

HOME

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

All Age Confession

Father God, when we treat your world badly, dropping litter or wasting good things, forgive us Lord.

Forgive us Lord.

Lord Jesus, when we don't look after our homes or possessions with care and respect, forgive us Lord.

Forgive us Lord.

Holy Spirit, when we act selfishly and forget that you made us to love you by caring for your world and its creatures, forgive us Lord.

Forgive us Lord.

Responsive Confession

Creator God, you formed us from the dust of the earth and placed us in a garden. Remind us of our place as your creatures at home in your creation. Forgive us when we forget our connection to the earth, and our dependence upon the goodness of your world. Lord have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

Our Saviour Christ, you were born into this world, and made your earthly home in Nazareth. Help us to know and love the people and places where you have set us. Forgive us when we fail to care for our homes, our communities, and your creation. Christ have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

Spirit of God, you desire to grow in us your fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Forgive us when our roots are so shallow, and our hearts so restless, that our lives fail to bear fruit. Enable us to find our home in you, and in the places to which you call us. Lord have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

Absolution

May the God of all grace forgive us our sins, settle us in a place of belonging, and enable us to bear fruit for His Kingdom; in the name of Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
Amen.

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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Use the prayer suggestions below, ideally with pictures of your local area to illustrate each. You may want to edit the prayers to make them more relevant to your local area. The prayers would be best led by people of a variety of ages, and reflecting the church's involvement in each of the dimensions referred to in the sermon on Jeremiah 29 (exile, ecological, social, political, economic, spiritual).

Reader 1: Jeremiah 29, verse 4 “This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon.”

Reader 2: Father God, you call us to welcome the stranger and the refugee. We pray for all who are homeless, friendless, or hopeless, and for those who feel alienated from others. May we provide a community of welcome, a refuge for the refugee and a home for the homeless. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Reader 3: Jeremiah 29, verses 4-5 “This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says ... plant gardens and eat what they produce.”

Reader 4: Lord, we pray for our local environment and for all who depend on it, both people and all the living things that you have made. Help us to protect and conserve our home and theirs - the green spaces, the trees and flowers, the fields and gardens. Where we have damaged and polluted our home please forgive us and heal our land. Bless all who grow food, and who transport and sell food locally, and make us aware of how we depend on the goodness of your creation. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Reader 5: Jeremiah 29, from verses 4-6 “This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says, Build houses and settle down; ... Marry and have sons and daughters ... Increase in number there; do not decrease.”

Reader 6: Heavenly Father, you said that it is not good for us to be alone, and have placed us in families and communities. May we as a church model a vision of society that includes and values all people, that cares for the vulnerable and lonely, and that is involved in helping our local area to thrive. Give us a love for our local area, and also an awareness of the global community of your church, of all humanity, and of all creation. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Reader 7: Jeremiah 29, from verses 4 & 7: “This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says ... seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you.”

Reader 8: Lord Jesus, we pray for _____ (*local area*). You spent many years working, as a carpenter, for the well-being of your local community in Nazareth. Thank you that you care for the peace and prosperity of this place too. Bless all who work to help this local area to thrive, especially our political leaders, school-teachers, shop-keepers, emergency services, doctors and nurses, and _____ (*mention some of the key trades /*



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crafts / employers locally). May this be a place where all in authority use their responsibility wisely to enable your whole creation to thrive. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Reader 9: Jeremiah 29, from verses 4 & 7: "This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says ... Pray to the Lord for the city, because if it prospers, you too will prosper."

Reader 10: Spirit of God, give us a vision of your Kingdom in this place. Help us to imagine how you want this local area to change, and show us our part in that process. Place on our hearts the people, the streets, the issues, the places you want us to pray for. May your Kingdom come and your will be done in _____ (*local area*) as in heaven. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

PRAYERS FOR USE AT HOME

Traditional Prayer for the Home

Visit, we beseech Thee, O Lord, this dwelling,
and drive far from it all snares of the enemy;
let Thy holy Angels dwell herein,
to preserve us in peace;
and let Thy blessing be upon us forever.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Irish House Blessing

God Bless the Corners of this House
and be the Lintel Blessed
And Bless the Hearth
And Bless the Board
And Bless Each Place of Rest
Bless Each Door That Opens Wide To Strangers and to Kin
And Bless Each Crystal Windowpane
that lets the Sunshine In
And Bless the Rooftree Overhead
And Every Sturdy Wall
The Peace of Man
The Peace of God
The Peace of Love to All

Orthodox House Blessing

(Adapted for this pack.)

O God our Saviour, the True Light,
Who was baptized in the Jordan by John,
and who entered under the roof of Zacchaeus,



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30 years caring for creation

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bringing salvation to him and his house:
May you, the same Lord, keep safe from harm all who dwell herein;
grant to them your blessings, protection and health,
and hear all their prayers and petitions;
for blessed are you,
with your Father who is from everlasting,
and your holy, good and life-creating Spirit,
both now and forever, to the ages of ages. Amen.

CREATIVE HOUSE BLESSING

Praying for your house can involve physical acts, and encompass the different senses:

- **Touch** - physically lay hands on the walls of your property, or sprinkle water on the walls and doors, as you pray around each room in the house
- **Smell** - light incense or scented candles in the rooms as symbols of a prayer-filled home
- **Sight** - place a suitable bible text above the entrance door of your house, and hang some suitable artwork or symbols that speak (not too obtrusively!) of your faith, or light a candle in each room
- **Hearing** - sing a simple song of worship or play one on a music player and welcome the presence of God into your property
- **Taste** - Have a special meal, ideally with locally-grown produce, invite neighbours to share it with you, and give thanks to God for the blessings of food, home, neighbours etc.