

# DOC NEW LIFE NEWS

Volume 57, Issue 2

SPRING/SUMMER 2016

## Special points of interest:

- President's Message
- The New Jerusalem Attitude
- Events!
- Retreat Summaries
- Psalms, Prose & Prayers

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## Dear Members and Friends of the DOC

Greetings from the National Board of the DOC! As we move into 2016, we are expecting wonderful retreats in the coming months. If you have not attended a DOC retreat or day apart ever or in recent years, I encourage you to go to our website for information on an event: <http://dochr.org/category/regional-news/>. The National Board joined with the Western Region last August for a National Retreat. Although I was unable to attend, the reports were terrific. This year, the board will join the SE retreat in Asheboro, NC prior to the SE retreat. Please let any board member know of comments you have in advance of the meeting so that your voice can be heard. I also encourage you to visit the Facebook page for DOC to see events and postings there from members. We may not be the most "tech-savvy" of groups, but we need your help to get us there!

I have been re-reading a number of DOC books by our founder, Dr. Albert Day, including

*Autobiography of Prayer, Discipline & Discovery, DOC History, DOC History Update, and Letters on the Healing Ministry.* These have been great resources for many years. I was particularly struck in reviewing our history to see where in various decades the epicenter of DOC was housed (it has changed over time!) and the many names of those that have gone before and served so faithfully.

I have mentioned this before, but worth noting a few "did you know's": Did you know that the Western Region, in addition to retreats, holds a monthly conference call for many members who are either unable to attend a retreat or too distant to do so? They have done an excellent job of maintaining connectivity with their groups. Did you know that a number of DOC members host a monthly C. S. Lewis discussion group in Raleigh, NC to learn more and grow together? These are just a couple of examples of your fellow members wanting to grow

deeper in their faith and in community. Please let us know of other activities going on so that we can learn from you.

We also earnestly desire to have contributions from you for the *New Life News* which we publish. While it is a great way for us to communicate, it is also an opportunity for you to share with others. If you are a regular reader, you will know that we include retreat recaps, Christian poetry, and Christian book reviews. Please send items to Pete Nehnevajsa at [nln@dochr.org](mailto:nln@dochr.org).

Thanks so much for your continued support, and given my background, I would be remiss if I did not ask for your financial support. We operate on a very small budget with no paid staff, but we do need assistance to continue our mission. Blessings to you as spring arrives!

Sincerely in Christ,

John Bankson, President

## DOC 2016 Events

- **July 13-17: Southeast Region DOC Annual Retreat** at Caraway Conference Center, Sophia NC. The speaker for the retreat is **Dr. Kevin Kinghorn** of Asbury Theological Seminary with Music Worship services by **Jim & Sheila Todd** and **Constance Douglas**. This year's theme is "*Walking Daily in the Kingdom.*" (details at: <http://dochr.org/2016/01/22/se-summer-retreat/>)
- **Please visit the DOC website (<http://dochr.org>) for current retreat information and other announcements.**

If you have an event to publish, please submit it to [nln@dochr.org](mailto:nln@dochr.org) or [dochrist7@gmail.com](mailto:dochrist7@gmail.com)

## Pray for the Peace of the New Jerusalem by John Lurvey

### THE ROAD TO THE NEW JERUSALEM ATTITUDE AND BEYOND: THE SEED OF GOD'S FUTURE

#### Part One John Lurvey

Augustine, the brilliant Christian Bishop of Hippo must have shuddered at the world-changing news of the sack of Rome in year 408. As the center of his culture collapsed, he searched the Bible and tradition for a Word to speak to his church and world. The Word that found and transformed him was the seed of the future found unexpectedly at the end of John's obscure, bloody, world-ending Apocalypse. Revelation 21-22 climaxed the New Testament with more than a preview of Heaven's future. The New Jerusalem, the City of God, formed Augustine's "Captivating Presence" that shaped the Western World after Rome's decline. Is there more to Revelation than waves of bloody tribulations caused by a righteously angry Creator?

John saw the future of the world as a New Creation procreated by the Marriage of God's Ideal of self-giving love and forgiveness- represented by the Bridegroom-the slain, Lamb of God. The resurrected Lamb ranks "worthy" to change the course of history (Rev 5:6-14). The heroic, persistent Lamb who acts as God's Living Word always defeats Evil's apparent dominance (Rev 19:11-21).

