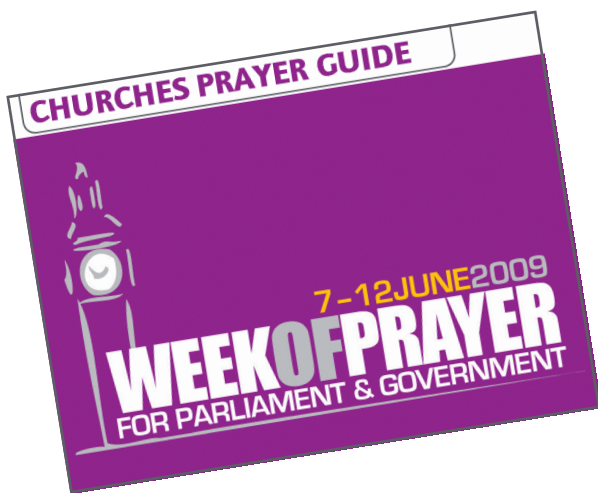


PRAYER AS A PART OF YOUR REGULAR CHURCH SERVICE

One way to participate in the week of prayer for parliament and government is to do so as part of your normal church service.

We know that churches pray in many different styles and traditions. Some read out formal prayers, some use responsive liturgies, and others encourage the participation of the whole congregation.

Whatever style of prayer you are used to, we have come up with something that you should find helpful. Or alternatively, why not use this as an opportunity to try something that you are a little less familiar with?



1) Use the powerpoint presentation

If your church has video projection facilities, you can download a powerpoint presentation created especially for this year's week of prayer.

The presentation focuses on 4 areas, and includes scripture verses and pointers for prayer. It can be used either to support prayer led by an individual, or to provide themes and pointers for a time of 'free' prayer in which the whole congregation can participate.

To obtain a free copy, go to www.christiansinparliament.org.uk and select '2009 church prayer guide'.

2) Follow the responsive liturgy

We have produced a prayer for parliament and government following a leader/response format, which is suitable for congregational use.

You may want to project it up on a screen if you have the facilities, or alternatively print out copies for people to refer to. You will find the printed version on the next page (page 4).

To obtain a copy of the powerpoint slides, go to www.christiansinparliament.org.uk and select '2009 leader-response prayer'.

3) read out the parliamentary prayer

The prayer to the right has been read out every day when parliament has been in session since the 17th century. Today the prayers are normally said by the speaker's chaplain.

The words are as relevant now as when they were first written. Why not use this prayer as part of your service during this year's week of prayer?

*LORD, the God of righteousness and truth,
grant to our Queen and her government,
to members of Parliament and all in positions of responsibility,
the guidance of your Spirit.
May they never lead the nation wrongly through love of power,
desire to please, or unworthy ideals;
but laying aside all private interests and prejudices
keep in mind their responsibility to seek to improve the
condition of all mankind;
so may your kingdom come and your name be hallowed.
Amen.*

A PRAYER FOR PARLIAMENT AND GOVERNMENT



Leader says the words as indicated. Congregation respond with the words printed in bold

Leader: I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone - for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Saviour.

All:

We pray for our leaders today.

We pray for the wisdom to decide;

We pray for the integrity to be honest;

We pray for the generosity to share;

We pray for the humility required for peace.

Leader: We pray for the Queen and Royal family.

All: All through this hour, Lord be their guide.

Leader: For the Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, and for the Cabinet.

All: All through this hour, Lord be their guide.

Leader: For all those who are members of the House of Commons and House of Lords.

All: All through this hour, Lord be their guide.

Leader: For our local MP and for local Councillors.

All: All through this hour, Lord be their guide.

Leader: We pray for all Christians working in the areas of politics and public service.

All: All through this hour, Lord be their guide.

Moment of silence for personal prayers.

Leader: The prophet Isaiah wrote of the Messiah who was to come: "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." We believe Christ to be the source of all wisdom, generosity, honesty and peace. We accept his good Government in our lives.

All: Amen. Lord have mercy.

Leader: May the Spirit of Christ be at work in our Parliament and all Political office. May the principles and priorities of Jesus be at the heart of Government.

Leader: Christ stands for justice.

All: Let the poor have a voice in our parliament.

Leader: Christ stands for righteousness.

All: Let our laws be rooted in right living and in the way of love.

Leader: Christ is the Prince of Peace.

All: May the values of love, forgiveness and hope be at work in our land.

All: Amen.
