

## A Meal For Friends For Life

Jesus said, "I have looked forward to this hour with deep longing, anxious to eat this Passover meal with you before my suffering begins. For I tell you now that I won't eat it again until it comes to fulfilment in the Kingdom of God."

Then he took a cup of wine, and when he had given thanks for it, he said, "Take this and share it among yourselves. For I will not drink wine again until the Kingdom of God has come."

Then he took a loaf of bread; and when he had thanked God for it, he broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, "This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

After supper he took another cup of wine and said, "This wine is the token of God's new covenant to save you—an agreement sealed with the blood I will pour out for you.

"But here at this table, sitting among us as a friend, is the man who will betray me. For I, the Son of Man, must die since it is part of God's plan. But how terrible it will be for my betrayer!"

Then the disciples began to ask each other which of them would ever do such a thing. And they began to argue among themselves as to who would be the greatest in the coming Kingdom.

Jesus told them, "In this world the kings and great men order their people around, and yet they are called 'friends of the people.' But among you, those who are the greatest should take the lowest rank, and the leader should be like a servant. Normally the master sits at the table and is served by his servants. But not here! For I am your servant...." (Luke 22:15-27 NLT)

## A Prayer for You

May the Father of Life  
pour out his grace on you;  
may you feel His hand in everything you do  
and be strengthened by the things he brings  
you through:  
this is my prayer for you.

May the Son of God be Lord in all your ways;  
may He shepherd you  
the length of all your days,  
and in your heart may He receive the praise:  
this is my prayer for you.

And despite how it may sound,  
I pray that His grace will abound  
and motivate everything you do;  
and may the fullness of His love be shared  
through you.

May His Spirit comfort you,  
and make you strong,  
may he discipline you when you're wrong,  
and in your heart May He give you a song:  
this is my prayer for you.

May Jesus be Lord in all your ways,  
may he shepherd you  
the length of all your days,  
and in your heart may He receive the praise:  
this my prayer for you, my prayer for you.  
(The Northumbria Community. *Celtic Daily Prayer*  
HarperCollins Publishers.)



## Touchstone

### Prayers for Deck & Dock 2023

#### More Options at Our Disposal

It's a different summer season for many of us with more freedom to travel, gather with wider and different circles of friends and family. It feels good, doesn't it?

Sharing a meal, a campfire, a play, laughing out loud together, embracing one another – real human connections are one of our deep needs.

Our Loving Creator's image in us shapes that need for relationship as God desires a relationship with his creation.

Sitting on a park bench, a Muskoka chair by the water or on our deck at home we can connect with that deep inner longing we have for knowing we are loved and known by our loving God.

In quiet and hospitality, we open ourselves to the Divine Spirit who draws us in to the love of the Father and Son.

I'm inviting us in this collection of prayers to do just that, sitting back and opening ourselves to God in the same way we bask in an early morning sunrise.

## Open Invitation to God

Most powerful Holy Spirit,  
come down upon us  
and subdue us.  
From heaven,  
where the ordinary is made glorious,  
and glory seems but ordinary,  
bathe us with the brilliance  
of Your light like dew.  
In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.

(The Northumbria Community. *Celtic Daily Prayer* HarperCollins Publishers.)

## Psalm 143(NIVUK)

Lord, hear my prayer,  
listen to my cry for mercy;  
in your faithfulness and righteousness  
come to my relief.  
Do not bring your servant into judgment,  
for no-one living is righteous before you.....  
I remember the days of long ago;  
I meditate on all your works  
and consider what your hands have done.  
I spread out my hands to you;  
I thirst for you like a parched land.  
Answer me quickly, Lord;my spirit fails.  
Do not hide your face from me....  
Let the morning bring me word  
of your unfailing love,  
for I have put my trust in you.  
Show me the way I should go,  
for to you I entrust my life....  
Teach me to do your will,for you are my God;  
may your good Spiritlead me on level ground.

## Isaiah 40(NIVUK)

Do you not know?  
Have you not heard?  
The Lord is the everlasting God,  
the Creator of the ends of the earth.  
He will not grow tired or weary,  
and his understanding no-one can fathom.  
He gives strength to the weary  
and increases the power of the weak.  
Even youths grow tired and weary,  
and young men stumble and fall;  
but those who hope in the Lord  
will renew their strength.  
They will soar on wings like eagles;  
they will run and not grow weary,  
they will walk and not be faint.

## Giving Words to Your Thoughts

Jesus, you are the glory of eternity  
shining among us, the tenderness of God  
here with us now.

Jesus, you are the Healing person, the  
pattern of goodness, fulfilling among us the  
highest human hopes.

Jesus, you are the champion of the  
weak, the counsellor of the despairing, the  
brother of us all who knows our needs.

Jesus you are the splendour of the  
Father, the Son of Mary, our Bridge between  
earth and the world beyond.

(Ray Simpson, *Celtic Prayers for Life Today*)

## A Morning Prayer

O God who brought me  
from the rest of last night  
to the new light of this day,  
bring me in the light of this day  
to the guiding light of the eternal.

Lead me O God  
on the journey of justice

Guide me O God  
on the pathways of peace

Renew me O God  
by the wellsprings of grace  
today, tonight and forever  
(*Celtic Prayers from Iona*, J.P. Newell)

## “Teach me to Pray”

O ever present God,  
strengthen my will,  
that I may become increasingly watchful,  
alert to all that would impede my knowing,  
ever, how near you are.

O most near God, teach me to pray,  
enable me to lean into your presence,  
and to keep my mind and heart  
attached to you.

For you are the source of life and health,  
the hope of all who pass through affliction.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the  
Holy Spirit. Amen.

(Scott Cairns, p. 90 in *God for Us* edited Greg  
Pennoyer, Paraclete Press)