

## Communion

Jesus, we're here again. What are we doing here?  
I mean how is communion with you possible?  
You're holy and we're very human. Yet I  
remember that you also became human.

I wonder how we can honestly be nourished and  
cleansed by your body and blood. Yet I realize  
communion is an outward and visible sign of an  
inward and spiritual grace and community. I  
accept this mystery.

I am grateful for this intimacy with you and your  
disciples, Jesus. I thank you that I can share in this  
corporate act as we offer to God all of creation,  
including our own lives here together. Give me  
faith to understand what it means to be thankful.  
Amen

## Hunger and food

Help us Lord to care about the needs of the  
hungry. Give me self-control, to overcome my  
greed. Help me not to grumble about food, and  
not to waste it; but make me thankful that I am fed  
at all, when men and women in other parts of the  
world, and here in Hillsborough, are weak with  
hunger. Move me to contribute to their relief, and  
let them be fed. Amen

## We don't need to hide

We are told that you see us here, Lord, and that  
you know our hearts; so we do not need to hide  
our reluctance and faithlessness, our anger and  
rebelliousness, our sin and unworthiness. Please  
accept whatever prayers we can offer, and answer  
them by giving us the courage in all things and at  
all time to love our neighbour and do what is  
right. Amen

## Prayer

Some days, although we cannot say a prayer, a prayer  
utters itself. So a woman will lift her head from the  
sieve of her hands and stare at the minims sung by a  
tree, a sudden gift.

Some nights, although we are faithless, the truth enters  
our hearts, that small familiar pain; then a man will  
stand stock-still, hearing his youth in the distant Latin  
chanting of a train.

Pray for us now. Grade I piano scales console the lodger  
looking out across a Midlands town. Then dusk, and  
someone calls a child's name as though they named  
their loss.

Darkness outside. Inside, the radio's prayer – Rockall.  
Malin. Dogger. Finisterre.

## Writers

The prayers were written by Beryl Bye, Malcolm Boyd,  
Westminster School, Marlborough School, C.R.C.  
Rabindranath Tagore and Carol Ann Duffy, reproduced  
and adapted with thanks for their use.

## Hillsborough Trinity Methodist Church

Middlewood Road

Sheffield: S6 4HE

Phone: 0114 201 5289

Bookings: 0114 281 8424

[www.hillsboroughtrinity.org.uk](http://www.hillsboroughtrinity.org.uk)

Rev Maurice Stafford 0114 229 4707

[mauricestafford@wwmail.co.uk](mailto:mauricestafford@wwmail.co.uk)

Yannie Duveen 0114 249 4182

[familyworker@hillsboroughtrinity.org.uk](mailto:familyworker@hillsboroughtrinity.org.uk)

Rev Ian Lucraft 0114 234 7153

[ianlucraft@btinternet.com](mailto:ianlucraft@btinternet.com)



## Prayers for us

Hillsborough Trinity  
Methodist Church

*The church by the park*

## Prayers for you to use

Here are a few prayers that we may sometimes use in our worship, or that you may want to use for yourself while you are waiting for the service to begin.

They come from a wide variety of sources, and are not in any particular order. They may perhaps help you to share your thoughts with other people and in different ways.

If you want to take this prayer leaflet away with you for your own use at home, we would be delighted. You don't need to tell us; please take it with our love.



## The life of Jesus

O Lord, we thank you for the life and teaching of Jesus; for the new ideals and the new hope that he has given to humankind; for his inspiration to the struggling, his comfort to the fallen; for all the strength and vision which he gives to those who try to spread his spirit. Help us to be more truly thankful for all that his life has meant; and may we strive more worthily to follow him and make his love known among our communities. Amen

## As we forgive

Lord Jesus, we confess how quickly we see other people's faults, and how slow we are to recognize our own. Forgive us and make us more forgiving, as you bid us be. Amen

## Today

Lord Jesus, please show me some practical way in which I can serve you today. Amen

## Work

Heavenly Father, show me that good work, well done, is praise in itself, because it honours you. Amen

## Are you running with me, Jesus?

God: take fire and burn our guilt and our lying hypocrisies. Take water and wash away the blood of our brothers and sisters which we have caused to be shed. Take hot sunlight and dry the tears of those we have hurt, and heal their wounded souls, minds and bodies. Take love and root it in our hearts, so that sisterhood and brotherhood may grow, transforming the dry desert of our prejudices and hatreds. Take our imperfect prayers and purify them, so that we mean what we pray and are prepared to give ourselves to you along with our words; through Jesus Christ, who did not disdain to take our humanness upon himself, and live among us, sharing our life, our joys, and our pains. Amen

## I see white and black, Lord

I see white teeth in a black face. I see black eyes in a white face. Help me to see a *person*, Jesus, not a black person or a white person, a red person, or a yellow person, but a human person. Amen

## We can't make it alone

God knows we've tried, and we've even reached the point where we could blow up everybody, including ourselves. Teach us how to listen carefully and patiently to other people. Teach us how to say what we have to say clearly, simply and openly. Teach us what responsibility toward you and others really means.

Cut through all our egotism and self-interest, Jesus. Make us understand what patriotism means in one world of nationalisms. Educate us to support the United Nations and other organisations which bring people together in a shared sense of human concern. Work with us, Lord, to bridge gulfs and divisions between nations and persons.

## Trinity Prayer

Lord God and loving Father, we pray for your family here at Trinity. We ask that, inspired by your Spirit, we may move forward in love and understanding to a fuller, richer life. Set our hearts ablaze with zeal for your Kingdom so that we may know and do your will. For the sake of Him who gave his life that our lives may know an abundance of joy, Jesus Christ your Son our Saviour. Amen

## Sensitivity to others

Lord Jesus, open my eyes so that I may see the good that exists in all the people around me, not only in those I like or love, but in those to whom I feel indifferent, cold or hostile, for such an insight will bring me closer to the heart of your gospel. Amen

## Success

Lord God, you have given us life to live and enjoy. I thank you particularly today for .....

Help me not to spoil this occasion in any way at all, by selfishness or boasting, but to enjoy it fully together with others and give thanks to you, together with your son, Jesus Christ my Lord. Amen

## Fearlessness

Let us not pray to be sheltered from dangers, but to be fearless in facing them. Let us not beg for the stilling of pain, but for the heart to conquer it. Let us not look for allies in life's battlefield, but to our own strength. Let us not crave in anxious fear to be saved, but hope for the patience to win freedom. Grant that we may not be cowards, O Lord, feeling your mercy in our success alone; but let us find the grasp of your hand in our failures.

