***Prayers of Comfort***

*God says to us*

Come, not because you are strong,

but because you are weak.

Come, not because any goodness of yours

gives you the right to come,

but because you need mercy and help.

Come, because you love the Lord a little,

and would like to love him more.

Come, because he loved you and gave himself for you.

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 trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation;

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,

for ever and ever. Amen.

Christ be with me, Christ within me,

Christ behind me, Christ before me,

Christ beside me, Christ to win me,

Christ to comfort and restore me.

Christ beneath me, Christ above me,

Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,

Christ in hearts of all that love me,

Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

Lord Jesus Christ,

we thank you for all the benefits that you have won for us,

for all the pains and insults that you have borne for us.

Most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,

may we know you more clearly,

love you more dearly,

and follow you more nearly, day by day.

Heavenly Father,

you have not made us for darkness and death,

but for life with you for ever.

Without you we have nothing to hope for;

with you we have nothing to fear.

Speak to us now your words of eternal life.

Lift us from anxiety and guilt

to the light and peace of your presence,

and set the glory of your love before us;

through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

Almighty and everlasting God,

the comfort of the sad, the strength of those who suffer;

hear the prayers of your children who cry out of any trouble;

and to every distressed soul grant mercy, relief and refreshment.

Into your hands, merciful Lord, we commend ourselves for this day; may we be aware of your presence until its end;

remind us that in whatever good we do we are serving you;

make us careful and watchful,

so that in everything we may discern your will,

and knowing it, may gladly obey.

***At night***

Be with us, merciful God,

and protect us through the silent hours of this night,

that we who are wearied

by the changes and chances of this fleeting world,

may rest upon your eternal changelessness;

Lighten our darkness, Lord, we pray;

and in your mercy defend us

from all perils and dangers of this night;

for the love of you only Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

***For forgiveness***

Bring to my sinfulness the cleansing waters of your forgiveness
that having washed I might know refreshment and release.

You call us to follow and our footsteps falter,
reach out your hand and we treat you as stranger,
whisper our name and we simply ignore you.
Gracious God,
slow to anger,
swift to bless,
forgive us,
restore us.
Grant us hearts that stand firm,
a faith that is strong
and a hope that endures. Amen

***God’s blessing***

Deep peace of the running wave to you.
Deep peace of the flowing air to you.
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you.
Deep peace of the shining stars to you.
Deep peace of the gentle night to you;
moon and stars pour their beaming light on you.
Deep peace of Christ, the light of the world, to you.

May the Lord bless you and keep you,

May the Lord make his face to shine upon you

and be gracious to you,

May the Lord look kindly on you and give you peace.

And may the blessing of God almighty,

the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

rest upon you and all whom you love,

now and always. Amen.