The Bride's elegance and glory displays the best of earth's creativity (Rev 21:24, 26). Lamb and City continually procreate the organic growth toward the future of our planet. The everlasting union of the City's human creativity with the Lamb's divine ideal and power continues through history to advance in spite of resistance by the world, the flesh and the Evil One. Like the sweet-bitter scroll digested by the White-robed observer in Rev 10. God's New Creation stomachs bitter setbacks, but springs up in surprising new ways to manifest the honeyed sweetness of the Kingdom of God celebrated in Rev 11:15-19.

But isn't Revelation about God's justifiably angry, destructive reaction to human sin and evil? Didn't Paul in his early letters along with Mark and Matthew's Gospels foresee an avenging Messiah Jesus soon returning to judge and punish earth's peoples as time and history end? Or does Revelation reveal why the Always Wise Creator did not choose the destructive judgment scenario and why?

Within Revelation's drama there are clues that show its destructive scenarios did not fulfill God's purpose as revealed by Jesus message of the Kingdom of God/Heaven. For example, Revelation 11:1-14 unreels the scenario of Two Witnesses that enforce public righteousness by using the threat of their supernatural powers to kill and punish the wicked. Yet this destructive power did not cause people to grow into whole-hearted, humble, creative lovers of God and people like Jesus.

Revelation 6, 8-9, and 16-18 describe scenarios of massive destruction and death unleashed by God through the seven seals, the seven trumpets and the seven bowls that finally drain God's wrathful anger. Revelation 16:8-11 reports that divine wrath did not produce love for God, neighbors and enemies as Jesus taught. It only made the victims of wrath more bitter and rebellious.

Could Revelation reveal why the Wise Creator, projected the scenario of wrath and decided it did not obtain the future that the Christ Jesus-like God desired? People forced by fear and supernatural power to conform to righteousness only became more rebellious and resistant to Heaven's ideal blueprint-the Kingdom/Realm of God.

The New Jerusalem Attitude believes God continues to act in history by forming the New Creation as inspired and guided the ever-powerful blueprint of the New Jerusalem Marriage with the Lamb. Yet, today, we still find the old Jerusalem and much of the religious world looking not forward to the New Jerusalem, but backward in time to legendary past golden ages of faith.

Muslim leaders of the Islamic State seek to recover the often brutal seventh century era of the blessed prophet Mohammed.

Zealous religious Zionist Jews and Christians seek to recreate the land of the ancient kingdom of David, Solomon and his temple as spoken in ancient oral traditions preserved and amplified in the Hebrew Bible or Old Testament.

Many evangelical Christians seek to relive the first century expectation that Jesus will soon return leading an army of angels to set the world aright.

Secular and religious modern libertarians yearn to return to the idealized Protestant rural past of male domination, unconstrained by government efforts to protect people and the environment

### Pray for the Peace of the New Jerusalem (cont'd)

from the damage and abuses of past and present commercial exploitation.

Secular moderns blithely ignore the wisdom of the past and chase after the next new thing produced by our self-destructive, shallow consumerist culture.

The Bible's wisdom proclaimed God's works in history as "choosing" people and "anointing" or giving power and vision to leaders. They seek to redeem and set free people and communities enslaved to the world's self-destructive disorder, brutality, deceptions and delusions. The Hebrew Bible's model of the anointed leader is called Messiah in Hebrew, Christ in Greek. Each means a "God-anointed ruler" who saves God's people and ultimately the world.

Two Messiah stories grew up within the Bible, just as there are two stories of creation in Genesis 1-2, two versions of The Ten Commandments in Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5, and two stories of Jesus birth in Matthew chapters 1-2 and Luke chapters 1-2.

The first story sprang up as great world empires from Assyrian to British swallowed Jerusalem and Israel for most of 2,700 years. Prophets from Amos to Zechariah and later Daniel comforted Israel's people by foretelling God's active Presence on earth embodied in a Messiah. He will defeat the era's invincible great powers in an earth-changing military conflict accompanied by natural disasters and supernatural events. Then, Jerusalem and Israel will blossom again like stream-watered trees in the desert and regain central importance.

Jesus embraced the story of the Jewish Messiah's intervention in history, but launched a second story. His Messiah story embodied Isaiah's self-giving slave-ruler, who saves and heals those who despised, rejected, brutalized and killed him. He became the Lamb of God who saves the world by the Spirit-power of the Way, Truth and Life of self-giving love and forgiveness. (See Isaiah 52:13-53:12) . As Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 15:21-28, God's loving purpose in Christ will finally unify "all in all."

