

Lent and Easter

wilderness God

AIM

Prayers under the theme of God in the Wilderness

INTRODUCTION

Going into the wilderness, desert or wild place is a theme often visited in Lent. Here are some prayers around that theme that could be used by individuals or groups.

GOD OF THE WILDERNESS

Approach

God of the wilderness,
when we are lost you find us:
when the road to life is rough
you give us courage
and you empower us:
when the darkness within our own hearts
threatens our stability and health
you bring light and healing,
wholeness and forgiveness.

Today, in love, you call us together,
to this place, in this time,
to worship, to be loved by you,
to be encouraged and called by you
back into our world which needs us,
to show forth your love,
known in the wilderness,
to bring your healing and health.

Confession

God of the wildness, within and without,
stir our hearts in wonder at your might;
fill us with delight at your tender understanding.
Let our frailty become your strength
and let our disobedience and apathy
become fuel for the fires of your love.

God of tenderness, melt our hardness,
that we might dwell in the warmth of your love,
and serve our neighbour
with kindness and compassion.

Yet we know that too often we forget your love
and we do not dwell in love for other people.

As we recognise our mistakes in the quiet,
and as we bring to mind the times we have harmed your love,
lead us to forgiveness
and renew our determination to follow Jesus,
even to the cross.

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In the quiet we make our own confession to almighty God.

And in the quiet we receive the forgiveness that God extends to all who turn to Jesus, knowing that as we confess and repent and believe so we are forgiven.....

And together we say again, the powerful prayer that Jesus taught us

Our Father.....

Intercessions

Holy God we live in times of increasing darkness,
where whole nations are held to ransom and abused
by leaders who should be nurturing and freeing their people.

Throughout the world women, men and children
are sold into slavery and cheated of their freedom
by people who use their bodies as a commodity,
to be used and then discarded.

Huge international businesses, manufacturers
and mining corporations,
hold their own workers and the world to ransom,
in search of massive profits, regardless of justice and fairness,
and the health of the planet.

Even in our democracies, political parties too often seek their own power before the good
of the nations they serve. Everywhere, the earth seems to cry out in pain
as tectonic plates buckle,
the skies teem down flooding rain
and huge winds cause massive destruction.

And people suffer.

Aware of our own complicity in unjust and harmful lifestyles, we still believe that our prayers
make a difference;
that you take our words and feelings, our hopes and our dreams, and from them weave
new life and healing.

So, in the quiet, hear our prayers for the world
and for the church and through them work
for the completion of your creation.

*In the quiet we make our own prayers for the world, for the church, and for all those we
know and don't know who claim an interest.....*

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer
for we ask them in Jesus' name

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EVALUATION

Please try to answer these questions for yourself and for others who will use this material:

1. What was the most helpful thing?
2. What was the least helpful thing?
3. What would you like to try now?

THE NEXT STEP

If you want more material for Lent and Easter please revisit the website.

Acknowledgements

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HOW TO FEEDBACK TO VISION4LIFE?

If you wish to offer any feedback – brickbats and bouquets are equally welcome! – you can do so in various ways.

You can email the Vision4Life steering group about general or website V4L issues via the website or at admin@vision4life.org.uk

If you have comments and particularly contributions to the prayer year, you can email the V4L prayer year coordinator via prayer@vision4life.org.uk

If you want to make contributions or ask questions about other V4L years you can email:

Year 3 – Transformed for Evangelism: evangelism@vision4life.org.uk