**Contemporary Prayer of Confession**

[Derek Hughes](https://worshipresourceblog.wordpress.com/author/derekjhughes/) [Prayers of Confession](https://worshipresourceblog.wordpress.com/category/prayers-of-confession/) October 10, 2017

You asked for my hands,  
that you might use them for your purpose.  
I gave them for a moment, then withdrew them,  
for the work was hard.  
You asked for my mouth  
to speak out against injustice.  
I gave you a whisper that I might not be accused.  
You asked for my eyes  
to see the pain of poverty.  
I closed them, for I did not want to see.  
You asked for my life,  
that you might work through me.  
I gave a small part, that I might not get too involved.  
Lord, forgive my calculated efforts to serve you—  
only when it is convenient for me to do so,  
only in those places where it is safe to do so,  
and only with those who make it easy to do so.  
Father, forgive me,  
renew me, send me out  
as a usable instrument,  
that I might take seriously  
the meaning of your cross. Amen.

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**A responsive prayer of intercession**

***Leader:*** Within our darkest night,

***All:* Let your light shine.**

God of all creation, you hold the depths of the earth in your hands.  
You are closer to us than the air we breathe.  
Fill our souls with your wonderful love and light.  
Give us strength and courage to reflect that love and light in the world.  
Let us never shrink back from who we are in you or hide our light inside ourselves. Renew in us a sense of joy,  
painting the dark shadows around us with your light, your love and your salvation.  
Hear us today as we pray for a world too often darkened by hatred, evil, power and greed.  
Within our darkest night,   **Let your light shine**.

God of power and might, your broken world cries out from the depths,  
a world dominated by the darkness of war, terror, pain and suffering.  
We think of the on-going and deepening conflict in [Syria and the middle East].  
We share the pain and anguish of those who have had to flee from their homes,  
countries and livelihoods, who risk their lives,  
desperate for a new start free from fear and war.  
May they see your light, feel your strength and power  
and know the truth of your promise  
that we shall not be overcome by the dark shadows of life  
or the darkness of human nature.  
Within our darkest night, **Let your light shine.**

God of compassion and grace, we share with you our love and concern  
for people in a dark place today.  
We have on our hearts the friends and loved ones of the victims of violence and hatred.  
We pray that they will find your strength  
in the compassion and love of those around them.  
We pray for tolerance in our society.  
We pray for all Muslims suffering from Anti-Islamic hate crimes.  
Let your light shine through the darkness of all their pain and their suffering.  
Within our darkest night, **Let your light shine.**

God of life, we ask for your healing power  
on those who are enduring pain and illness.  
We especially think of ………………………  
and all those we name quietly in our hearts……………………  
We share the grief of people close to us, who’ve recently lost loved ones.  
We especially think of ………………………………………………………  
We remember that as we weep with the grieving,  
we embrace the joy of ……………….  
We know your everlasting light shines with us,  
in moments of great sadness and great joy.  
Within our darkest night,  **Let your light shine.**

God of love and hope,  
Renew in us a deeper sense of who we are in you.  
Help us to be aware of your presence each and every day.  
Make us instruments of love and praise.  
May our words, actions and lives be living examples  
of your forgiving, healing, life-giving love.  
Amen.

***Modern Creed***

***Leader:***

Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is the one true Church, apostolic and universal, whose holy faith let us now declare:

***Leader and People:***

We believe in God the Father, infinite in wisdom, power and love, whose mercy is over all his works, and whose will is ever directed to his children's good.

We believe in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of man, the gift of the Father's unfailing grace, the ground of our hope, and the promise of our deliverance from sin and death.

We believe in the Holy Spirit as the divine presence in our lives, whereby we are kept in perpetual remembrance of the truth of Christ, and find strength and help in time of need.

We believe that this faith should manifest itself in the service of love as set forth in the example of our blessed Lord, to the end that the kingdom of God may come upon the earth.

**Amen.**