History confirmed the second story as God's long-range plan on earth. Yet, many early Christian interpretations about Jesus, like Mark and Matthew's gospels or Paul in Thessalonians, foresaw Jesus as quickly returning as the military

Messiah leading an angelic army.

Contemporary Christians find it difficult to hold these two stories in tension with each other. The first story reflects God's perspective of time: to the Creator all great powers soon fall. True. Also true is 2nd Peter 3:10's prophecy that the earth will end consumed by fire. Astrophysics tells us that the earth's flaming consumption will occur when our sun grows into a red giant, burns the earth and then explodes as a super-nova. Down through the centuries world events triggered expectations of the first story's End Time troubles and Christ's return: omens and disasters in nature, the invasion of the Roman Empire, the rise of the Arab Muslim and the Turkish Empires, the corruption of the medieval Roman Catholic Church, the religious wars after the Reformation and the discovery of the Americas by Europeans. Over the centuries this first Messiah story trumpeted a wakeup call to complacent believers to regain passion and urgency in their life's mission.

In 1625 my distant ancestor, Richard Mather, left England and came to America where he thought Christ would soon return. His more prominent grandson, Boston preacher Cotton Mather, also expected Christ's soon return in America in his time. Founders of still-sizable Christian groups like the Adventists, the Mormons/Latter Day Saints, and Jehovah's Witnesses all began with a founder's expectation of Christ's soon return. John Nelson Darby's End-Time theory and the Scofield Bible, popularized by Hal Lindsay in his 1960's best-seller "*The Late, Great Planet Earth*," divided biblical history into "dispensations" that pointed toward the late twentieth century as the end of history. One event in 1948 made Lindsay and supporters more confident that their age would see the great tribulation and Christ's return.

In part two we will explore the recent explosion of apocalyptic fervor and fear after the formation of Israel in 1948, the ineffective response of confused secularists, Jews, Christians and Muslims, and see how the second Messiah story speaks to us in the New Jerusalem Attitude.

*Note: These remarks spoken at the National Retreat, appear here in written form as requested by several participants at the 2015 DOC National Retreat.*

## *Forty Participants Greet the New Jerusalem Attitude at the Disciplined Order of Christ National Retreat, August 27-30, 2015* by John Lurvey and Gwen Jones-Lurvey

At near full-capacity, the Prince of Peace Abbey witnessed the Disciplined Order of Christ National Retreat fully alive as **Steve Hong's** young Wesley praise band opened the retreat's first session. The blend of new praise, old and message hymns, gospel songs, and light rockin' traditional praise songs continued at other sessions, led by another multi-cultural musical ensemble with **LaJuna Elson** and **Debra (Matthews) Shrader**.

Prayer for the Peace of the New Jerusalem" pivoted on retreat members embracing "*The New Jerusalem Attitude*." **Gordon Dalbey** exposed religion's tendency to use shame and fear to compel outward performance and conformity without transforming people to the "reality" of their deeper need for and wide reach of God's grace. Gordon said grace resides in all quarters of the divided Christian churches. Instead of piously posturing, pressing for shame-covering prominence and pointing fingers, Dalbey called us to taste and savor abundant gifts of the Spirit found in many places.

**Dr Paula D'Arcy's** fresh narrative burst forth raw and encouraging evidence that uncovered the *Presence of Love* as a divine grace that changes lives no matter what religious or irreligious label people may claim. She gathered Bedouin Arabs, Palestinians and Israelis together in an intense workshop that exposed their antagonism hidden in the momentary civility. Then Love's reality plunged into the hearts that raged with that wound-healing Presence wonderfully Present in Jesus. **Cheryl Reagan, Anna Donnelly** and **Nia Greeley** each gave personal and expanding applications of Paula's insights.

Digitally reproduced by A-V specialist **Dennis Reagan**, we watched a presentation by **Lynn Hybels** speaking to a 2014 international gathering, "*Walking With the Christians of Palestine*." She expressed clearly *The New Jerusalem Attitude*. Quoting the weeping prophet Jeremiah, she closed her address with the six reasons we must not follow "the way of the world" (and some churches) that polarize support for Israel and Palestine in opposition to one another. **Gwen Jones-Lurvey** and **Stephen Small** freshened Hybel's message with live insights that fed the small group discussion that followed.

On Saturday morning, **John Lurvey** explained the meaning of *The New Jerusalem Attitude* that evolved over the past five years. *The New Jerusalem Attitude* believes God acts in history today, by sending an anointed ruler or Messiah to change the world. Two Messiah stories grew up within the Bible, just as there are two stories of creation in Genesis 1-2 and two versions of The Ten Commandments in Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5. Lurvey told how the two Messiah stories began, their truth, and why we must keep balanced and centered in Christ. Part 1 of a two-part article series by John Lurvey can be found in this issue.

