

## **Lenten Evening Prayer Liturgical Texts & Prayers from the writings of Julian of Norwich 1342-1416**

Julian of Norwich is perhaps one of the greatest English Mystics. Although she has never been canonized by the Roman Catholic Church she is venerated in both the Lutheran and Anglican churches. Julian is the author of the first English book ever to have been written by a woman: *Sixteen Revelations of Divine Love*.

Although Julian lived in a time of turmoil, her theology was optimistic, speaking of God's love in terms of joy and compassion as opposed to law and duty. For Julian, suffering was not a punishment that God inflicted, as was the common understanding. She believed that God loved and wanted to save everyone. Popular theology, magnified by current events including the Black Death and a series of peasant revolts, asserted that God was punishing the wicked. In response, Julian suggested a more merciful theology, which some say leaned towards universal salvation. She believed that behind the reality of hell is a greater mystery of God's love. In modern times, she has been classified as a proto-universalist, although she did not claim more than hope that all might be saved.

Although Julian's views were not typical, local authorities did not challenge either her theology or her authority because of her status as an anchoress. The lack of references to her work during her own time may indicate that religious authorities did not count her worthy of refuting, since she did not have much power as a woman.

Julian's theology was unique in three aspects: her view of sin, her belief that God is all love and no wrath, and her view of Christ as mother.

According to Julian, God is both our mother and our father. This idea was also developed by Francis of Assisi in the thirteenth century. Similarly, Julian saw no wrath in God. She believed wrath existed only in humans but that God forgives us for this. She writes, "For I saw no wrath except on man's side, and He forgives that in us, for wrath is nothing else but a perversity and an opposition to peace and to love".

From: "Love Poems From God" Daniel Ladinsky, Penguin Compass,

## Lenten Evening Prayer

Before we begin, if you have a hazelnut, have on the table or find a photo of one.

Description of hazelnut from Wikipedia:

A hazelnut cob is roughly spherical to oval, about 15–25 millimetres ( $\frac{5}{8}$ –1 inch) long and 10–15 mm ( $\frac{3}{8}$ – $\frac{5}{8}$  in) in diameter, with an outer fibrous **husk** surrounding a smooth shell, while a filbert is more elongated, being about twice as long as its diameter. The nut falls out of the husk when ripe, about seven to eight months after pollination. The **seed** is edible and consumed raw, roasted or ground into a paste. The seed has a thin, dark brown skin, which is sometimes removed before cooking.

It was in a small round hazelnut that Julian saw all of creation.

As I was seeing the vision of Christ's bleeding head, he gave me a  
Spiritual insight into his comforting love.

Christ is everything we need –  
Christ is our clothing,  
wrapping us in love  
Christ embraces us,  
shelters us,  
surrounds us  
with tender love.

Christ will never desert us!  
And then Christ showed me a tiny, round thing. It was about the size  
of a hazelnut, which I held in the palm of my hand. And I wondered,  
"What might this be? How can this last? It is so tiny, it could just fade into  
nothing!"

This is the answer that came to me.

"In this small thing is all of creation!  
It lasts  
and it always will last  
because God loves it.  
In this way  
all creation lasts  
because  
God made it,  
God cares for it,  
God loves it."

Please begin your worship in quiet contemplation  
of all that God has made.

**Invocation:**

P: It is part of our human nature to desire God, and it is part of God's nature to desire us.

All: We can never stop yearning for God until we are possessed by God in the fullness of love. (Julian: Revelations of Love)

**Hymn: We Are the Light of the World · Jean Anthony Greif**

Blessed are they who are poor in spirit, Theirs is the kingdom of God.  
Bless us, O Lord, make us poor in spirit; Bless us, O Lord, our God

We are the light of the world; may our light shine before all,  
that they may see the good that we do, and give glory to God.

Blessed are they who are meek and humble, They will inherit the earth  
Bless us, O Lord, make us meek and humble; Bless us, O Lord, our God

We are the light of the world; may our light shine before all,  
That they may see the good that we do, and give glory to God.

Blessed are they who will mourn in sorrow, They will be comforted  
Bless us, O Lord, when we share their sorrow; Bless us, O Lord, our God

We are the light of the world; may our light shine before all,  
That they may see the good that we do, and give glory to God.

Bless those who hunger and thirst for justice, They will be satisfied  
Bless us, O Lord, hear our cry for justice; Bless us, O Lord, our God

We are the light of the world; may our light shine before all,  
That they may see the good that we do, and give glory to God.

**Prayer of Thanksgiving:**

P: God is all that is good, and God made all that is made, and God loves every part of it. If you love all people because of God's love, then you love each created thing, because you love the creator. For God is in every person, and every person is in God. If you love in this way, you love all.

All: Amen.

