Our great God we come before you in prayerful obedience to give you all the honour and praise due to you.

We thank you for the way you have worked throughout history for your purposes. We thank you that nothing happens without your saying and we praise you for giving us your Word to instruct us in who you are, what you've done for us and how much we owe to you as our God and Saviour. We thank you also for your gift of the church. We thank you that it is upon this foundation that you call us to you.

Dear Lord you have given us so much and yet when we reflect upon this we often see our failing to give you thanks and praise. So we would ask your forgiveness for our often ungrateful attitude to your abundant provision. We are sorry that we are so quick to ask or demand things but so slow to thank you in prayer for the way you look after us. In addition to this we know that we also crave knowledge and insight yet we so often fail to let it sit on our hearts long enough.

But we do thank you for your ultimate provision in Christ. We thank you that in his life, his teaching and his death what it was to be obedient to you. We thank you that we can look forward to the day of Christ because of his sacrifice. And we pray that you will help us to be ever grateful for this gift. We pray that our hearts might not grow dull through forgetfulness or complacency. We ask for your spirits help in this and we pray that you will help us to be a people whose love for you is ever growing. We pray that our hearts will be so full of love for you that it spills over, both to others in this church and those whom we seek to witness to during the week. We pray that you will help us, as a people of God, to walk blamelessly in this life and that we may be encourage each other in this regard.

Amen
Philippians 1:12-18

Oh our God, how we delight to bring you praise. 
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. 
We praise you for delivering us from sin, Satan and death. 
We praise you that you delight in us, that you care for us. 
How wonderful it truly is to be in your family. 
And we praise you that your family is growing as people are gathered in from all around the world, as the gospel advances, through your people speaking your Word.

Father forgive us for our failure to do so as we should. 
For the opportunities we have missed. 
For the courage we have lacked. 
For the fear of what people might think of us or say to us that has kept us silence. 
Forgive us for the times when we do speak of Christ to others yet our motives have not been pure. 
When we’ve used it as an opportunity to gain glory for ourselves and not for Christ. 
Forgive us too for not celebrating as we should when we hear of sinners repenting because we are jealous that it wasn’t us who shared the good news of Jesus with them.

Lord Jesus thank you that you are our Saviour. 
We thank you that your death has satisfied the wrath of your Father that was directed towards us because of our wickedness and sins. 
That because of what you have done we have momentous news to tell. 

Holy Spirit give us the boldness we need to not be ashamed to speak of our Saviour. 
Help us to be so convinced that the message Jesus’ death and resurrection is such good news that we can’t help but speak of it. 
Give us a willingness to suffer for sake of seeing lost men and women, boys and girls put their faith in Jesus. 
And may we sincerely rejoice at every sign of the Lord Jesus building His church in this world.

For His fame we pray. 
Amen.

Philippians 1:18-26

Almighty, heavenly Father, 
We confess our short – sightedness to You this morning.

We realise that we spend too much time focused on the things that happen under the sun, here on earth, and fail to remember what lies beyond our limited horizon. 
We forget that You are eternally good, all – knowing and all powerful. 
We fool ourselves that our limited, inward – looking perspective is all important. 
We grumble about our circumstances, and refuse to see that You are working all things for good.

Help us instead to rejoice in all circumstances. 
Forgive us for the many times when we lack the courage to do what is right, whether it be standing for truth or standing against what is evil. 
Forgive us for living for ourselves, and not for Christ.

Enable us by your Spirit to live to serve Christ, His purposes and His church. 
Help us to be less wedded to this life and its passing pleasures, and more concerned for future glory…indeed, help us to practice concern for Your glory in the here and now.

Give us strength and grace to run the race set before us one day at a time. 
Help us to cast off the sin that hinders and burdens us and disputes Your rightful place on the throne of our lives. 
Help us see that anxiety about tomorrow is symptomatic of the pride that refuses to entrust tomorrow to You. 
Help us realise how little we can control our circumstances, and how heavily we need to rely on You. 
Forgive us our lack of prayer, and prompt us to pray in all circumstances.

Amen
Philippians 1:27-30

Almighty God, Sovereign Lord
We praise you that you reign over all
That nothing is too hard for you to do
That nothing can stop your plans from being fulfilled
We praise you for the confidence and assurance that your rule gives to us.
That if you are working out everything in conformity with the purpose of your will, we can be certain our Father, that the good work you have begun in us you will carry on to completion.

Lord Jesus, thank you that you love us and have given your life for us by dying on the cross in our place.
We thank you that you were punished so that we who are guilty and full of sin can be forgiven, washed, justified, clothed in your righteousness, and have eternal life.
How grateful we are for all that you have done for us.
Love so amazing, love so divine, demands our souls, our lives, our all.

Yet we confess, that there have been many moments in this past week when we haven’t given you our souls, our loves, our all.
We haven’t conducted ourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel.
We have let you our Lord down in so many ways.
We have been unwilling to suffer for you, whether it by choosing not to struggle against the world, the flesh and the devil, in your strength and walk the costly narrow path before us, or by staying silent when we should have spoken up for your name.

