

For All True Martyrs

Written for the Commemoration of the Tenth Anniversary of 9/11.

O Lord God, whose Son hath taught us that the greatest love is to lay down one's life for one's friends: we bless thee for the example of *all thy martyrs who have answered* (or, N., *who answered*) pride with humility, anger with forgiveness, and hatred with charity. Grant, we beseech thee, that like thy proto-martyr St Stephen, all true martyrs may face their tribulations with fortitude and faith, and that they may sow in their oppressors the seed of repentance; to the glory of thy Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

For the Victims of Oppression

Written in response to a spate of incidents of violent oppression during the summer and fall of 2016.

Almighty and merciful Father, look favourably upon thy servants who suffer from oppression: whose time, talent, and treasure have been purloined, whose livelihoods have been curtailed, who have endured violence, and whose lives have been taken. Raise them up, and deliver them from the hands of their oppressors. Stir up our hearts, moreover, lest we sit in silent consent; give us the courage, rather, to fight against oppression, and to protect and care for these thy children; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For Control of Speech

From The Armed Forces Prayer Book (1951).

O God, who knowest how often we sin against thee with our tongues; keep us free from all untrue, unkind, irreverent or unclean words; consecrate our speech to thy service; and keep us often silent, that our hearts may speak to thee and may listen for thy voice; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For Safety from a Natural Cataclysm

Written on 28 October 2012 in anticipation of "Frankenstorm", the predicted collision of Hurricane Sandy, a nor'easter, a southerly jet stream, a full moon, and the first effects of the end of the current b'ak'tun of the Mayan Calendar.

O God, who makest the clouds thy chariot, and who walkest upon the wings of the wind: Preserve us, we beseech thee, from storm and tempest, earthquake and fire. Keep us safe in our homes, and give strength to them that succour those in peril, that we may pass through the tribulations of X. without harm to body or soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For the Victims of a Natural Cataclysm

Written in response to the devastation wrought by Typhoon Haiyan (known as Typhoon Yolanda in the Philippines), which struck the Philippines on 8 November 2013.

O Lord of Hosts, who lookest on the earth, and it trembleth; who touchest the hills, and they smoke: in thy great mercy, soothe the suffering of thy servants devastated by X. Grant peace to them that perished, and comfort to them that mourn them. Defend them from the perils of instability as they rebuild their lives, and grant them like Job to be restored to a full faith in thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For Civil Discourse

Written at the suggestion of one of the priests at St Stephen's, in light of the vitriolic arguments engendered by the 2016 presidential election, but generally applicable to the comments sections on the internet.

Almighty God, who spakest to Elijah, not in a strong wind, nor in earthquake, nor in fire, but in a still small voice: Vouchsafe us to refrain our tongues from evil, and our lips, that they speak no guile. Teach us to beware of murmuring, which is unprofitable, and to refrain our tongues from backbiting. Let our every discourse be civil, and let us always be swift to hear, slow to speak, and slow to wrath; for sweet language multiplieth friends, and a fairspeaking tongue increaseth kind greetings; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*