

What's a collect (pronounced *call-ect*)?

Collects are prayers. The word collect comes from a Latin word that means "the gathering of the people." While we are gathered together in worship we will take time to write our own individual collects. We hope this will be another valuable tool to strengthen your prayer life.

A collect has a certain pattern that includes the following:

1. Give God a name (ie Gracious God, Abba Father, Holy one)
2. Acknowledge a trait of God (Loving, merciful)
3. Name a need or want (Peace during a stressful time, healing for a friend)
4. Name why you have this need (Tired of chaos and stress, care for a friend)
5. Amen.

We will base our collects on a passage of scripture. For example:

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." –Psalm 46:1

*Present God,*

*You are my refuge and strength.*

*I need your strength for a hard conversation with a friend who has hurt me  
as they are important to me and I value their friendship.*

*In Christ name, I pray. Amen.*

Collect based on Psalm 46:1

1. Give a name to God: *Present God,*
2. Acknowledge a trait of God: *You are my refuge and strength.*
3. Name a need: *Help me to be more kind to my coworkers,*
4. Name why you have this need: *as I want them to know I care for them and desire to have good relationships with them.*
5. End prayer: *In Christ name, I pray. Amen.*

Collects can be as short or as long as you like.

For today's worship, we will pick one of the beatitudes from the Sermon on the Mount, Matthe 5.1-11 (given below on the back page). Your breakout group should pick a beatitude, have each member spend 2-4 minutes sketching their own collect, and then come together in the remaining 5 or so minutes and write a corporate collect; each group should pick a leader to write down the prayer. We can then share some or all of the corporate collects with the full assembly.

<sup>5</sup> When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup> And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup> “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup> “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup> “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup> “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup> “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup> “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup> “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

<sup>10</sup> “Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup> “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.