Forgive us we pray, and by your Spirit change us.
Show us Christ in your Word and make us more like Him.
Help us as a church to live in a way that pleases you our Father, that magnifies the Lord Jesus and His saving work, and shows that the power of the Holy Spirit is at work in us.

Amen.

Philippians 2:1-11

Our God, we give you praise this morning for your great redeeming work completed in Christ.
We thank you for the mercy you have shown to sinful people such as us and we praise you that Christ now sits in heaven as our mediator.
It is only through his death and resurrection that we are able to come to you this morning.

We thank you for the example Jesus is to us.
The fact that he gave up the splendidures of heaven to take up appearance as a man, that he bore the burden of the cross for us, that he even became obedient to death.
Dear Lord Jesus, what humility you showed that you should even make yourself obedient to death.

And as we seek you we admit that we so often fail to listen to your words and follow your earthly example.
We know that our hearts so often drift away from you.
Though we hate to admit it our motives are often selfish and are thoughts are full of deceit.
We love to think ourselves better than others and seek to undermine each other whenever the chance occurs.
Though we might claim to be at peace with one another we harbour resentment.
Though we long for fellowship with each other we sometimes only seek to do so on our terms.
We know that your example of humility seems to only briefly show its face in our lives in brief moments.
So we pray that you will forgive us for our attitudes to each other.

We do lift our eyes and long to live lives which mirror Christ’s example of self-sacrifice and humility.
We pray that you will constantly call us back to Christ and that you will graciously mould us and shape us to be more like him.
We know that this regeneration of our hearts is a lifelong process and we pray that through the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives that we may grow in humility and love for each other.
We pray that the love you have showed us might overflow in the relationships we have with the church here yet also the friends and family we long to see touched by your gospel.
You have called us out of darkness into a most marvellous light and we pray that our hearts, minds and tongues will be used to praise your name above all others.

We pray these things in your holy name.
Amen.

Philippians 2:12-18

Our God how we praise you for saving us through the death and resurrection of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.
We praise you that all our sin upon Him was laid.
We praise you for the new life, we who once dead, have received, which enables us now with the help of your Spirit to put to death the old life of sin and live the new life of righteousness and holiness.

Father you command us to work out our salvation with fear and trembling, promising to work in us as we do. You call us to do everything without complaining or arguing, so that we become blameless and pure. Your will is that as your children we stand out as faultless in this crooked and depraved generation, shining like stars in the universe. And you have given us the wonderful privilege of being those who are to hold out the word of life to this lost and dying world.

Father we confess that we have individually and together failed to act we ought. We have sinned against you and we are truly sorry. Forgive us we pray. Cleanse us from all unrighteous on the basis of your Son’s death.
Thank you that you so loved the world as to give your only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

And with grateful hearts, help us by your Spirit in response to all that Jesus has done for us, to live lives that give glory to Him. To be holy as He is holy. To live such good lives in this community that we are seen to be different. To make the most of every opportunity we have to point people to the Son who saves. And it is on the basis of His Name we pray. Amen.

Philippians 2:19-30

Father, we acknowledge before You that we so often fail to learn the lessons spelled out for us in Your word.

We follow in the steps of sinful people that have gone before us, making much the same mistakes as them. We read of Adam and Eve’s failure to trust the words You spoke to them, and we see their desire to rule in Your place rather than in Your image.
We confess that we are prone to doubting Your words. We enjoy the thought of sitting on the throne of our lives that is rightfully Yours.
We seek to control situations that are beyond our control. We seek too often to control other people, rather than serving them for Your sake.
We know that as Your people we should be putting selfish desires to death.

We should be following at all times the example of the Lord Jesus who humbled Himself like no other man.
Forgive us that we fail to put the needs of others before our own. Too often we are self-seeking and self-serving, valuing our own comfort above all. We have lost sight of Your glory and the Lord’s command to serve one another.
Help us to show greater concern for the spiritual and practical needs of our brothers and sisters, both closer to home and further afield.
Help us to bear the cost of caring for others – be it in terms of energy, time, money or emotional commitment.
Help us to value those who serve & humbly follow in the footsteps of Christ.

Show us again how wholeheartedly He served You, how selflessly He served mankind, how determined He was to suffer on our behalf.
Forgive us for our failures to stand for Christ in our generation. Give us the courage to stand more boldly for Him in the days ahead.
Amen.
Our dear heavenly Father, we come to you once more this morning to give you praise that is due to your name. The one who set the stars in the sky with a word, the one who chose a people for himself to call his own and be a blessing to all the nations of the world, the one who promised a Messiah who would redeem those who trust in his name. We thank you that the righteousness you provide is not one earned but is one freely given. We have no right to be seen as righteous before your eyes and yet through Christ's death and resurrection you are able to forgive a sinful people such as us all our wrongs and bring us into the hope of eternal life with you.

