

Joint Liturgical Group of Great Britain
An Anthology Of Prayers
for use during
The Commemoration of the
First World War 2014-2018

1.

O God,
whose will it is to fold both earth and heaven in a single peace;
let the design of your great love
redeem all our anger and sorrow;
and give peace to your people,
peace among nations,
peace in our homes,
and peace in our hearts;
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Memorials upon Several Occasions, Eric Milner-White, 1933

2.

Remember, O Lord,
the souls of those who have gone before us,
both those who are remembered
and those who are forgotten.
Grant them rest in the joy of Paradise,
where all pain and grief have fled away,
where the glory of your face shines for ever
and where without shame or sin
we rest together in your peace;
through your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Liturgy of St John Chrysostom

3.

Father of all,
look with your divine pity on the pain of all humanity,
and grant that the passion and infinite love of your Son
may make fruitful for good, the trials of the innocent,
the endurance of all who suffer and the sorrow of all who grieve;
through the one who suffered in our flesh and died for our sake,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

A Prayer from France, 1915

4.

O Lord our God,
we give you thanks and praise
for those who not counting their lives dear to themselves,
laid them down for their friends;
and we pray,
that having their faithfulness always in remembrance,
we may with them overcome all things
and receive the crown of life
which have you promised;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

F E Brightman, Alcuin Club

5.

Eternal Father,
from whom every family in heaven and earth is named,
and who sent your Son to seek and save the lost;
in hope of your everlasting mercy
we pray for every soul you have redeemed,
that all may be gathered home to you at the last,
one unbroken family;
the lost found, the rebellious reconciled,
the captive released, and the outcast made welcome;
through the eternal sacrifice and endless intercession of Jesus Christ,
our Saviour and our High Priest for ever. Amen.

W E Orchard, Divine Service 1919

6.

Lord, make us instruments of your peace;
Where there is hatred, let us sow love;
 where there is injury, pardon;
 where there is discord, union;
 where there is doubt, faith;
 where there is despair, hope;
 where there is darkness, light;
 and where there is sadness, joy.
O Divine Master, grant that we 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.

This 'Peace Prayer' was originally written in French and first published in the Catholic magazine La Clochette in 1912. It was subsequently promoted by Pope Benedict XV as a Peace Prayer on the front page of L'Osservatore Romano in January 1916. The prayer was published in English in 1927 in the American Quaker magazine Friends' Intelligencer (Philadelphia), by which time it was romantically attributed to St. Francis of Assisi. Cardinal Spellman and Senator Hawkes distributed millions of copies of the prayer during and just after World War II. The prayer appeared in Britain on an SPCK Prayer Card in 1936 where it was also attributed to St. Francis.

7.

Guide, O Lord,
all who command our armed forces
that they may have wisdom to discern
that which is noble and true,
courage to choose that which is necessary and right
and determination to pursue
that which leads to justice and peace;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A S T Fisher, An Anthology of Prayers, 1934

8.

Almighty God,
from whom all thoughts of truth and peace proceed;
kindle, we pray, in the hearts of all
the true love of peace,
and guide with your pure and peaceable wisdom
those who take counsel for the nations of the earth,
that in tranquillity your kingdom may go forward,
till the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Bishop Francis Paget, 1851-1911

9.

Almighty and everlasting God,
the comfort of the sad, the strength of those who suffer:
hear the prayers of your children who cry out of any trouble,
and to every distressed soul
grant mercy, relief and refreshment,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gelasian Sacramentary, Good Friday General Intercession and Liturgy of St Mark

10.

Eternal God,
in whose hands are both the living and the dead:
we give you thanks for all who have laid down their lives
in the service of their country.
Grant to them your mercy and the light of your presence,
that the good work that you have begun in them
may be brought to perfection;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.Amen.

American Book of Common Prayer

11.

Gracious God,
as we recall those whose lives are remembered with glory and honour
we remember those for whom there is no memorial,
who have perished as though they had never existed
and who have become as though they had never been born.
May their faithfulness be upheld in our memory
even as they dwell securely within the covenant of your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.Amen.

Joint Liturgical Group based on Ecclesiasticus 44.8-15

12.

We remember before you with gratitude, O Lord,
all who have died that we might live,
all who have endured pain that we might know joy,
all who have suffered imprisonment that we might know freedom.
As others have died for peace may we live for peace,
for the sake of the Prince of Peace,
even Jesus Christ our Lord.Amen.

Leslie D Weatherhead, A Private House of Prayer, 1958

- *This anthology of prayers was produced by the Joint Liturgical Group of Great Britain [www.jlg.org.uk] for the commemoration of the centenary of World War I.*



**The Joint Liturgical Group
of Great Britain**
www.jlg.org.uk