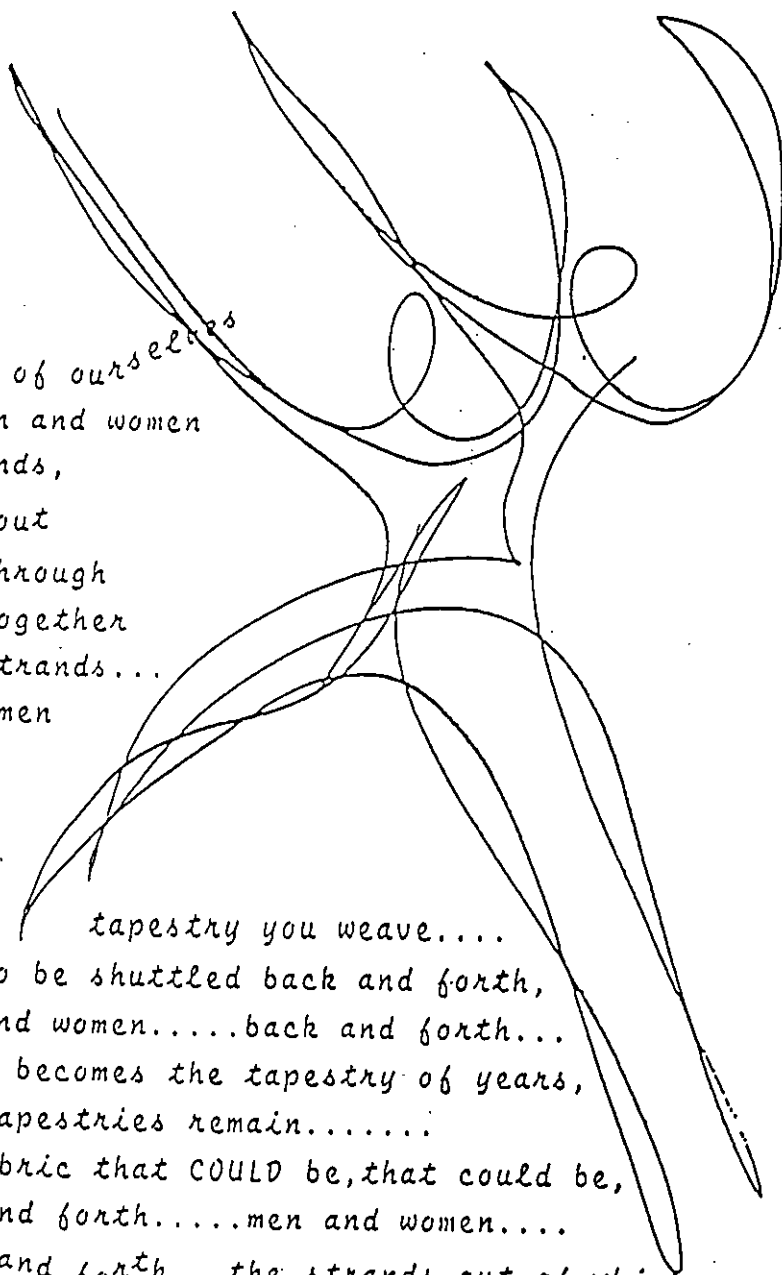
the patterns and the fabric that COULD be, that could be,

as we are shuttled back and forth....men and women....

women and men....back and forth...the strands out of which

you weave a fabric.....a tapestry...OF LIFE...OF CHURCH....

OF YOU..... amen



8. Divine glory and human dignity

2 How great is your name, O Lord our God,
through all the earth!

3 Your majesty is praised above the heavens;
4 on the lips of children and of babes
5 you have found praise to foil your enemy,
to silence the foe and the rebel.

6 When I see the heavens, the work of your hands,
7 the moon and the stars which you arranged,
8 what are we that you should keep us in mind,
men and women that you care for us?

9 Yet you have made us little less than gods;
10 and crowned us with glory and honor,
11 gave us power over the works of your hands,
put all things under our feet.

12 All of them, sheep and cattle,
13 yes, even the savage beasts,
14 birds of the air, and fish
that make their way through the waters.

