

## A. CALL TO WORSHIP

*(inspired by Psalm 146)*

Happy are those whose hope is in God,  
maker of heaven and earth -

**for God keeps faith forever!**

God executes justice for the oppressed  
and gives food for the hungry.

**God sets the prisoners free  
and opens the eyes of the blind.**

God lifts up those who are bowed down.

**God watches over the strangers  
and upholds the orphan and the widow.**

People of God, sing praise  
to the One who is your help -  
**for God keeps faith forever!**

## B. PRAYER OF CONFESSION

When we resist your call to open our  
hearts to allow the freshness of your grace  
to enter: **Lord have mercy.**

When we close our eyes to your new and  
unexpected possibilities of healing and  
reconciliation: **Christ have mercy.**

When we let fear overwhelm us, and cling  
to the security of what we know instead of  
risking new steps toward your freedom  
and justice: **Lord have mercy.**

God's mercies are fresh every morning.  
In Christ God offers forgiving grace  
and welcome into a community of trust,

abundance, and hope. Let us give thanks  
for the mercy of God, and pass the peace  
of Christ in community among us.

## C. READING

Psalm 55:22; Isaiah 46:4

## D. PRAYERS FOR OTHERS

Dear Lord our God,  
we are thankful that you are constantly at  
work in our lives. You are ...  
a help in times of difficulty,  
a strength in times of weakness,  
a guide when we feel lost and alone.

We know that through Your Son, Jesus  
Christ, You have the power...  
to transform lives,  
to mend broken relationships,  
to bring strength to the weary  
and hope to the broken hearted.

So with confidence we bring our prayers to  
You, knowing You will hear and respond.

We pray for those who are estranged from  
spouse or family, friends or neighbours;  
who find it difficult to forgive past wrongs  
done to them;

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who for years have  
carried feelings of guilt or regret for  
something they did or something they  
neglected to do; who find it difficult to ask  
for forgiveness or forgive themselves;

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those who find themselves far away  
from You, struggling to overcome their  
doubts or disillusionment, and who  
wonder how to find their way back;

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those watching someone they love try  
to cope with serious illness or injury, and  
who long for Your miraculous intervention;

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the many others in our world who are  
suffering this day — from grief, or  
loneliness, hunger, poverty, violence or  
illness;

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Sustain all those who look to You in hope.  
And strengthen us — Your people — so  
that we may be a light to all those who  
find themselves in darkness.

In the name of Jesus Christ, the light of the  
world. **Amen**

## E. LET US PRAY

*"The Son is the radiance of God's glory  
and the exact representation of his being,  
sustaining all things by his powerful word."  
(Heb 1:3)*

Let us pray ...

## F. BENEDICTION

*(based on Isaiah 35:3-4)*

Go from here  
with confidence and hope.  
Strengthen those who are tired  
and exhausted;  
comfort those who are anxious  
and fearful.

Say to them all:  
"Be strong, and do not fear!  
For God is coming—  
Indeed, God is already here!"

## CREDITS

The following resources found on  
<https://re-worship.blogspot.com/> and  
adapted for this prayer sheet:

A. United Church of Christ's Worship Ways  
website.

<http://www.ucc.org/worship/worship-ways/>

B. written by Rev. Susan A. Blain, and  
posted on the Worship Ways website.

<http://uccfiles.com/>

D. <https://re-worship.blogspot.nl/2011/08/prayers-of-people-august-14-2011.html>

F. <https://re-worship.blogspot.nl/2013/11/benediction-isaiah-35-3-4.html>

Prayer sheet prepared by Rev. Irene Bom,  
OLM in International Presbytery of the  
Church of Scotland.

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Rotterdam at the monthly prayer service in  
May 2016, and adapted for general use.

# prayer sheet

## sustain

verb

1 **nourish**, feed, provide for, nurture,  
foster, help, aid, assist, comfort,  
encourage, relieve, support, uphold,  
give strength to, endorse, bear, carry  
2 **maintain**, keep going, keep up, carry  
on, continue, prolong, hold, uphold,  
buoy (up), prop (up), ride out, stand,  
scaffold, upstay  
3 **suffer**, go through, experience,  
undergo, endure, receive, happen to,  
face

Theme

**"Cast your cares  
on the Lord and he  
will sustain you"**  
(Psalm 55:22)