

Writing a prayer for your giving program

There is a prayer for the Giving Our Thanks & Praise Giving Program, found on the Prayer Card, Book Mark etc. (available for download – anglican.ca/gtp). However, drafting a parish stewardship prayer can have many advantages:

Living our faith is a practice that is constantly with us—sometimes a joy, sometimes a challenge. It is appropriate that we regularly take time to bring that experience to God in prayer, either as a worshipping community or in our time of personal prayer and reflection.

Prayer helps us place that practice before God.

A prayer that has been written with your own community and context in mind can help unify the congregation's prayer life around common goals. A prayer can remind us that even though we all have different needs and backgrounds, God calls us to be “One Church” and to share our gifts faithfully and generously for the healing of God's world as well as for one community and a specific need.

A prayer, employing elements of the baptismal covenant, the Anglican Marks of Mission, or the giving program theme of Giving Our Thanks & Praise, places the giving program within the larger life of faith, drawing all people around our common mission regardless of what gifts of time, talent, and treasure we have to offer. A prayer is also a simple way for some to take their first steps on the journey of being a follower of Jesus. All of us can offer prayer. Prayer also introduces the spiritual dimension that is critical in making generosity and giving a way of life rather than just a response to another request for money.

Drafting your prayer

Writing a prayer for the giving program is really not difficult. One individual can do it, or a group of people can come together to compose the prayer.

Begin with gratitude. Include thoughts and phrases from the baptismal covenant, the Anglican Marks of Mission, or the giving program theme of Giving Our Thanks & Praise. For ministries and outreach of particular significance to your community of faith, include an appropriate biblical quote.

Be sure to include prayers of thanksgiving for the many blessings bestowed on your congregation in general and on individual people.

Using your prayer

Once you have crafted the prayer, be creative in using it in as many ways as possible.

- Introduce it as you begin your Giving Our Thanks & Praise giving program.
- Include it in any bulletins and inserts for the program.

- Use it each week in worship.
- Request that leaders use it to open all meetings parish meetings and gatherings during the weeks of the giving program.
- Ask families to pray the prayer together before or after meals.
- Distribute it to members of any prayer groups in the congregation.
- Publish it in your newsletter.