Morning "Watch" awakened us with worship and inspiration. These sessions were led by **Andy Freeman, James Wagner** and **Karen Small**. Workshops informed and inspired retreat members: **Dr. Mary Andrews Dalbey** and **Gordon Dalbey** drew many to the "Pure Sex" workshop; **Dr. Bill Jenkins** followed with "*The ABC's of Integrity*"; **Rev. Daren Erisman** explained the differences and similarities of Christianity, Islam and Judaism; **Dr. James Wagner**, gave a relevant to Middle East conflict workshop on "*Forgiveness: The Jesus Way*"; and **Steve and Karen Small** shared their ministry in Nicaragua to a room of interested participants.

Listening Groups responded to each of the major presentations. Thank you leaders: **Marlene Campbell, Bro. Lawrence Damien, Crispina Estaris, Cavalain Hawkins, Lorrie Lauer, Molly McClanahan**, and **Karen Small**.

Servant-evangelist, song writer and recording artist **Kimball Boyd Coburn** wrapped the retreat and sent us off inspired by God's hopeful future. Kimball brought hearers to their feet and some danced with the title song of his new CD album "*Don't Let the Fire Go Out*." Kimball said churches today are in danger of letting the fire go out if they do not catch the spirit and hope of God's call to be the church of love and redemption for both souls and society.

On Sunday morning, **Dr. Bill Jenkins** led us in Holy Communion. Kimball then lifted us with song, "*Still, Be Still*" and planted that song in our hearts along with the message to lead our congregations to embrace God's call beyond traditional church and rock n roll entertainment church into persistent discipleship like *The New Jerusalem Attitude*.

Healing prayer teams followed the Holy Communion/Eucharist/Lord's Supper with touches of God's blessing felt by those who brought physical and spiritual pain and disease to God in prayer.

Special recognition to our Western Region Planning Team: **Kathie Arcscott, Marlene Campbell, Crispina Estaris, Jane Hadley, Maggie Hutchinson, Lorrie Lauer, Bro. Lawrence Damien**, and **Rick Pearce**.

**Lauren Day**, a descendant of Albert Edward Day was abroad at the time of the retreat. She wrote, "I felt very much the Spirit through which you were working to make the New Jerusalem a reality." **Dr. James Wagner**, a long-time past national president called the retreat a "homecoming."

Leaving our home we go back on the road with *The New Jerusalem Attitude* that sees God changing both souls and societies with amazing grace.

## What Is Life? by Jeanne Davis

It is the process of being hurt - and of hurting.  
 Of forgiving - and of being forgiven.  
 Of loving - and of being loved.  
 It contains much pain and frustration.  
 It seems impossible.....

It contains GOD and the GRACE of His  
 PRESENCE.

It contains Victory  
 And an absurd triumph over all odds  
 and against all reason.

It continues to wring and twist our private  
 little hopes and dreams  
 Until they are ragged, torn and  
 meaningless.

Finally, when all seems wrecked and  
 beyond repair,  
 It throws us into a NEW PERSPECTIVE  
 And a NEW VISION -----  
 IF ---  
 We have eyes to see.  
 (If we cannot see, then there is no more life....  
 WE ARE DEAD ----  
 Even if our bodies continue to  
 function for a while longer.)

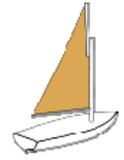
Side by side with disaster then LIFE brings  
 PEACE and  
 an unbelievable STRENGTH.....

I SUBMIT MYSELF, O GOD, TO LIFE ...  
 To the LIFE YOU GIVE.



## Sail On by Brother Lawrence Damien CoS

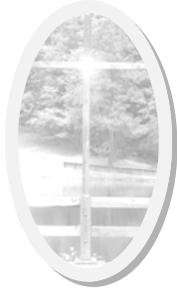
Sail on  
 When you want to give up  
 Sail on  
 When the battle is tough  
 Sail on  
 For Jesus our Captain  
 In whose boat we are sailing  
 Is steering the boat and leads on.



Sail on  
 When the waves seem to high  
 Sail on  
 When it seems you're going to die  
 Sail on  
 For Jesus is with us  
 Lifting us higher  
 Above all the danger  
 So sail on

Sail on  
 The battle is ours  
 Sail on  
 The storms must die  
 Sail on  
 For the boat won't be sinking  
 And we won't be drowning  
 As Jesus our Captain sails on.

