

Worship Resources

1. *Come Among Us, Jesus*

Come among us, Jesus,
You whom the angels worship
And children welcome.
COME JESUS, AND MEET US HERE.

Come Among us, Jesus.
You who hurled the stars into space
And shaped the spider's weaving.
COME, JESUS, AND MEET US HERE.

Come among us, Jesus,
You who walked the long road to Bethlehem
And lit a flame that dances forever.
COME, JESUS, AND MEET US HERE.

2. *Lord, Your Constant Love Reaches the Heavens*

Lord, your constant love reaches the heavens
Your faithfulness extends to the skies
YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS IS TOWERING LIKE THE MOUNTAINS
YOUR JUSTICE IS LIKE THE DEPTHS OF THE SEA
We find protection under the shadow of your wings
We feast on the abundant food you provide
YOU ARE THE SOURCE OF ALL LIFE
AND BECAUSE OF YOUR LIGHT, WE SEE THE LIGHT
Psalms 36:5-9

3. Opening Responses for a Liturgy For Healing

If you come
 In certainty or in confusion,
 In anger or in anguish,
 THIS TIME IS FOR US.

If you come
 In silent suffering or hidden sorrow,
 In pain or promise,
 THIS TIME IS FOR US.

If you come
 And do not know why,
 To be here is enough.
 THIS TIME IS FOR US.

Come now, Christ of the forgiving warmth,
 Come now, Christ of the yearning tears,
 Come now, Christ of the transforming touch,
 THIS TIME IS FOR US.

4. Invocation

From the corners of the world,
 from the confusion of life,
 from the loneliness of our hearts,
 GATHER US, O GOD.

To feed our minds,
 To fire our imagination,
 To free our hearts,
 GATHER US, O GOD.

5. *Prayer of the Heart*

Come, Spirit of Blessing, anoint me
with your oil of promise.
Do not look on my appearance,
but look on my heart, and
choose me into courage for
the future you have planned.

Come, Savior of grace, heal me
with your mud of spit and dailiness.
Open my eyes that I may no longer
approach life as a beggar,
but publicly claim my release
without me.

Let your oil drip down upon
my hair, my face, my shoulders,
my arms and my fingers –
sweet and war, and
beauty-smelling like
sunset, flowers and sea.
Slick in me a spirit of dancing
and playing and joy,
Soften me, scent me;
let my tears be mixed with
the perfume of you, as I cry,
“I am chosen.”

6.

Gracious God, accept our morning prayers of praise
for this dawn’s rosy-fingered light,
for this day’s blue-green planet’s spin,
for this dance circling back from night,
and the awe-filled miracle of grace,
this rising of the sun.

Accept our morning prayer petition for light to shine;
on this day’s hidden wound,
on this day’s tight-shouldered stress,
on this day’s anguish and despair,
and on all your many children
living under the sun. Amen.

7.

One Voice: We come before God with our loves and losses,
with our complicated relationships,
with our almost-given-up hopes,
with our long frustrations and unexpected joys.

Many: Blessed be God who does not leave us in discouragement and
doubt, but lifts up our hearts through the tender care of others.

One: We remember the story of an old woman with no children
and a young woman with no homeland
and how they cared for each other.
We look for the unlikely partnerships God has in store for us
and the blessings which can emerge
even from our saddest times.

Many: Blessed be God who surprises us with our own possibilities
for living life to the fullest.

8. *Confession*

Gracious God, we confess that we are sinners:

We do things that we regret, and we do not even understand why we do them.
We leave unsaid and undone things that would be good for ourselves and kind to others.
We compliment ourselves on our religious behavior and are pleased to be seen doing kind deeds.
Our generosity is carefully measured against our abundant resources.
Merciful God, teach us humility, surprise us with forgiveness and ask of us more than we expect
to give. Amen.

Taken from: *The Pattern of Our Days: Worship in the Celtic Tradition* from the Iona Community, Kathy Galloway, Paulist Press,
An Improbably Gift of Blessing: Prayers and Affirmations to Nurture the Spirit, Maren C Tirabassi & Joan Jordan Grant, United Church Press.