

FRANCES PERKINS FEAST DAY COMMEMORATION PRAYERS
Episcopal Church, Presbyterian Church in the USA, Free Church of Berkeley

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

This prayer is the collect of the day for the May 13 commemoration of Frances and appears on page 225 in Lesser Feasts and Fasts, 2018. It may be reproduced without permission for use that is not commercial or large-scale or for sale. A version of this prayer appears on the back of the Frances Perkins prayer card depicting the icon of Perkins at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Newcastle, Maine.

Frances Perkins: Social Reformer 1965

Loving God, we bless your Name for Frances Perkins, who in faithfulness to her baptism envisioned a society in which all might live in health and decency: Help us, following her example and in union with her prayers, to contend tirelessly for justice and for the protection of all, that we may be faithful followers of Jesus Christ; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The following eight prayers are from The Book of Common Prayer 1979 by the Episcopal Church, which is not copyrighted. The BCP number indicates the page number of the prayer.

For Commerce and Industry [BCP 259]

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ in his earthly life shared our toil and hallowed our labor: Be present with your people where they work; make those who carry on the industry and commerce of this land responsive to your will; and give to us all a pride in what we do, and a just return for our labor; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

For Fruitful Seasons [BCP 258]

Almighty God, Lord of heaven and earth: We humbly pray that your gracious providence may give and preserve to our use the harvests of the land and of the seas, and may prosper all who labor to gather them, that we, who are constantly receiving good things from your hand, may always give you thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

For Labor Day [BCP 261]

Almighty God, you have so linked our lives with one another that all we do affects, for good or ill, all other lives: So guide us in the work we do, that we may do it not for self alone, but for the common good; and, as we seek a just reward for our own labor, make us mindful of the rightful aspirations of other workers, and arouse our concern for those who are out of work; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

For the Oppressed [BCP 826]

Look with pity, O heavenly Father, upon the people in this land who live with injustice, terror, disease, and death as their constant companions. Have mercy upon us. Help us to eliminate our cruelty to these our neighbors. Strengthen those who spend their lives establishing equal protection of the law and equal opportunities for all. And grant that every one of us may enjoy a fair portion of the riches of this land; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For Social Justice 1 [BCP 260]

Almighty God, who created us in your own image: Grant us grace fearlessly to contend against evil and to make no peace with oppression; and, that we may reverently use our freedom, help us to employment in the maintenance of justice in our communities and among the nations, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

For Social Justice 2 [BCP 827]

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart [and especially the hearts of the people of this land], that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For the Unemployed [BCP 824]

Heavenly Father, we remember before you those who suffer want and anxiety for lack of work. Guide the people of this land so to use our public and private wealth that all may find suitable and fulfilling employment and receive just payment for their labor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For Vocation in Daily Work [BCP 261]

Almighty God our heavenly Father, you declare your glory and show forth your handiwork in the heavens and in the earth: Deliver us in our various occupations from the service of self alone, that we may do the work you give us to do in truth and beauty and for the common good; for the sake of him who came among us as one who serves, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Presbyterian Church in the USA

The next two prayers are adapted from prayers with the same titles in The Worshipbook (1970) of the Presbyterian Church in the USA.

For Agreement between Labor and Management

O God, you have made a world where people may work together to get things done according to your will. Bring about understanding between those who labor and those who manage. Do not let greed blind us to the necessities of life or make us careless

toward one another. May wages be fair, and work be worthy. When grievances arise, help us to talk them out, so that name-calling may end, and we may work together with mutual respect; through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. Amen.

For Government Workers

Almighty God, you have plans for us, and power to make them happen. Give legislators, executives, and all civil servants a knowledge of your will for the world. Let them remember that they serve a public trust, beyond personal gain or glory. May they see that no nation lives for itself alone, but is responsible to you for peace, and for the common good of all your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Free Church of Berkeley

This prayer is adapted from one with the same title in The Covenant of Peace: A Liberation Prayer Book (1971) by the Free Church of Berkeley. Compiled by John Pairman Brown and Richard L. York.

For Union Organizers

Source of change, you called your agent Moses to serve as an organizer of the exploited, the leader of a general strike. Give all union organizers his commitment and effectiveness; through their struggles, break down every system of injustice and oppression; build a human society on this garden planet. Amen.