(Julian: Revelations of Love)

**Prayer:**

P: "All shall be well, and all shall be well and all manner of thing shall be well."

- All: "Let nothing disturb you. Let nothing frighten you. Everything passes away except God."
- P: "If there is anywhere on earth a lover of God who is always kept safe, I know nothing of it, for it was not shown to me. But this was shown: that in falling and rising again we are always kept in that same precious love."
- All: "Let nothing disturb you. Let nothing frighten you. Everything passes away except God."
- P: It is God's purpose that we be delighted--that we enjoy the gift of wholeness--that we be comforted and strengthened through grace.
- All: We are God's happiness and delight. And God is our happiness and delight.  
(Julian: Revelations of Love)

### Silence for reflection

Hymn: **Amazing Grace**

**GC 612**

1. Amazing grace! how sweet the sound,  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found,  
Was blind, but now I see.
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
And grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed!
3. The Lord has promised good to me,  
His word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures.
4. Through many dangers, toils, and snares,  
I have already come;  
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,  
And grace will lead me home.
5. When we've been there ten thousand years,  
Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
Than when we'd first begun.

Text: St. 1-4, John Newton, 1725-1807; st. 5, attr. to John Rees, fl.1859

Reader 1:

**Scripture Reading: 1 John: 4:7-9; 12**

Beloved, let us love one another because love is of God; everyone who loves is begotten of God and has knowledge of God. Those who do not love have known nothing of God, for God is love. God's love was revealed in our midst in this way: by sending the Only Begotten into the world, that we might

have faith through the Anointed One.  
No one has ever seen God. Yet if we love one another,  
God dwells in us, and God's love is brought to perfection in us.

Reader 2:

**A Reading from Julian of Norwich:**

**Revelations of Love, Chapter 15:**

I saw that God took great, spiritual delight in my soul.  
Because of that, I felt so strong, so spiritual that I was completely at ease.  
My laughter and delight only lasted for a short while.  
Then I found myself changed. I felt abandoned. Depressed.  
Weary of life. But after a while, God gave me comfort again,  
so that I felt no fear, no depression, no physical or spiritual pain.  
When I was feeling joy, I could have said with Saint Paul,  
"Nothing can separate me from the love of Christ." When I was  
depressed I could have said with Saint Peter, "Lord, save me. I am dying."

I knew joy one moment and pain the next. I was given this  
experience for a reason. Sometimes God leaves us on our own  
for the good of our soul. Sometimes God brings us joy and  
sometimes pain, but both are one love. Joy lasts, but pain is  
passing. God doesn't want us to feel pain, but wants us to pass  
right by that pain and live in God's endless love.

Reader 3:

**Revelations of Love, Chapter 26:**

Again, our Lord showed himself to me, this time more glorious  
than I had seen him before. I learned that our soul will never find  
rest until it comes to the fullness of Christ's joy.  
So Christ said, again and again,

"I AM the one.

I AM the one.

I AM the one most honoured.

I AM the one you love.

I AM the one you enjoy.

I AM the one you serve.

I AM the one you long for.

I AM the one you desire.

I AM the one you yearn for.

I AM the one who is everything.

I AM the one whom the holy church preaches and teaches.

I AM the one who showed myself to you."

There were so many words, I couldn't understand them all. But  
the joy I had in listening to those words went far beyond anything I  
could think or desire. I won't try to explain them, but, as the grace

of God gives you love and understanding, you will know what God means.

### **Prayers of the Faithful**

Please respond: Be near us, O God.

### **The Greatest Prayer**

P: As Jesus taught us, we pray:  
Our ever-loving God...

### **Hymn: I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light**

**GC 507**

1. I want to walk as a child of the light.  
I want to follow Jesus.  
God set the stars to give light to the world.  
The star of my life is Jesus.  
In him there is no darkness at all.  
The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.  
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.
2. I want to see the brightness of God.  
I want to look at Jesus.  
Clear sun of righteousness shine on my path,  
And show me the way to the Father.  
In him there is...
3. I'm looking for the coming of Christ.  
I want to be with Jesus.  
When we have run with patience the race,  
We shall know the joy of Jesus.  
In him there is...

### **Benediction:**

P: Let our God of Goodness be enough for you.  
Ask for nothing less, for if you ask for less than God you will always be left wanting. In God: All shall be well and all shall be well and all manner of things shall be well.

(Julian: Revelations of Love)

Peace: receive the peace of Christ  
and share Christ's peace as you depart.

Evening Prayer as adapted by pastordawn BEYOND CHURCH (website)

The link to join the meeting is

<https://zoom.us/j/231599312?pwd=bHJMT1NZOEtERE1oOTQwdS84NU45Zz09>

**You will be put into a waiting room.** Please join before liturgy begins so that you can participate.

For those joining by phone or through an app, you will need meeting ID and password:

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