



A Deeper Well

These liturgies were created to serve alongside the stewardship sermon series, A Deeper Well. The bolded words are spoken by the congregation. You are welcome to use or adapt these prayers for worship, with credit. When printing these prayers, please use the following credit line: "Prayer by Rev. Carol Holbrook Prickett."

A DEEPER WELL: WEEK ONE

Call to Worship

If you're tired and thirsty,

come to the water.

If you're hungry and searching,

come to the table.

If you're lost and looking,

come to the Word.

If you're needing grace,

come to worship.

Come to God's embrace!

Prayer of Confession

Gracious Lord, we confess

to a stubborn addiction

to the wells of our own making:

wells full of pride and arrogance,

wells full of hopelessness and cynicism,

wells full of fear and callousness.

Draw us again to your deeper well

brimming with the Living Water,

of your peace, grace, and truth.

Help us rest by your well,

and drink deeply of all you have to offer.

Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Hear the good news! The mercy of God is like cool water on a hot day. Know that you are fully forgiven, and be at peace.

Praise be to God. Alleluia! Amen.

A DEEPER WELL: WEEK TWO

Call to Worship

Lord, we come tired and sore
but still we come.
We come carrying heavy burdens
but still we come.
Looking for something to trust,
we come to you.
Longing for mercy and rest,
we come to worship you!

Prayer of Confession

Jesus Christ, we confess to fear that turns us inward:
fear that says we can't be generous
until we're sure we have enough for ourselves
fear that shuts out the pleas of others
fear that we'll be judged if we can't give much
fear that if we start to give, we'll eventually run dry.
Scrape away our fears, Lord,
and teach us to be confident with what we have
whether we can offer a feast or only crumbs.
Remind us that you have done miracles with crumbs
and can do the same for us.
In your holy name we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Hear the good news! The only one who could judge us loves us more than we can imagine.
Through Jesus our Savior, we are forgiven. Alleluia!
Amen.

A DEEPER WELL: WEEK THREE

Call to Worship

We are drawn to God by love,
love to search and keep us,
love to save and sanctify us,
We are drawn to each other by love,
love to nourish and sustain us,
love to connect and forgive us.
We are drawn to worship to love,
love the God who creates us,
love the God who restores us!

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, we confess
to all the sins that tear relationships apart:
pride, arrogance, greed,
gossip, mistrust, jealousy,
assuming the worst of others
and bringing to them the worst of ourselves.
Mend the broken places in our families,
neighborhoods, churches, and communities.
Bind us together as the one loving and beloved
body of Christ,
committed to remembering that we need each other
as we need you. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Hear the good news! Nothing—not death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation—is able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Through the power of that love, we are forgiven.
Alleluia! Amen.

A DEEPER WELL: WEEK FOUR

Call to Worship (from Isaiah 12:2-6):

Surely God is my salvation;
I will trust, and will not be afraid,
for the Lord God is my strength and my might;
God has become my salvation.
With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.
And you will say in that day:
Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name;
make known his deeds among the nations;
proclaim that his name is exalted.

Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously;
let this be known in all the earth.
Shout aloud and sing for joy!

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, we confess
that in all the struggle and details of life
we lose sight of your everlasting promises.
Turn our heads from what does not matter
to focus on your love, grace, and hope
that brings us life abundant and eternal.
We pray in the name of your Son, our Savior.
Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Hear the good news! God washes away our guilt and
clothes us with forgiveness.
In Christ Jesus, we are made new. Alleluia! Amen.



A DEEPER WELL: COMMUNION LITURGY

This Great Prayer of Thanksgiving should be paired with an invitation to the table, invocation, words of institution, and sharing of the elements that are appropriate to your tradition and to the worship life of your congregation.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Our God created the world and all that is in it,
breathed life into every living thing,
placed humans in a garden
at the crossroads of four rivers.

Yet we thirsted for the juice of the fruit,
and disobeyed God's one command.

We were cast out into the dryness of the desert,
to dig our own wells in strange lands.

When we were enslaved in Egypt,
God heard our cries, and led us through the desert.
When we were thirsty,
God caused water to pour forth from a rock.

Yet once we were settled
in a land flowing with milk and honey,
our thirsts turned again to greed and power,
and we grew careless to God's commands.

So God sent us prophets
to remind us that justice must flow down
like an ever-rushing stream.

And then Jesus came,
baptized in the Jordan,
to live like us,
know pain like ours,
hunger and thirst like us,
but also give us glimpses
of a different world
without hunger or thirst of pain.

The realm of God,
drawn from deep within God's own heart.

We killed Jesus on the cross,
as the water bled from his side.
But three days later he rose again
to prove death's defeat
and offer again to us Life Eternal,
by the power of the Spirit.

And so we come here, to font and table,
as the church that still hungers and thirsts
for God's kingdom come.

And so with gratitude for this bread and this cup, and
indeed for all you have done for us, and for this sacred
community, we join our voices in the prayer our Lord
taught us, saying,

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy
name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from
evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and
the glory forever. Amen.**

A DEEPER WELL: LITANY OF COMMITMENT

A litany appropriate to blessing pledge cards or praying for the year ahead.

As people of faith, we seek a deeper well.

The work of faith requires much of us, so we dig deep:

into our pockets and bank accounts,
into our schedules and energy reserves,
into our hearts and our strength
into our trust in the God we love.

The life of faith offers much to us, so we draw deeply:

from the peace and joy of worship,
from the love and friendship of this congregation,
from the promises of Holy Scripture,
from the grace of the God who loves us.

As people of faith, we seek a deeper well!

A DEEPER WELL: SENDING BLESSING

Friends, we have sat an hour by the well,
been offered living water,
and the communion of the Lord.
We have tasted and seen that the Lord is good.

I send you out to a dry land, a burning land,
and you may find yourself thirsting this week.
So I invite you, as often as you need to
to return to the well. It will never run dry.

And in this week, whatever it may bring,
know that you are held by the love of God,
the peace of Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit,
now, tomorrow, and forever. Amen.