

In Mary Sumner's footsteps: prayers and reflections

Almighty God,
in whom we live and move and have our being,
you have made us for yourself,
so that our hearts are restless until they rest in you.
Grant us purity of heart and strength of purpose,
so that no selfish passion may hinder us from knowing your will,
no weakness from doing it.
Grant that in your light we may see light clearly,
and in your service find perfect freedom.
We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen
Saint Augustine of Hippo, 354-430



Grant us space, Lord
within this busy day
to simply rest a while
in your presence,
whether in the heart
of the countryside,
the comfort
of a café chair,
the bustle
of a busy street,
or wherever we might be –
that we might practice
the gentle art of listening.
John Birch www.faithandworship.com



Speak to us, Lord,
as we draw near to you.
Still our restless thoughts
and calm our active minds.

Quieten our spirits
to hear your gentle voice.
Open our ears to hear of your love;
open our hearts to perceive your will.

Give us your grace to heed your words
and follow where you lead.
Speak to us, Lord,
for your servants are listening. Amen



As we adventure with you today
be the compass that guides us
the light that shines on our path
the only one we follow.

As we adventure with you today
be the word that encourages
the hand that reaches out
each time we stumble.

As we adventure with you today
let us glimpse our destination
and appreciate the places
through which you lead us.

As we adventure with you today
be the strength we need to follow
and as the day draws to a close
let us rest in your embrace. Amen
John Birch



Let us make our way together, Lord;
Wherever you go I must go:
And through whatever you pass,
There too I will pass.
Teresa of Avila, 1515-82



Loving Lord, we pray for your direction
when we struggle to find the way ahead.

Guide us through the maze of life's options;
the conflicting opinions, wavering loyalties.

Give us strength to ignore the temptation
of selfish distractions along the way.

Give us wisdom to not only shun the bad
but to find the best amidst the good.

Guide us along your path of life
to a future filled with purpose.



Father, I am seeking:
I am hesitant and uncertain,
But will you, O God,
Watch over each step of mine
And guide me.
Saint Augustine of Hippo, 354-430



How shall we worship our God?
We have heard what the Lord requires of us.
Leave empty talk and pride behind.
We must walk the walk.
Prepare to step out in faith, even into troubled waters.
Only God knows where we might need to go.
Don't be afraid.
Jesus will guide our steps along the way,
Teaching us to walk humbly,
To love boldly,
To serve God with body, soul, mind, and strength.
Let us pray for the humility and courage
To follow where the Spirit leads.
Mary Jo Bowman, <http://rockhay.tripod.com/worship>



Almighty and loving God,
take our faith, weak though it is.
Kindle the sparks of life within us
and fan a new flame within our hearts.

And so may we set out with renewed purpose,
resolved to live and work for you,
in the assurance that you are with us,
now and always.

Great is your faithfulness,
from one generation to another.
Thanks be to God. Amen
Nick Fawcett: Prayers for all Seasons; 1998



Lord, give us faith to serve you
as we follow in the footsteps
of those who have gone before.

May we continue to be a people
who honour and worship your name.
Lord, make us people of faith.

May we continue to be a people
who seek and follow your will.
Lord, make us people of faith.

May we continue to be a people
who reach out to the world with your love.
Lord, make us people of faith.

God of every generation,
help us, in our time, to continue
the work of your great commission.
To gladly share the love of Christ
and to build your Kingdom on earth. Amen



We want for nothing
if we journey with our God,
his footsteps leading,
his hand to steady
if we should fall.

We want for nothing
if we listen to our God,
his gentle whisper
breaking through
the storms of life.

We want for nothing
if we rely upon our God,
his grace enough
to bring healing
into broken lives.

We want for nothing
in the service of our God,
in blessing others
through our lives
so we are blessed.

We want for nothing
in the worship of our God,
his Holy Spirit
the comforter
will satisfy our souls.
John Birch