



Creative prayer ideas

Envelope prayers

Some people may not want to voice their prayers, so provide paper and pens so that they can write or draw them instead. Write the words LOVE GOD on an A4 envelope and LOVE OTHERS on another envelope. Ask people to write individual prayers either about how they may need God's help to love him better, and/or the same regarding other people - they may even have specific names that come to mind. Encourage people to place their prayers in the respective envelopes, which should be available in a visible location. (Keep these envelopes in a safe place and maybe show them to the congregation later in the year as a reminder of the prayers that were offered.)

Note: The same activity can be done with two baskets/bowls instead of envelopes.

Prayer poster

Cut out paper hearts and ask people to write a one-word prayer on it that expresses what is needed for the Church to be fully united together in God's love (eg understanding, forgiveness ...). Stick these hearts on a larger piece of paper and pray out some of the words written. Place it in a visible place as a prayerful reminder of the part that each one plays in seeking to achieve this.

Hand prayers

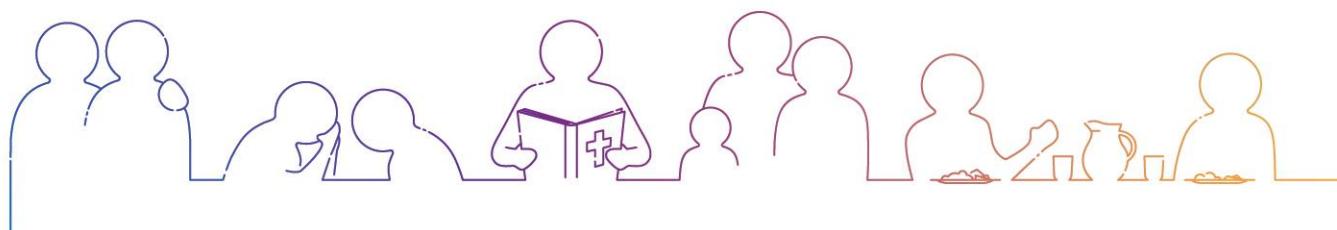
Ask people to place their hands on their lap (palm upwards) and clench their fists. As we think of being together, we can also remember many people that we spend our time with, or know of, either through acquaintances or the media, who also have an influence on our lives. As you pray, ask people to stretch out each finger at a time.

- Thumb: Pray for family and friends - that they would know health and peace and that we would be a helpful, loving influence to them.
- Pointer/Index: Pray for those in the workplace (or who are seeking a job) and those in education - that they would be a godly example to their colleagues and friends.
- Middle: Pray for the leaders within the church, in the wider community and in government - that they would know wisdom, demonstrate good leadership and a clear sense of direction.
- Ring: Pray for those who are ill, poor and most in need - that they may know healing of mind and body and receive all that they need.
- Pinkie/Little finger: Pray for yourself and your own needs at this time.

At the end of the prayer time their hands should be wide open, a reminder of our openness and availability to give and receive love for others.

Balloon prayers

Either fill up multi-coloured balloons or ask people to blow up their own. Balloons are used at special times and remind us of coming together to celebrate different life events. Ask people to write on the balloons, with a marker, a short sentence prayer of praise, thanking God for those who have helped them feel included, or made them feel loved, and for the opportunity to be part of a community of faith. Tie the balloons together and display them as a colourful expression of unity.





Pray

Prayer liturgies for different contexts

Call to worship

Come, love the Lord your God
with all your heart, all your soul,
and all your mind.

Come, love your neighbours
with all your heart, all your soul,
and all your mind.

Come, love yourself with all your heart, all your soul,
and all your mind.

For this is the greatest commandment.

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Prayer of Commitment

Let us pray that our love of God
may become real and tangible
in our love of our neighbour.

(pause)

God, you display your almighty power
in loving us without regret.

In the human heart of Jesus your Son
you have shown us how far love can go.

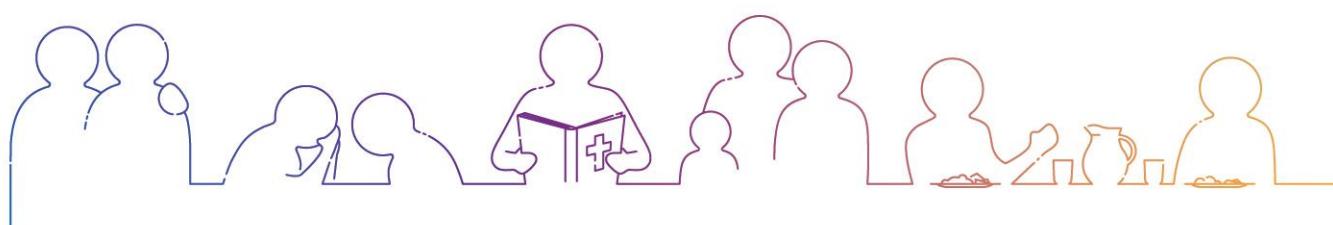
Give us a love that is forgiving,
generous and gentle like his,
that we may recognise and welcome him
in our brothers and sisters.

And may our hearts reach out first
to the poorest and the least lovable,
with the gratuitous love you have given us
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Liturgies Alive, Models of Celebration



COVENANT
SUNDAY 2022





A prayer of intercession

Out of the generous love you pour upon us,
the hope you hold before us, and the faith that you inspire in us,
we offer you our prayers for the healing of creation.

We pray for a world battered by human greed
and desperate to be cared for ...

God of love, who calls us to love:

Pour out your generous love upon us.

We pray for communities shattered by war and violence,
and longing for peace ...

God of love, who calls us to love:

Pour out your generous love upon us.

We pray for people suffering in body, mind and spirit,
and seeking wholeness ...

God of love, who calls us to love:

Pour out your generous love upon us.

We pray for those we know with particular needs,
and hope for the assurance of your comfort ...

God of love, who calls us to love:

Pour out your generous love upon us.

We pray for ourselves in our need and desire to love you
with all our heart, soul and mind ...

God of love who calls us to love:

Pour out your generous love upon us.

Amen.

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