

**MEDITATIONS FROM REV. DONNA SCHAPER
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JANUARY 2014**

Lord's Prayer from the New Zealand prayer book:

Eternal Spirit, Earthmaker, Pain bearer, Life giver, Source of all that shall be. Father and Mother of us all. Loving God, in whom is heaven; May the hallowing of your name echo through the Universe! May the way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world! May your heavenly will be done by all created beings! May your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and may it come on earth.

With the bread that we need for today, feed us. In the hurts that we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and test, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us. From the grip that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love. Now and forever, now and forevermore. Amen. (New Zealand prayer book)

I found this Affirmation of faith (again looking for the New Zealand) that I would certainly be able to say as a creed today:

We believe in the God of life who (Co-)creates and loves people

the (Co is mine—I personally believe who we are is a co-creation with God-and like we spoke the other night—lots of other people ☺

Who acts in history and promises never to leave us alone

We believe in Jesus Christ who is our brother,
Who wants not to be idolized but to be followed

We believe that we dwell in the presence of the Holy Spirit
Without her we are nothing
With her we are able to come creative, lively and free

We believe in the Church of Jesus Christ
A community where we find companions
and courage for the struggles of life.
Where we grow in our understanding of faith through worship, prayer, nurture, and service.

We believe God has a use for us in this time and place that though we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, we are called to be instruments of God's peace.

We believe in living, hoping, laughing, and enjoying
The good of the earth

We believe that people can change and that God keeps pulling us to life and a new world of joy and peace.

Reverend Dr. Constance M Baugh from book *Women's Uncommon Prayers: Our Lives Revealed, Nurtured, Celebrated*

(admittedly too long for rosary as is next, but pretty damn cool and possibly could be shortened (the next I mean...I really like it, and if you think of it, it's not that long, just the way it is written—maintains a Trinitarian (communal God, which is important to me:)

3 (Creed by Christina Fernandez © 1996)

I believe in God as verb

being in darkness
piercing in light
revealing concealing
one with all that is
opposites sealing
relating
incarnating
healing

I believe in God creating

woman hearted
common quartered
cosmic bodied
father sending
open ended
stillpoint greening
omni seeing
crone wise

I believe in God redeeming

Jesus loving
Christa coming
born
blessed
broken
poured out
feeding seeding
mother fierce

I believe in God sustaining
Spirit sowing
life growing
freedom making
justice slaking
power flowing
chthonic knowing
God blowing
maiden fresh
where she will. Amen.

Prayers of Ancestores: New Zealand

May the stars that led wise ones to even greater wisdom
the stars that led our ancestors across seas,
across their known worlds
to their dreams of freedom and plenty
the stars where our universe began and never ends
shine in us, light our path, remind us to share generously
the bounty of this earth our home
This day and always - Amen