

Church of England clergyman, William Secker: “Many blush to confess their sins, who never blush to commit them.”

O Loving and merciful God, we come to be open and honest before you – you who know everything anyway. We come to prepare our hearts and souls for the cleansing power of the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ. And yes, we blush at our confessions, for we are embarrassed, apologetic, humbled, and sometimes even angry with ourselves. We know better, we want to do better. But we get caught up in our emotions, we get caught up in what other people think of us, we get caught up in our own self-serving ways, and we miss the mark of being the Christians you want us to be. And so we come before you now to make our confessions, to share with you our struggles and to trust that with you we can start anew. And so, we come to you in silence, with our own personal confessions and prayers.

As the Disciple John assures us, when we confess our sins, he is faithful to forgive us, and so we thank you O God, for the grace and mercy you so generously offer us. And, in this season when we have been so vividly reminded of the sacrifice Jesus made for us, and what he went through, we pray that we would be Easter people who live in such a way that shows others that your love can triumph over hate, that your power is greater than any earthly thing we encounter, that even when things seem to be the darkest, your light can break through with hope. May we proclaim both with our lips and our actions the good news that Jesus Christ is risen, and is alive and at work in our world today.

Lord, we wish to lift up to you people we know and love who are in need of some kind. Be it healing, peace, direction, faith, strength, purpose, any number of issues that are troubling, we know that nothing is beyond your touch. And so, out of care for them, and trust in you, hear us now as we lift up the names of those for whom we ask your blessing.

And now, Lord, as we continue in our worship, may the words that are spoken, the music that is played, the meditations of our hearts be acceptable to you, O Lord our God. Amen.