

Some Prayers for Vocation

Lord, you call us to be story-tellers:
planting your explosive news into our defended lives;
locating us in the script of your human history.

You call us to be trailblazers:
living in your future that we receive only as gift;
subverting the fixed, fated world of low horizons.

You call us to be weavers:
tracing, stretching, connecting the knotted threads;
gathering up unravelling, disconnected lives.

You call us to be fools –
for Christ's sake: bearing life's absurdities and incongruities;
puncturing our seriousness and grandiosity.

You call us to be hosts:
welcomers of the sacred, intimate, transfiguring;
lavish celebrants of our communities and homecomings.

You call us to be poets:
artists and illuminators of inner space;
naming, invoking, heralding your ineffable presence.

You call us to be gardeners:
sowers, cultivators, nurturers of fragile lives;
benefactors of your gratuitous harvest.

You call us to be conductors
celebrating polyphony, coaxing symphony;
orchestrating the praise of your inhabited creation;

Lord, you lavish gifts on all whom you call.
Strengthen and sustain us and all ministers of your church,
that in the range and diversity of our vocation,
we may be catalysts of your kingdom in the world,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Roger Spiller (1944–)

Father,
I know you love me and have plans for me.
But sometimes I am overwhelmed by the thought of my future.

Show me how to walk forward one day at a time.
May I take heart while I search openly, learn all about the choices,
listen to others for advice, and pay attention to my own feelings.
By doing these things, may I hear your call to live a life that will let me love as only I
can,
and allow me to serve others with the special gifts you have given me.
I ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

'Prayer of self-offering in preparation for priesthood'

Shape me for your service:
pin back my arms
that I might proclaim freedom
to a captive world.

Teach me by your wisdom:
unfold your word
that I might share truth
with a hungry people.

Hold me in your love:
nurse my need
that I might tender healing
for a broken body.
(Jane Tillier 1959 -)

Father,
If the hour has come to make the break,
help me not to cling,
even to though it feels like death.
Give me the inward strength
of my Redeemer, Jesus Christ,
to lay down this bit of life
and let it go,
so that I and others may be free
to take up whatever new and fuller life
you have prepared for us,
now and hereafter. **Amen**
John V Taylor (1914 – 2001)

Father,
I abandon myself into your hands.
Do with me whatever you will.
Whatever you may do I thank you.
I am ready for all, I accept all.
Let only your will be done in me and all your creatures.
I wish no more than this, O Lord.

Into your hands I commend my soul.
I offer it to you with all the love of my heart.
For I love you Lord and so need to give myself,
surrender myself into your hands without reserve
and with boundless confidence
for you are my Father. **Amen**
Charles de Foucauld (1858–1916)