

A NEW LITURGY
No 5: Here Are My Hands

Part ONE.

Thanksgiving

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.

And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages.
Amen.

Here are my Hands

aaron niequist

so here are my hands
they're small, they're small and
here are my hands
they're small and trembling

here are my arms
they're weak, they're weak but
here are my arms
they're weak but willing

here are my eyes

they burn with memories

here are my eyes
they're teared and tired

here are my feet
they're slow, they're slow but
here are my feet
they're stumbling to You now

and God, i know
there still is so much i just don't know
but God, i believe
Your Kingdom can still be built in me

so here is my heart
here is my soul
take me in part
take me in whole, whole, whole
i want to be whole, whole, whole

here are my hands
they're small, they're small and
here are my hands
they're small and trembling

here are my dreams
they're me protected
here are my dreams
so please be gentle now

and God, i know
there still is so much i just don't know
but God, i believe
Your Kingdom can still be built on me

so here is my heart
here is my soul
Your kingdom come
my kingdom go, go, go
i'm letting it go, go, go
i'm letting it go, go, go
i'm letting it go, go, go

Time of Prayer

(1) Loving God, here are my hands.
What do you want me to create or build today?
Who do you want me to serve?
What activities should I keep my hands away from?
May these small hands help build your kingdom.

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.
(Colossians 3:23, 24 NIV)

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. (Ephesians 4:29 NIV)

(2) Loving God, here is my voice.
I commit to only speak words of life today.
Words that build up and not tear down.
Always speaking the truth, and always speaking it in Love.
Please help me to be a voice for the voiceless today.
Show me when to stay quiet.
O God, may my voice make this world more like You've made it to be.

May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer. (Psalm 19:14 NIV)

(3) Loving God, here is my heart.
You know the deepest longings of my heart. I humbly hold them out before You.

For Vocation in Daily Work

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.

and God, i know
there still is so much i just don't know

and God, i believe
Your Kingdom can still be built on me

so here is my heart
here is my soul
Your kingdom come
my kingdom go, go, go
i'm letting it go, go, go

May Your Kingdom grow, grow, grow
May Your Kingdom grow, grow, grow

Our Father

Take my life, and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my hands, and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love;
At the impulse of Thy love.

Take my lips, and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee,
Take my intellect, and use
Every power as Thou shalt choose,
Every power as Thou shalt choose.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure-store.
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee,
Ever, only, all for Thee.

Part TWO.

Almighty God, thank You for this day. Thank You that I was able to work today to earn a living, and through Your Spirit, to make the world a little more like You've made it to be. Thank You. The scriptures say...

"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first fruits of all He created." (James 1:16-18 NIV)

Doxology

Praise God from whom all nature flows
Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God above ye heavenly hosts
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost
Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen.

Holy Spirit, please guide me now as I pray.

(1) God, bring to mind a moment today where You really used me, where you spoke and I listened, where I was able to serve someone and be your hands and feet. God, where did I feel most alive and full of Your Spirit today?

(Space)

Doxology (reprise)

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost

(2) Loving God, would You bring to mind a moment today where I fell short, where I sinned against You or someone else. Maybe it was something I did when no one was looking...something I said that was hurtful...something I thought...maybe I said something that was absolutely true but the energy powering it was ugly. Father, please bring my sin to my mind.

(Space)

Lord God,
I have sinned against You;
I have done evil in Your sight.
I am sorry and repent.
Have mercy on me according to Your love.
Wash away my wrongdoing and cleanse me from our sin.
Renew a right spirit within me
and restore me to the joy of Your salvation,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Nothing But The Blood

By Robert Lowry

What can wash away my sin
Nothing but the blood of Jesus
What can make me whole again
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

Oh precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow
No other fount I know
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

(space)

Oh precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow
No other fount I know
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

(3) And now, Gracious God, because I have been forgiven so much,
would You bring to mind one person that I need to forgive today?
Did someone say, do, or not do something that was hurtful to
me today, and I need to forgive them? Or maybe it's a system or
culture or rule that I deeply resent. Or a disappointment that
follows me around. O God, who do I need to forgive today?

(space)

God, I forgive them. Help me to let it go. I release them, I let them
off the hook by the power and grace of Your son, Jesus Christ.

I'm letting it go, go, go...
I'm letting it go, go, go...
I'm letting it go, go, go...

and God, i know
there still is so much i just don't know
and God, i believe
Your Kingdom can still be built on me

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Our Father