

God, I am angry  
I roil, I seethe  
Give me something  
On which to teethe.  
Make me an arrow,  
Let me fly  
Grant me a target  
A grief, a lie,  
A loss, a wrong,  
A need, a task,  
Wield me for Justice  
This I ask.  
Amen

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God grant  
To closed minds, keys;  
To stressed minds, ease;  
To scared minds, peace;  
And to me, please,  
Release  
From all of these.  
Amen.

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God, you are huge.  
I am a speck.  
Thank you for stooping down to check  
That all is well  
In my small space:  
Is this what the Bible means by grace?  
Amen.

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God, I'm cross and close to tears  
I need a spring-clean of my fears:  
Those spiderwebs of doubt that loom  
From the four corners of my room  
Ready to drop problems like spiders.  
I don't want to be one of the hidiers  
But lack the courage to wield a duster:  
Help me to more than flap and fluster.  
Help me to bash with brush and broom,  
To kick out doubt and give faith room.  
Amen.

Lord, My love has sprinted, breathless, to the edge  
of language,  
Flinging ecstatic adjectives skywards, like a  
drunken juggler;  
Rolling through lush fields of superlatives;  
Striving up hills of promises and doubts and  
desperate acts  
To stare at a languageless horizon and beat my  
heartbeats  
Toward you in the eternal

*Silence.*

Lord, grant to us all in our work here  
The faith of Abraham,  
The patience of Job,  
The wisdom of Solomon,  
The love of Christ,  
The unity of the Holy Spirit....  
And the persistence of the devil!  
Amen

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God our Maker,  
Thank you for taking us off our script and making  
us improvise sometimes,  
Thank you that life is no rehearsal;  
Help us to do everything well –  
As though for an audience of thousands;  
And help us to remember  
That each bit-part actor in our world  
Is a star in their own.  
Amen.

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Dear God  
Help us all not to confuse a person's volume or  
enthusiasm  
With their ability.  
Amen.

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Lord God, whose answer to our world's need  
came as a fragile baby,  
give us faith in small things that grow,  
nurture in us respect for the power  
of innocence over corruption  
and humility over greed.  
Make us seekers of truth,  
Always looking upwards, so that we do not miss  
the signs you send to guide us,  
And as we journey on together,  
Make all that we have and are into gifts  
fit for your service  
Amen.

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Lord God, thank you that tomorrow is a secret,  
Thank you that life's gifts come wrapped and  
mysterious,  
Thank you for corners we cannot see around,  
For people we cannot predict,  
For situations we have not rehearsed for,  
For all life's glorious potential to surprise us.  
And we thank you most of all for that most  
precious gift of your love at Christmas –  
A gift that we are still unwrapping today.  
Amen.

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Creator God,  
You have formed us in your image,  
Made us creators, planners and builders in our  
community.  
Give us the imagination to see beyond what others  
tell us are our limits,  
Give us the patience to plan in detail, and the  
decisiveness not to plan forever,  
And give us integrity, so that what we have built  
endures.  
Amen.

Lord,  
In your teachings you told us  
That those servants who have been faithful in  
small things  
Will be put in charge of many things,  
And share in their master's happiness.  
Help us to be faithful in the small things –  
Tying up that loose thread, fixing that uneven  
path,  
Following up that minority voice,  
Caring for that patch of earth, planting for bees,  
Searching for that lost cat,  
Responding to that distressed complaint – even if  
it is only from one person –  
So that we will be seen as trustworthy in our living  
place  
For those greater things with which we will be  
entrusted.  
Amen.

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Lord,  
Sometimes you lead us blindfold over the obstacle  
race of life,  
Making us trust and move on when we cannot be  
certain of our footing,  
Making us risk when the outcome is not assured.  
With our lack of sight, we fear for those who  
follow behind us.  
Keep us from stumbling, so that they do not fall  
with us;  
Save us from dead ends and detours, both equally  
dangerous to those we serve;  
Guide us to the finish in safety, so that they may  
celebrate with us.  
Amen.

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Sculptor of the universe,  
Here we stand - wood ready for carving;  
Potential, care and enthusiasm ready for shaping  
into usefulness.  
Let chisels of our critics be sharp and accurate,  
And the scaffolding of our friendships be strong,  
So that what is worthless is cut away,  
And what is left is beautiful.  
Amen.

Lord God,  
All of us here are on a journey  
Towards a better future.  
Help us to travel light,  
Taking only those things from our past that are  
useful and worth having.  
Help us to pack in the suitcases of our hearts  
The memories of hopes fulfilled,  
The lessons of worthwhile failures,  
The praise of discerning minds,  
The gratitude of those we have helped,  
The joy of honesty rewarded,  
And the needs of those we are here to serve.  
And so that we do not exceed the weight limit for  
flight,  
Help us to leave behind our pride, our selfishness  
and our fears.  
Amen.

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Lord, in today's world we are taught  
That to be noticed, something must be attractive,  
To be enjoyed, something must be exciting,  
To be worked at, something must be interesting.  
Lord, it is hard to do the dull things well,  
To do the detailed things patiently,  
To do the complicated things generously.  
When we despair or become frustrated,  
Remind us of how many leaves there are on a tree,  
How many petals on a flower,  
How many sand grains on a seashore,  
Crafted with infinite care.  
Help us to become a little more like you in ALL  
things.  
Amen.

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Lord, let our errors be generous ones,  
Tender and compassionate, erring on the side of  
gentleness;  
So that when they trip us up  
We may be certain of a soft landing.  
Amen.

Christ our Lord, Word of God,  
Make our minds as open as our mouths,  
Our hands as eager as our imaginations,  
Our good deeds as numerous as our good  
intentions  
And our silences as weighty as our opinions,  
Amen.

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Lord, let the blossom of our good intentions  
Produce the fruit of good actions  
That the tree of our community  
May be bowed down by the weight of its  
abundance  
So even the very small may reach,  
And taste the fruit of love.  
Amen.

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God of time and space,  
Give to us all the grace  
To wisely use our hours,  
Our talents and our powers,  
And not to seek to be  
As limitless as thee;  
But humbly do our best  
And leave to you the rest.  
Amen.

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Lord, amid the tumult of ideas and opinions  
Give us the wisdom to listen to the spaces  
between words,  
To discern not only the truths spoken,  
But the truths that are unspoken.  
Amen.

Almighty God,  
Forgive us when we forget to be us  
And try to be you.  
Help us to practice being us instead,  
So we get better at it,  
And more pleasant to live and work with.  
Amen.

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Lord God,  
We thank you  
That our world was not created by committee!  
Amen.

All-seeing God,  
Grant us your heavenly vision,  
So that our molehills remain molehills,  
And do not turn into mountains,  
And so that all of our mountains  
Can be viewed from the summit where you dwell  
With all of their paths laid bare.  
Amen.

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Lord,  
we thank you for the chance to plant seeds of  
goodness  
Into the soil of our community and our world.  
Make us good gardeners.  
Help us to resist the temptation  
To pull up the seedlings of our ideas  
And examine their progress  
Before they have had a chance to grow.  
Keep us from crowding too many  
ideas and schemes into one place  
so that things have room to spread and develop  
without struggling for the same resources.  
Give us the strength to root out the harmful  
And nurture the useful,  
And not be afraid to prune things back  
if they get out of hand.  
Amen.