

Collects by James Barnhill

For the Prosper of God's Church

Lord God, who drew to Gideon an army which drank with their left hand and held their weapons with their right, and who brought to Nehemiah a people which built with one hand and waged war with the other, gather to *this church* men and women who are determined to drink your Word, build your kingdom, and wage war on the enemy, so that led by the Lion of Judah – our Lord Jesus – we produce a thundering flood of faithful servants for the glory of your everlasting name, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

For the Protection of God's Church

Almighty God, whose Word made flesh came to dwell among us in the darkness, so render *this church* a place of your brightest light, that even amid the gloom of these days we might be a city on a hill, whose beacon, inflamed with the ardor of your Holy Spirit, shall never be quenched by any form of evil, in the name of Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

For the Provision of God's Church

Heavenly Father, who sustained your children with manna and quail in their wanderings, so bestow your gracious bounty on *this church*, that it may remain a steadfast beacon of your eternal light, shining on the glowering murk of this world, and enlightening it with your blessed Word, in the name of your Son who did not spare even His own sweet body and blood in the Spiritual nourishment of your people. This we ask in His precious name, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

For the Unity of God's People

Oh God, sovereign Lord of the cosmos, whose only Son Jesus bestowed upon us a Kingdom in which there is neither Jew nor Greek, neither slave nor free, neither male nor female; and who when He went on high left with us His blessed gift of unity in one Lord, one faith, and one baptism; bless, we pray, your faithful company of believers – through the awesome power of your Holy Spirit – with wills so knit together, that we might labor by one accord in the defense of your Gospel and in the building of your Kingdom, for the honor and Glory of your name, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

A prayer for the evening based on the missionary poetry of Constance Padwick in Cairo

Oh God, Father of Our Lord Jesus, thou who are the just who knows no change, the equity that swerves not, the everlasting peace that passes not away; this evening when eyes are at rest and stars at play, when hushed are the movements of birds in their nests, and monsters in the deep; this evening when the doors of kings are locked and watched by their guards, Thy door is open to all who call on Thee. My Lord, this evening when each lover is alone with his beloved, Thou art for me the most beloved. Amen.