



Buried Treasure?

Unearth God's riches this Bible Sunday

PRAYERS

Whether your normal worship uses liturgy or open prayer, you are free to draw from or incorporate any of the following prayers in your Bible Sunday service.

CALL TO WORSHIP

L With all my heart I seek you, God
A **With all our hearts we seek you.**

L Blessed are you, God
A **And blessed are those who learn your ways.**

L I shall not forget your Word
A **We will treasure your truth in our hearts.**

L I do your will with great delight
A **We rejoice in your wisdom.**

L With all my heart I seek you, God
A **With all our hearts we seek you.**

CONFESSION

Loving God
you have given us so much –
your Word to guide us,
your love to heal us,
your spirit to encourage us –
and you have given us each other,
so that in community
we may embody your love in the world.
But we confess
that we often fail to live
as your chosen and beloved people.
Impatient and intolerant,
we fail to see your presence in the other person;
we hide precious truths which we hold in trust;
we let the possibility of peace slip through our fingers.

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Loving and forgiving God
may we learn to forgive each other,
may we be open to the transforming power of your love,
may we be recreated as a people of peace. **Amen**

THANKSGIVING

Giving God, Living Word,
We thank you for the treasure of your presence:
precious moments, time without pressure,
where all our busyness, our deadlines, are put into perspective;
where one short hour of worship
can fill with meaning and carry so much blessing:
Giving God, **We give thanks.**

Giving God, Living Word,
we thank you for the signs of your presence
in the world around us; every day
your creation opens like a great book,
telling of your creative power, there from the beginning,
and your abundant love, here and now:
Giving God, **We give thanks.**

Giving God, Living Word,
we thank you for time to read and reflect on the Scriptures:
words rooted in tradition but fresh for today,
riddles, parables, questions, hidden meanings,
songs welling up from the heart, laws to live by,
the story of your love embodied in Jesus;
set down in different languages but now speaking to us in our own tongue:
Giving God, **We give thanks.**

Generous God, Living Word,
we thank you for the gift of this day,
when we can make a commitment of time to each other –
time shared in song and prayer and fellowship
with our sisters and brothers,
in whose lives and wise words
we also read and hear your Word:
Giving God, **We give thanks. Amen**

INTERCESSION

Loving God, we pray for the whole world that you love,
the world in all its need:
remembering our sisters and brothers whose lives
are overshadowed by war, poverty, hunger and injustice.

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May the leaders of the nations,
and ordinary people like ourselves,
be moved by your spirit to share resources,
take action for justice and live in peace with our neighbours:

May the gospel of Christ dwell among us, in all its richness,
In our lives, let there be love.

We pray for those to whom that gospel is still hidden,
because they have not read the Bible,
heard the good news preached, or seen its value..
May they learn of your love for all,
in ways that move their hearts and feed their minds.
And we pray for those who are still discovering hidden treasure:
Christians with minds open to learn,
eager to understand and to help others,
aware that in every person, every situation,
your love is buried like a seed, working like yeast.

May the gospel of Christ dwell among us, in all its richness,
In our lives, let there be love.

We pray for the work of Bible Society:
for its projects all over the world.
We remember with gratitude the people who do this work:
translators and administrators, lay workers and youth workers,
printers and artists and ministers, teachers and storytellers.
We pray that your Spirit of encouragement
may work with them and in them.
And we include ourselves, gathered in worship now,
a small part of this great work.

May the gospel of Christ dwell among us, in all its richness,
In our lives, let there be love.

PRAYER OF RESPONSE AND DISMISSAL

Living Word,
we thank you for all we have learned and shared,
in this act of worship, from many parts of the world,
of the richness of your presence among us,,
in the Scriptures and in the lives of others.
As we go out into familiar streets, to our homes,
the places where we work and meet our neighbours,
may we continue to discover this treasure,
and find ways to share it in our daily lives.

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May God our Creator guide you on your way,
May Jesus our Saviour accompany you with love,
May the Spirit encourage you to go out and live the good news.

Amen

***These prayers are written by Jan Sutch Pickard, a poet, author
and member of the Iona Community.***