And as we come before you now we would acknowledge that we still often go back to trusting in the things that we do to save us. We are always in danger of still trust in our family heritage, of being good church goers or coming from Christian families. We still cling to the fact that we can add to our salvation by earning it. Our sinful nature loves to bring us away from the amazing truth of complete redemption through Christ and instead to put our confidence in the flesh.

So we thank you for the provision of Christ. A provision that testifies that it only through his death and resurrection that we can come before you. It is only through his obedience in living a perfect life that we could never live that he atoned for our many sins. And we thank you that it is through faith in Him that we can enter into your presence, that we have a sure and certain hope that we have been adopted into your family.

We pray that you will help us, through your Spirit, to live lives which honour you. We pray that you will continue to be at work in our lives; that we may desire to ‘know you more’. And that in knowing you more, we might become more Christ like in anticipation of one day being raised into heaven and knowing you in a way that we can only get a taste of in this life. We pray that our boast would truly be in your great and mighty name that other people would be able to see that we do indeed have a great and merciful God who has done everything for us.

We give you thanks and praise for all you have done and all you continue to do. In your holy name
Amen.

We praise you our God, for you are worthy to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things and by your will they were created and have your being. We praise you Lord Jesus, for you are worthy to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honour and glory and praise because you were slain and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. We praise you Holy Spirit because you have made known to us who our Creator and Redeemer is, and for enabling us to turn from our sins and trust in Jesus and be saved. And because of that our citizenship is no longer in this world but with you our God in heaven.

Father, you tell us to eagerly await the return of the Lord Jesus. By pressing on in our faith. By standing firm in our faith. By setting our minds not on earthly things but heavenly things. By following the examples of those who are more mature in their faith. Yet we confess our failure to do this.

We confess that all too frequently we are lukewarm in our faith. We confess that we are prone to wander. We confess that too often our thoughts are dominated by things of the world and the sins we are tempted to commit. We confess that we do look to and adopt the attitudes of those who are living as enemies of the cross. Forgive us we pray.

Blot out, wash away, cleanse us from our sins on the basis that Jesus has paid with His shed blood all the penalty they deserve.

And fill us with your Holy Spirit so that we can follow the example of our Lord Jesus who pressed on because of the joy set before Him, by pressing on each day towards the wonderful future we have in Christ Jesus in whose name we pray. Amen.
Philippians 4:1-9

Father forgive us for the many ways we fail to live up to the example of the Lord Jesus Christ. He worshipped you, He trusted You and sought the honour of Your name in all circumstances. He kept and fulfilled every aspect of your holy law and pleased You in all that He did. We know that we should be like Him in attitude, speech and action, but we fail in so many ways.

Forgive us that we often find it so hard to praise You. Your word often tells us to rejoice in our security in You, and yet we do not rejoice. We are easily downcast by our circumstances, but do not bring our anxieties before You in prayer. We forfeit peace when we go in search of our own solutions to our problems and do not bring our petitions to You. Our relationships with one another are spoilt by sins such as envy and boasting. Forgive us the times when we have been slow to forgive others and slow to mend bridges. Forgive us the lack of gentleness we display in our dealings with fellow believers and those outside the church. Forgive us when our eyes and thoughts stray into areas that should be no-go territories.

Help us instead to dwell on whatever is true, noble, right, whatever is pure, lovely, admirable, excellent or praiseworthy. Ultimately, help us fix our thoughts on Your Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. In His name we pray. Amen

Philippians 4:10-23

Lord God, we come now before to lift up your name above all other names. You are indeed a God who is to be praised and worshipped because of your might and power and majesty, yet also because of your love and patience and care. We thank you that you give us everything we need in this life. We thank you for the families you brought us into, for the gifts you bestow upon us, for the beauty that surrounds us, for the health which we so easily take for granted.

And yet in our heart of hearts we also know that so often we not only fail to give you the thanks and praise for these things but we dare to be discontent. In our minds we complain for what we do not have rather than rejoice in what we do. We question your provision when things don't come our way. We fix our eyes upon what we think we need rather than fix our eyes upon you, the great provider. So we ask your forgiveness for our weakness in this area.

We pray that you will help us to rejoice in the great provision that is Christ. We thank you Lord Jesus for giving up the glory of heaven for the ignominy of the cross. Yet we praise you that for those who have faith in you that cross is glorious. That cross is the ultimate reminder of how you have provided for us, a sinful and rebellious people. We know that you are the one who achieved righteousness and that without this we would have no hope.

And we ask that you will help us to continually rest in your provision. We pray that through the work of your Spirit you will help us to remember how much you have done for us, how much you have provided for us. We do pray that you will help us to be a people of contentment in a discontent world. That we would be lights in a dark world for you as we live out and speak of you, the one who can bring eternal contentment to a world that daily searches for it. In your name we pray, Amen.