

**Prayers and Scripture for private use in church or at home**

*These might be used by individuals entering the church building for the first time since the lockdown or those at home, joining themselves spiritually to the building and those praying therein.*

Almighty God,  
we praise you for the many blessings  
you have given to those who worship you  
in this house of prayer:  
and we pray that all who seek you in this place may find you,  
and, being filled with the Holy Spirit,  
may become a living temple acceptable to you;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Loving God,  
thank you for this house of prayer  
where we praise and thank you  
for all you have given us.  
Help us to go out into the world,  
refreshed by your Spirit,  
to do what you have called us to do  
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lord God,  
sustain us in this vale of tears  
with the vision of your grace and glory,  
that, strengthened by the bread of life,  
we may come to your eternal dwelling place;  
in the power of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O Christ, door of the sheepfold,  
may we enter your gates with praise  
and go from your courts to serve you  
in the poor, the lost and the wandering,  
this day and all our days. Amen.

Saving God,  
open the gates of righteousness,  
that your pilgrim people may enter  
and be built into a living temple  
on the cornerstone of our salvation,  
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**A blessing**

Christ, whose glory is in the heavens,  
fill this house and illuminate your hearts;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

**Ascension Day Collect (ChristChurch Patronal Festival)**

Grant, we pray, almighty God,  
that as we believe your only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ  
to have ascended into the heavens,  
so we in heart and mind may also ascend  
and with him continually dwell;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**Trinity Sunday Collect (Holy Trinity Patronal Festival)**

Almighty and everlasting God,  
you have given us your servants grace,  
by the confession of a true faith,  
to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity  
and in the power of the divine majesty to worship the Unity:  
keep us steadfast in this faith,  
that we may evermore be defended from all adversities;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**Prayer about the coronavirus pandemic**

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy  
in this time of uncertainty and distress.  
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful, and lift up all who are brought low;  
that we may rejoice in your comfort  
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love  
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

**Passages of Scripture for study**

Psalm 24 The earth is the Lord's and all that fills it  
Psalm 84 How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts  
Psalm 100 O be joyful in the Lord, all the earth  
Psalm 122 I was glad when they said to me  
Psalm 127 Unless the Lord builds the house  
Genesis 28.10–22 This is none other than the house of God  
1 Kings 8.22–30 Will God indeed dwell on the earth?  
Haggai 2.6–9 I will fill this house with splendour  
Luke 19.1–10 Jesus and Zacchaeus  
Ephesians 2.19–end A holy temple in the Lord  
1 Peter 2.1–10 The living stone and a chosen people  
Revelation 21.22–26 I saw no temple in the city