

NICK FAWCETT

More  
Selected  
Prayers

for public worship



[www.kevinmayhew.com](http://www.kevinmayhew.com)

# Contents

About the author

Foreword

	<i>Prayer Numbers</i>
Action, faith shown in	1-29
Anger and bitterness	30-36
Awe and wonder	37-43
The Bible	44-49
Blessings	50-60
Call of God	61-66
Changed lives	67-82
Christian seasons	83-253
Advent	
Christmas	
Epiphany	
Lent	
Palm Sunday	
Holy Week	
Maundy Thursday	
Good Friday	
Easter	
Ascension Day	
Pentecost	
Trinity Sunday	
All Saints' Day	
Christian unity	254-258
Commitment	259-291
Confession	292-318
Convictions, courage of	319-323
Cost of discipleship	324-332
Counting our blessings	333-337
Death, life after	338-346
Discipleship, journey of	347-355
Faithfulness of God	356-371
Fellowship	372-377
Forgiveness	378-394
Freedom, in Christ	395-405
Fulfilment, true nature of	406-430
Gifts, using	431-435
Glimpsing God	436-446
God's kingdom, working for on earth	447-459

*Prayer Numbers*

Grace, growth in	460-507
Grace, of God in Christ	508-529
Greatness of God	530-533
Guidance	534-543
Heaven, treasure in	544-547
Hope, eternal	548-555
Humility	556-562
Intercession	563-618
For the bruised and broken	
For those closed to the message of the gospel	
For drug and alcohol abusers	
For the elderly	
For a fairer world	
For the lonely	
For those who mourn	
For politicians and leaders	
For the poor and needy	
For scientists and inventors	
For the sick and suffering	
For those who work for change	
Joyful response	619-623
Judging others	624-638
Laughter	639-641
Light in our darkness	642-649
Love	650-697
God's love for all	
Our love of God and others	
Mothering Sunday	698
Music and song	699-700
Nature and the environment	701-720
New beginnings	721-725
New Year/Old Year	726-728
Offertory prayers	729-735
One World Week	736-740
Opening of worship	741-745
Peace, of God in Christ	746-747
Peacemakers, living as	748-754
Personal response	755-786
Praise and worship	787-797
Prayer	798-806
Present moment, celebrating	807-816
Purpose of God	817-824
Questions of faith	825-846
Relationships	847-871

	<i>Prayer Numbers</i>
Remembrance Day	872-873
Service	874-884
Sharing our faith	885-910
Strength, God's	911-922
Thanksgiving	923-931
Time and space for God	932-951
Transforming power of God	952-955
Trouble, help in times of	956-989
Trust	990-1011
Voice of God	1012-1022
The way of Christ	1023-1027
Wisdom	1028-1036
Words, power of	1037-1038
The worth of all	1039-1050

# Death, life after

*see also* Christian seasons: Easter; Hope, eternal;  
Intercession: For those who mourn

**338**

Eternal God,  
thank you for the hope you give us –  
a hope that will not disappoint.  
Thank you for the knowledge that though this life must come to an end –  
its conclusion bringing with it the trauma of bereavement,  
the anguish of losing loved ones,  
the bleak awareness of our own mortality –  
we are able, finally, to face death not with despair, fear or resignation,  
but in quiet confidence  
assured that it is a stepping stone to new beginnings,  
the start of a fresh chapter –  
a pathway into your kingdom and the joy of everlasting life,  
lived with you and all your people for evermore.  
Amen.

**339**

Eternal God,  
teach us that, with you,  
in endings there are always new beginnings;  
that in the seeming finality of death  
lies the gateway to your eternal kingdom.  
Amen.

**340**

Lord,  
we find it hard to believe in resurrection sometimes,  
for death seems so stark,  
so final.  
How can dust or ashes be brought back to life?  
We struggle to take it in.  
Remind us that some truths are beyond us;  
that if we limit you to what we can fully understand  
we will never believe,  
for your ways are not our ways,  
nor our thoughts your thoughts.  
Open our hearts to things unseen,  
and may our daily experience of your living presence

# Greatness of God

*see also Glimpsing God; Praise and worship*

**530**

Living God,  
help us always to seek for deeper understanding,  
but to recognise that we will never grasp everything,  
least of all everything about you.  
Teach us that your ways are not our ways;  
that you are higher than our highest thoughts,  
greater than words can express or the mind begin to grasp.  
Amen.

