

WELCOME TO ST. PHILIP'S!

Since 1680 this church and its congregation have stood as a beacon of God's love and as a place of Christian worship, prayer, community, and transformation. Even today, hundreds of Christians meet here each Sunday and on other days to experience the life-transforming love, grace, and power of God through His Son, Jesus Christ. Today people find healing from past hurts, peace in life's troubles, and hope for the future here as they encounter God's Word and the Holy Spirit. Our prayer is that the few short prayers we have included here might help you to meet with God, to speak to him, and to hear His voice. You might like to sit quietly in the church and pray on your own; join with friends and family in saying the prayers together, or even take this sheet into the churchyard and enjoy the beauty of God's creation. May God bless you as you seek Him in the beauty of this place!

A Prayer for Visitors

Gracious Father, we thank you for our visitors whom you have brought through the doors of St. Philip's Church, those who know you and those who do not yet know you. We pray that you would bless them with your presence as they pause in the beauty of this place, that you would inspire them with hope, and that you would guide their hearts towards you. Bless them and those they love, for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace: where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. O divine Master, grant that I 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, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Prayer of Richard of Chichester

Thanks be to you, our Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits which you have given us, for all the pains and insults which you have borne for us. Most merciful Redeemer, Friend and Brother, may we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day. *Amen.*

A prayer of thankfulness

Father God, the source of all that is good, I thank you for all the blessings you have given me. Thank you for my health and my faculties, for my family, friends and all who love me, for my home, my work, my interests. Today I thank you especially for... May I never take your good gifts for granted, but cherish them, and honor you by using them for the good of others. In Jesus' Name. *Amen.*

A prayer for beholding the wonder of creation

O heavenly Father, who has filled the world with beauty: Open our eyes to behold your gracious hand in all your works; that, rejoicing in your whole creation, we may learn to serve you with gladness; for the sake of him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A prayer for good use of leisure and vacation

O God, in the course of this busy life, give us times of refreshment and peace; and grant that we may so use our leisure to rebuild our bodies, renew our minds, and restore our relationships, that our spirits may be opened to the goodness of your creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A prayer for those in need

Father God, please bless (*names*). Give them patience and forbearance in their troubles. May they know your presence with them. Grant them healing, wholeness and life in all its fullness. I ask this in the name of the great healer, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

A prayer remembering those who have died

Loving God, your Son Jesus Christ promised eternal life to all who follow him. I thank you for (*names*); for all that they mean to me, all the ways they have touched my life for good. I now trust them to your care and keeping. In Jesus' Name. *Amen.*

A prayer for the world

Father God, there is so much goodness and beauty in this world, but also so much brokenness, pain, and suffering. Please heal the sick, provide for the needy, give justice to the oppressed, using us as your hands and feet and helping us all to live like your Son, Jesus Christ, who taught us to love our neighbors as ourselves. In His most holy Name we pray. *Amen.*

PRAYERS FOR USE BY VISITORS

A prayer for those we love

O God, whose fatherly care reaches to the uttermost parts of the earth: We humbly beseech you graciously to behold and bless those whom we love, now absent from us. Defend them from all dangers of soul and body; and grant that both they and we, drawing nearer to you, may be bound together by your love in the communion of your Holy Spirit, and in the fellowship of your saints; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A prayer for those in grief or trouble

O merciful Father, who has taught us in your holy Word that you do not willingly afflict or grieve the children of men: Look with pity upon the sorrows and troubles of your servant (*name*) for whom our prayers are offered.

Remember *him*, O Lord, in mercy, nourish *his* soul with patience, comfort *him* with a sense of your goodness, let your face shine upon *him*, and give *him* peace; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A prayer for guidance

O God, by whom the meek are guided in judgment, and light rises up in darkness for the godly: Grant us, in all our doubts and uncertainties, the grace to ask what you would have us do, that the Spirit of wisdom may save us from all false choices, and that in your light we may see light, and in your straight path may not stumble; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A prayer for restless hearts

Heavenly Father, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you: Look with compassion upon the heartfelt desires of your servants, and purify our disordered affections, that we may behold your eternal glory in the face of Christ Jesus; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

A prayer to become a Christian

Lord Jesus, I am sorry for the things I have done wrong in my life [take a few moments to ask God to forgive you for anything troubling your conscience]. Please forgive me. I now turn from everything that I know is wrong. Thank you that you died on the Cross for me so that I could be forgiven and set free. I now receive that gift. Please come into my life by the power of your Holy Spirit to be with me so that with your help, I will love and follow you forever. Thank you, Lord Jesus. Amen.

Feel free to use whatever part of this meditation you find helpful, speaking the words silently in your heart, and pausing and adding your own reflection as you wish.

How wondrous is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven. (Genesis 28.17)

O Lord, you have brought me in safety to this holy place, still my heart and free me from all the busyness and distraction of this day, that I may know your presence, and find your peace.

In this prayer, you are invited to reflect on different aspects of your own life after each line.

Heavenly Father, as I come before you in prayer, I give you thanks for the gift of my life, and for all those good things I have received in it...

I offer you all that is broken within me and within my relationships, and ask for your healing...

I hold before you all those people I know who are suffering and in need today...

I ask you to bless my community and all those who care for others...

I place into your eternal arms all those I love who have died...

O Lord, you hear the voice of all people, and your ears are open to our calling. Receive all the prayers of my heart, and be with me each day as I continue my journey of life. God be in my head, and in my understanding; God be in my eyes, and in my looking; God be in my mouth, and in my speaking; God be in my heart, and in my thinking; God be at my end, and at my departing.

BENEDICTION

Go forth into the world in peace. Be of good courage.

Hold fast that which is good.

Render to no one evil for evil. Strengthen the fainthearted.

Support the weak. Help the afflicted.

Show love to everyone. Love and serve the Lord,

rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;

and the blessing of Almighty God,

the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

(Book of Common Prayer, 1892)

Please feel free to take this prayer card with you.

For more about St. Philip's, visit www.saintphilips.church.