**Prayers of Confession**

• The first and fourth prayers are simple and direct confessions using familiar biblical phrases and concepts, but in slightly different order and wording from those in other prayer books. They are close to some in *Experimental Sunday Services (1993)*.

• The second, a new prayer, has as its underlying theme our security in Christ as believers, and our need for ongoing cleansing as expressed in John 13 when Jesus washed the disciples’ feet.

• The third prayer has a very contemporary feel. With congregational responses, it encourages us to reflect on our lives and confess our failures, seeking forgiveness and transformation by God’s Spirit.

• The fifth confession takes into consideration the fact that not all who attend services may be regular worshippers or, indeed, convinced Christians – “believers and doubters alike”. Using wording from Psalm 139, this prayer calls on God to test and search all our lives, to forgive us and change us.

* The final prayer is a simpler confession. It may be used in a service where many children are present.

1. Almighty God, our heavenly Father,

we have gone our own way,

not loving you as we ought,

nor loving our neighbours as ourselves.

We have sinned against you

in thought, word and deed

and in what we have failed to do.

We deserve your condemnation.

Father, forgive us.

Help us to love you and our neighbours,

and to live for your honour and glory;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

2. Heavenly Father.

we praise you for adopting us as your children

and making us heirs of eternal life

in your Son Jesus Christ,

who has freed us from our sins by his blood.

Yet we still fail to love you with all our heart,

or serve you as we ought.

Pardon our offences, we pray,

and make us clean,

that we may continue as members of Christ,

in whom alone is salvation. **Amen.**

3. Lord, we have come to see that our lives fall far short of your glory.

**Have mercy and forgive us.**

Lord, you have given your life for us, and poured out your Spirit,

yet we fail to return your love with all our heart.

**Have mercy and change us.**

Too often we are selfish and proud,

ignoring you, Lord, and neglecting others.

**Have mercy and cleanse us.**

Lord, when we do not truly trust and obey you,

we are overwhelmed by self-pity, fear and worry.

**Have mercy and deliver us.**

In Christ we are given a sure hope and secure love,

yet we follow the false hopes and desires of this world.

**Have mercy and forgive us.**

Father, through the redeeming death of your Son on the cross,

by your Spirit and through your word,

transform and renew us to follow you with joy.

**All this we ask, confident in your unchanging faithfulness. Amen.**

4. Heavenly Father,

you have loved us with an everlasting love,

but we have gone our own way

and broken your laws.

We are sorry for our sins

and turn away from them.

For the sake of your Son who died for us,

forgive us, cleanse us and change us.

By your Holy Spirit, enable us to live for you,

and to please you more and more;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

5. O Lord our God,

you know us better than we know ourselves.

As we come before you now,

believers and doubters alike,

we all share a deep need,

for we are all lost without your grace.

Search us, O God, and know our hearts,

test us and know our troubled thoughts.

Give us true repentance.

Forgive us all our wrongs.

Transform us by your Spirit to live for you each day,

to learn to serve each other

and, through the grace of Jesus Christ our Lord,

to come at last to heaven. **Amen*.***

6. Our heavenly Father

thank you that you love us and care for us all the time.

We know that this week we have not always lived

the way you tell us.

We have done wrong things

and not done all the good things we should have done.

Only you can save us,

so please forgive us

and help us to live as your friends.

We ask this in Jesus’ name. **Amen.**