**531**

Almighty God,  
help us, day by day,  
to glimpse a little more of your greatness  
and to offer you the worship you deserve.  
Amen.

**532**

Whatever we have glimpsed of your glory, Lord,  
teach us that there is far more that we have yet to see.  
Open our minds to the fullness of your love,  
the extent of your grace,  
the breadth of your power  
and the magnitude of your purpose,  
so that we may know you a little better each and every day.  
Amen.

**533**

Mighty and marvellous God,  
however great we think you are,  
teach us you are greater;  
however high,  
that you are higher;  
however loving,  
that you are more loving still.  
Whatever we've learnt of you,  
may we recognise that we've barely begun to explore,  
let alone exhaust,  
the infinite riches of your grace and goodness.  
Amen.

# Guidance

**534**

Lord Jesus Christ,  
we want to follow you,  
and we mean to do so,  
but all too often we lose our way,  
taking instead our own path or that of the world.  
We stride out confidently,  
believing we have understood your will  
and are committed to your purpose,  
only to be pulled up short time and again  
as we realise we have once more gone astray.  
Too easily we are distracted by trivial concerns,  
enticed by earthly attractions,  
and, before we know it, we find we have wandered far from your side.  
Forgive our faithlessness and lead us back into the way that leads to life.  
Guide our footsteps and help us truly to live as your disciples.  
Amen.

**535**

Living God,  
you give us guidelines to follow  
but you do not map out the way for us.  
You offer instructions as to how we should live  
but you do not dictate the path we should take in each and every situation.  
Time and again you call us to decide for ourselves,  
to seek your guidance and choose what seems to be the most loving course,  
but we cannot know for certain whether we have plumped for the right or  
wrong option.  
Lead us in all the complex situations of life –  
the confusing choices,  
life-shaping decisions,  
moral and ethical dilemmas –  
and give us the wisdom, love and humility we need  
to choose wisely and walk faithfully with you.  
Amen.

**536**

In all the confusing avenues of life, Lord,  
the roads that lead to nowhere,  
show us the path you would have us take,  
and help us to walk it faithfully,  
to our journey's end.  
Amen.

**537**

Loving God,  
we go astray sometimes –  
more often than we'd like to admit –  
not because we lack guidance  
but because we fail to follow it.  
Though you do not map out the precise route we should take,  
presuming to control our every thought and decision,  
in Christ you have shown us the way you want us to follow.  
Forgive us for so often wilfully walking the wrong path  
or wandering aimlessly in our journey of discipleship.  
When we lose our bearings,  
mistaking the wrong way for the right,  
help us to understand more fully the path that leads to life,  
the road of loving service and faithful discipleship,  
and help us to walk it in your strength,  
as best we can.  
Amen.

**538**

Show us, Lord, where you would have us go,  
what you would have us do,  
how you would have us live,  
and help us obediently to follow,  
trusting you to guide.  
Amen.

**539**

Loving Lord,  
the pioneer and perfecter of our faith,  
when we find ourselves out of step with your will,  
remind us again of the path you took  
and help us to walk it in turn.  
Help us to look to you,  
and, through your example,  
to find the guidance we need to travel faithfully  
to our journey's end.  
Amen.

**540**

Sovereign God,  
the source and end of all,  
remind us that our brief span,  
like the universe itself,  
is in your hands;

# Laughter

**639**

Loving God,  
give us the humility we need to be able to laugh at ourselves,  
to recognise the mistakes we can fall into,  
the eccentricities we can adopt,  
and even the absurdities we can come to believe.  
Teach us that we can be serious about faith and discipleship  
without taking ourselves too seriously;  
that however much we understand of your way,  
our knowledge and service of you will always be less than perfect.  
Help us to see the funny side not only of life but also of faith,  
and to learn from it.  
Amen.