15 How great is your name, O Lord our God
through all the earth!

9. Gratitude and appeal

2 I will praise you, Lord, with all my heart;
I will recount all your wonders.
3 I will rejoice in you and be glad,
and sing psalms to your name, O Most High.

4 See how my enemies turn back,
how they stumble and perish before you.
5 You upheld the justice of my cause;
you sat enthroned, judging with justice.

6 You have checked the nations, destroyed
the wicked;
7 you have wiped out their name for ever and ever.
8 The foe is destroyed, eternally ruined.
9 You uprooted their cities; their memory has
perished.

10 But the Lord sits enthroned for ever.
He has set up his throne for judgment;
11 he will judge the world with justice,
he will judge the peoples with his truth.

12 For the oppressed let the Lord be a stronghold,
a stronghold in times of distress.
13 Those who know your name will trust you;
you will never forsake those who seek you.

14 Sing psalms to the Lord who dwells in Zion.
Proclaim his mighty works among the peoples,
15 for the Avenger of blood has remembered them,
has not forgotten the cry of the poor.

16 Have pity on me, Lord, see my sufferings,
you who save me from the gates of death;
17 that I may recount all your praise
at the gates of the city of Zion
and rejoice in your saving help.

6 THE LORD'S PRAYER

Elizabeth Glen - soprano, John Beswick - piano,
the GAP Choir conducted by Ros Fleming.

This setting of a version of this well-known prayer by Lala Winkley, was written for the ordination of the Rev. Clare Herbert in 1994.

God, Lover of us all, most Holy One,
Help us to respond to You
To create what you want for us
Here on earth.
Give us today enough for our needs

Just as we must forgive others when they hurt us.
Help us to resist evil and do what is good.
For we are yours,
Endowed with your power to make the world whole.

Lala Winkley (used with permission)

It is a setting for soprano solo with accompanying piano and choir, who sing the short chant - *Hear our prayer, hear our prayer, God hears our prayer.* The musical style is intended to encourage listeners to reflect on the difficulty and complexity of the ideas contained in this familiar prayer.

7 GIVE THOU TO ME, O GOD Hannah Partington, Jenny Clarke, Alexandra Round, Rachel Walker

This is a simple setting of a version of a Celtic text:

1. Give thou to me, O God,
The healing power of oil.
Give thou to me, O God,
A place beside the healer of my soul.
Give thou to me, O God,
The death of joy and peace.

2. Give thou to me, O God,
To know the death of Christ;
Give thou to me, O God,
That I may contemplate Christ's agony;
Give thou to me, O God,
To warm with love of Christ.

3. O thou great God of heaven,
Draw thou my soul to thee,
That I repent aright
With upright, strengthened, pure and straightened heart.
A broken heart, contrite
That shall not bend nor yield.

4. Of angels, thou art God,
Bring me to dwell in peace.
Of angels, thou art God.
Preserve me from all evil magic charms
Of angels, thou art God.
Please bathe me in thy pool.

It has been used in a variety of liturgies concerned with healing and dying.

8 HEALING

Elizabeth Glen - soprano, Andrew Baker - piano

This composition brings together ideas concerning healing from a number of different cultures. The overall structure is based on an idea from Hindu traditions that the human body has a series of chakras, or energy points, from the base of the spine, to the crown of the head. Each of these is associated with a particular aspect of human personality, like the heart, with feelings, and the throat, with the ability to express oneself freely.

To convey this, I divided the compass of the voice and the double bass into seven segments, each with a different character. These are explored systematically, although the instrument and the voice are also exploring the same chakra simultaneously. Other verbal material is taken from the Bible, and from the story of Gula, a Babylonian/Sumerian Goddess of Healing. Parts of both, a transcription in the original languages and a translation, are used in the piece*. Other musical material is the simple setting of a healing poem, *Give thou to me, O God* (see above), and a Hildegard antiphon *O Pastor Aeternus, Counsellor of Souls*. Parts of this appear in Latin, and in its translation:

O counsellor of all souls, and o primal voice, which called all of us into being, we are praying that in your strength, we may find freedom from our misery and our general weakness.
(June Boyce-Tillman)

The text uses a number of different languages and is used more for its expressive effect than for its literal meaning. The piece is a duet for double bass and soprano who are equal partners. The opening passage is intended to be raw and elemental. In response to this, the soprano invokes the ancient goddess Isis, who rises to a climax at the contemplation of Christ's agony. The angels and the devils are juxtaposed. The opening motifs return, set against the soprano singing the Hildegard antiphon in her highest register. The parts come to rest on the same note three octaves apart.

