

WE LIGHT A CANDLE

Prayer of the faithful

This format the *Prayer of the Faithful* or *Intercessions* can be used within the context of a Mass or a non-Eucharistic liturgy. It may involve either 2 people for each intercession (a candle lighter and a reader) or the same person may light the candle *and* read the prayer for a given intercession, or you may have several readers but one candle lighter throughout.

The first part of each prayer is the petition addressed to the assembly, the second part is a short "collect" addressed to God. It is important for there to be a short pause between these two parts. You can draft additional intercessions along similar lines e.g. *We light a candle for faith* (prayers for the Church etc.) or *We light a candle for love* (prayers for the local community, friends and family etc.)

READER 1

We light a candle for **justice**

(Pause for silent prayer while candle is lit and placed in central focus)

We pray for all who suffer oppression and injustice;
for those who hunger and go without, in a world where so many
have more than they need. *(pause)*

Loving God, make us builders of your Kingdom, and give us courage
and compassion to be a voice for the voiceless

We pray to the Lord*

ALL

Hear our prayer *(sung)*

READER 2

We light a candle for **hope**

(Pause for silent prayer while candle is lit and placed in central focus)

We pray for all those who are suffering in our world:
the hungry, the lonely, those in despair,
those who are ill and all those who mourn. *(Pause)*

Loving God, make us bearers of hope and send your Spirit to
comfort the broken hearted.

We pray to the Lord*

ALL

Hear our prayer *(sung)*

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READER 3

We light a candle for **peace**

(Pause for silent prayer while candle is lit and placed in central focus)

We pray the many places in our world where bombs fall
and gunfire echoes. *(Pause)*

Loving God, lead us in your ways of mercy and peace.

We pray to the Lord*

ALL

Hear our prayer *(sung)*

**if you are not using a sung response, end each intention with a more familiar spoken response
e.g. "Lord, in your mercy" or "Lord, hear us"*

AVAILABLE RESOURCES

The sung response suggested is ***Hear our Prayer*** by Bod Hurd and Ken Canedo, from the collection ***Mass of Glory***. There are many other settings which would be equally effective, e.g. *God Hears Me When I Pray* or *Lord We Believe*, both available in the collection ***How Can We Keep From Singing? Volume 2 (CD and Sheet Music Pack)***

There is a PowerPoint™ slide set to accompany these intercessions available on our website at www.cjmmusic.com/liturgy/powerpoint.htm