**640**

Teach us, Lord, that people will rightly sometimes laugh at us  
unless we are willing and able to laugh at ourselves.  
Amen.

**641**

Help us, Lord, to celebrate your gift of laughter,  
to enjoy a joke,  
to delight in humour,  
but help us also to recognise when a smile is hiding tears.  
Amen.

# Light in our darkness

*see also* Christian seasons: Epiphany

**642**

Lord Jesus Christ,  
come amongst us now,  
for so often we look around and see only darkness –  
a shadow over our lives,  
denying hope and destroying life.  
Come into our hearts,  
our homes,  
our country,  
our world,  
and shine upon us,  
so that we might bathe in the glow of your love and the radiance of your grace,  
your light scattering the darkness for ever.  
Amen.

**643**

Thank you, Lord, for being with us in *our* darkness,  
your light continuing to shine through trouble and tragedy,  
turmoil and tears.  
Break through where shadows still linger,  
into our doubt and disbelief,  
our disobedience,  
our flawed commitment and weakness of will.  
Illuminate all through the radiance of your love.  
Amen.

**644**

Loving God,  
though darkness may obscure your presence for a moment,  
thank you for the assurance that your light will always finally shine through.  
Amen.

**645**

Lord Jesus Christ,  
shine afresh into our world,  
so that even where all seems dark we may find reason to celebrate,  
cause to rejoice.  
Amen.

# The worth of all

*see also* Humility; Intercession: For the lonely; Judging others;  
Relationships

**1039**

Father God,  
thank you that we matter to you;  
that we are not a meaningless statistic or chance occurrence  
but are special to you,  
fashioned by your hand and precious in your eyes.  
Thank you for loving us so much that you gave your Son for us  
so that we might share your life and rejoice in your presence,  
not just now but for all eternity.  
Teach us to value ourselves because you value us,  
to walk tall each day,  
not with any sense of arrogance or superiority  
but secure in the knowledge that we matter to you.  
And teach us, similarly, to recognise the worth of others,  
respecting their dignity and individuality,  
their rights and freedoms,  
each being important to us because they are important to you.  
Amen.

**1040**

Open our eyes, Lord, to the good in those around us,  
those we know so well that we can sometimes take them for granted.  
Help us to recognise their gifts,  
their qualities,  
their contribution to our lives,  
and to encourage them through a genuine appreciation of all that they do  
and all that they are.  
Amen.

**1041**

Thank you, Lord, for seeing the best in us,  
for looking beyond the ugliness that scars our lives  
and seeing instead something beautiful,  
unique  
and of infinite worth.  
Teach us to value others in turn  
and to recognise the good in them,  
the potential waiting to be tapped.

Help us to see in each one an individual fashioned in your image,  
and so may they be precious not only to you  
but also to us.  
Amen.

**1042**

Gracious God,  
when we're tempted to dismiss people,  
unable to see past their faults;  
when prejudice and preconceptions dictate our attitudes,  
closing our minds to those around us;  
remind us that you refuse to write anyone off.  
Open our hearts to the potential of others,  
the worth you see in all,  
lest in rejecting *them* we reject *you*.  
Amen.

**1043**

In all our dealings with others, Lord,  
help us to see beyond the surface to the people underneath;  
to the unique individuals you call us to value as much as you do.  
Amen.

**1044**

Loving God,  
thank you for the part so many play in our lives,  
frequently passing unrecognised but integral to much that we take for granted.  
Thank you for the teamwork that helps to put money in our pockets,  
food on our tables,  
products in shops and supermarkets,  
crops in our fields,  
energy in our homes,  
treatment in our hospitals,  
vehicles to drive and roads to drive them on –  
all this and so much more.  
Remind us that we need others just as they need us;  
that life is not lived in a vacuum but in networks and relationships;  
that we are all interconnected and interdependent.  
Help us better to appreciate all that we owe to others,  
and to play our part in contributing to their well-being in turn.  
Amen.