Healing was commissioned by the Sophia Centre (Promoting Skills and Resources for Life) and is dedicated to the work of that centre. It was first performed at the European Conference: Health and the Challenges for the 21st Century, at Clare College, Cambridge, by the artists featured here. (* I am grateful to the permission to use this from Irving Finkel, Assistant Keeper of the Western Asiatic Antiquities of the British Museum)

9 GIVE THOU TO ME, O GOD

June Boyce-Tillman

This solo version is the composer's signature. The text differs slightly from the preceding version.

thily?

sitting her

Psalm 19

(This might be the prayer of a woman teacher.)

The spacious heavens declare the glorious handiwork of God.
Day and night speak out, although no words are heard.
They sound their proclamation without the use of speech.
Their divine direction reaches to the ends of the earth;
their message fills the whole world.

God has made the sky a tent for the sun.
It rises in the canopy above with the gladness of a bridegroom.
It runs its course through the sky with the strength of an athlete.
The orbit of the sun extends from one end of heaven to the other.
Nothing can hide from its heat.

The soul is restored by the Word of God.
The simple are made wise by Her sure testimony.
The heart is made joyful by Her just judgments.
The eyes are enlightened by Her clear commands.

The purposes of God are pure; they stand, unstained, forever.
The precepts of God are faithful, fair, and right.
They are more desirable than much fine gold,
sweeter than drops of amber honey.
They provide needed warning to God's children,
and there is great reward in keeping them.

O God, who among us can discern our hidden sinfulness?
Acquit us of our secret faults!
Keep Your children from committing arrogant sins.
Do not let pride or prejudice get the upper hand.
Then we shall be whole, and innocent of serious transgression.

Let the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts
find favor with You, our Rock and our Redeemer!

ps 63

Oh God, the source of my creation
let my whole being long for you
Thirsty as in a land of drought,
let me find the living water you provide
Shelter me close to you
Let me sense your power and glory

Your constant love gives meaning to life
for this I praise you.
I will give thanks to you through my life
and raise my heart to you in prayer.

In the night I remember you
when I cannot sleep I recall your goodness
because you are always there to sustain me.
Feeling your closeness I sing for joy
for you will bring me safely through life

ps 8 (to be sung to the Gelineau tune)

How great, O God, is your name throughout the earth

In your hands is the power
from you flows goodness everlasting
Through you is evil confounded
your name is praised by all creation

How great, O God, is your name throughout the earth

We look up to the skies made by you
the moon and the stars given their place
what are humans that you spare a thought for us,
humanity that you cherish and love

How great, ..

Yet you have made us little less than yourself
crowned us with glory and splendour
given us the gift of your creation
an inheritance of the world to cherish

How great

We have been given a share in your power
the resources of the world are ours to share
for good or evil as we choose.
Do not abandon us to wasting our inheritance

How Great

PSALM 51 A WOMAN'S MISERERE

Have mercy on me, O Life-giver, through your goodness
In your great tenderness sooth away my faults
Cleanse me of my guilt
do not hold my failures against me

For I have come to see that I fail you,
when I have not acknowledged with my whole being
that I am made truly in your image
in not walking in your ways
I have sinned against you

You are love and truth itself
and seek sincerity of heart
teach me the secrets of wisdom.
Cleanse me from all that prevents me
from listening to your word.

Let me cry out with joy and gladness
Leave behind me feelings of inferiority
Do not hold it against me
that I have fallen in with men's distortions.

Creator, call forth a willing response from me
infuse in me a new spirit of confidence
Let me be aware of your presence
and draw strength from your Spirit

Giver of life, source of salvation
Let me rejoice in serving you.
Keep my spirit responsive to you
and I shall show forth to the sexist
the true way to you

Save me from everlasting death, O God my Saviour,
and I shall acclaim your goodness.
Creator, give me the courage
to speak forth your truth,
and use all my being, body mind and soul, to give you praise

You call for a contrite heart
The placatory sacrifices on the altars did not please you
Our sacrifice is to do your will
to work unceasingly for the coming of your realm

Show forth your love to the women you have created
guide us in building true community
Let the evils of dualism and domination be vanquished
and a new age come where all live out your love.

MAGNIFICAT OF Now

John 2:1-12

My spirit watches for the potent moment, Yahweh,
and in the midst of this celebration
you are a throbbing presence.

All of us are here.

All of us are ready.

Yes, in this time the nearness of your blessing is felt.

"Wine they have not," I said to him.

"What is this to me and thee," he said.

"Not yet has come my hour."

Holy is this work now beginning.

Blessed is the first step.

Blessed are those who, prepared,
have the courage to begin.

Blessed are you, Yahweh, the enabler of deeds
great and simple for these people today.

The fruit of this work offers nourishment to generation after generation
for those who harvest it.

You show us the potency of people with a clear commitment;
you scatter the energies of those who vacillate.
You remove the moderators and the intercessors;
you speak directly to those who speak to you.
You provide answers for those who question;
to those who know the answers, you are silent.

You are here now, the Available One,
for the work of these times,
mindful of your continuing newness
... according to the traditions of all searching people ...
mindful of the continuing newness of each one of us,
we come with open minds
to accomplish the work of this day.

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

A prayer of commitment to continual conversion, which calls for a liberating praxis.

Note: This is a meditation where we are asked to reflect upon the Lord's Prayer, but in the reverse order.

Meditation:

We are asking, by the active love of God in us, to be delivered from all evil.

But for that to happen we have to play our part, in fact, by resisting temptation, and two specific areas of our life are highlighted.

Those of forgiveness of faults, and of sharing of bread. Note the plural, community form, in which we are to address this agenda of spiritual and material poverty. In the last analysis, what we do or don't do, will be the test of our religious practice.

These are the conditions to be fulfilled, the task to be carried out in the world, if the practice of God's will is to be achieved on earth as in heaven.

- only then will God's Kingdom become a reality.
- only then, will God's name be kept holy, in the practice of our lives.
- and only then will we be true sisters and brothers in Our Creator.

Ed O'Connell

Easter Jesus, make me love thee

Jesu Lord, that madest me,
And with thy blessed blood me bought,
Forgive that I have grievèd thee
With word, will, work or thought.

Jesu, for thy woundèd smart
On foot and on hands two,
Make me meek and low in heart,
And thee to love as I should do . . .

Jesu, for thy doleful tears,
That thou weptest for my guilt,
Hear and speed my prayers
And spare me that I be not spilt.

Jesu, for them I thee beseech
That wrathen thee in any wise;
Withhold from them thine hand of wreche
And let them end in thy service.

Jesu, joyful for to seen,
With thy saints every one,
Comfort all that careful been,
And help them that been woebegone.

Jesu, keep them that been good,
And mend them that have grievèd thee,
And send them fruits and earthly food,
As each man needeth in his degree.

Jesu, that art withouten lees
Almighty God in Trinity,
Cease these wars and send us peace,
With lasting love and charity . . .

Jesu, for thy blessed blood,
Bring those souls into bliss
For whom I have had any good,
And spare them that they have done amiss.

Anonymous, about 1400

The Lord's Prayer

'Give us this day.' Give us this day and night.
Give us the bread, the sky. Give us the power
To bend and not be broken by your light.

And let us soothe and sway like the new flower
Which closes, opens to the night, the day,
Which stretches up and rides upon a power

More than its own, whose freedom is the play
Of light, for whom the earth and air are bread.
Give us the shorter night, the longer day.

In thirty years so many words were spread,
And miracles. An undefeated death
Has passed as Easter passed, but those words said

Finger our doubt and run along our breath.

Elizabeth Jennings

(Slown) / Rem can on Lth
(puzzle)
Y let twice —

WOD (d elsewhere)
Wn Lynch pin of
p already —

a center lens
(one of ")

46 W —

cut vhe —