Sail on  
 It won't be long  
 Sail on  
 Heaven shore can be seen  
 Sail on  
 Through the gate we'll sail  
 Jesus name we will hail  
 Because we never failed  
 But sailed on.



### Retreat Speakers Points to Ponder

- ◆ Encourage one another.
- ◆ Grow by spending time with each other, reading the Bible, praying and listening *real hard*.
- ◆ Show up and pay attention.
- ◆ You are not here by accident: God has delivered you into each others arms.
- ◆ Reflect on “stops” in life: on the past & direction of future.
- ◆ Listen to what God has for you each day.
- ◆ Authenticity: Who are you? Who are you imitating? God, what do you see in me? What dams/obstacles have I built? Know yourself.
- ◆ While U Wait: What are you waiting for? What can you learn from waiting? Pay attention to ways God has encouraged you. Write stories of childhood.
- ◆ “Thus far the Lord has helped us” (1 Sam 7:12) What are your touchstones, your Ebenezers?
- ◆ How do we look or value a person?
- ◆ Faith is what happens when you listen.
- ◆ Never give up.
- ◆ Go and listen.

## DOC SE Regional Summer Retreat 2015

The Southeastern Region of the Disciplined Order of Christ gathered on Wednesday July 15, 2015. Our speakers in 2015 included: Dr. Robert Tuttle, Hope Britt, Betsey Mulloy and Michael Mulloy. The music and worship leadership of Chris Douglas blessed us throughout the retreat. The retreat followed a schedule of morning watch, morning and evening worship and teaching moments, afternoon sessions (C. S. Lewis “*The Weight of Glory*” discussion & *Bible Jeopardy* led by Scott Brelin), and fellowship time. Small groups were prayerfully created to create a space to discuss what we had learned and share our reactions and our experiences.

To acquaint new guests with the Disciplined Order of Christ, Dan Booth spoke of our “Ebenezer” and his experiences with DOC in the *Presentation of the Order* moment and George Mayfield presented a Bible to Jeremiah Ramey as the youngest retreatant. DOC members renewed their vows and officers were sworn in for the next year.

And finally, continuing a new tradition at the retreat, Scott Brelin served as the unofficial event photographer both capturing and sharing moments throughout the entire event. Thanks, Scott!

Please review our annual retreat brochure at <http://dochr.org/2016/01/22/se-summer-retreat/> for information about the daily flow of events.

### Just One Kind

“I think there’s just one kind of folks. Folks.” Truth spoken by Harper Lee’s endearing character Scout in *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Of all the books I was required to read in school, this was surely one of my favorites. Atticus Finch and

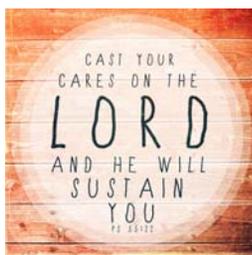
his steadfastness in judging others by the “content of their character” rather than “by the color of their skin” is a Pulitzer Prize winning reminder to us all. So why does it seem we still fall so far short? When will we, like Scout, see “just one kind of folks”?

Undoubtedly there are no easy answers...or are there? Babies don’t struggle with racial prejudice, or any other outward differences for that matter. Clearly discrimination is a learned behavior, one that can be unlearned with great difficulty, and perhaps with mixed results.

Rather than behavior modification techniques, what if we actually were able to see differently—with the innocence of a child? What if we were able to see past the color of skin, past the wrinkles or lack thereof, past the country of origin? Because the truth is, I believe, that every human being was created in the image of God. *Every. Human. Being.* Certainly color and age and culture influence the person you are, but surely there is something more, something below the surface, that is the essence of any human being.

So let us honor Ms. Lee by making more of an effort to see with fresh eyes what’s beyond the surface. It won’t happen overnight, and it won’t happen by “making nice” and ignoring our differences. Global homogeneity in that sense is frightfully Orwellian, and far from helpful, actually, in the quest to see with fresh eyes. As we celebrate our cultures, as I believe we should, honor those differences. All the while, remember what’s below the surface, at the core: “just one kind of folks.”

~ Posted on February 20, 2016 by Hope Britt  
(<https://caolaitthethinplace.wordpress.com/>)



### Psalm by Sybil Skakle

O Lord, we have traveled long together.  
You kept me safe as a child  
As I climbed trees, swam, and wandered.  
You directed me as a youth,  
Sometimes restrained me.  
You went before the adult me  
And in times of grief and confusion  
You rescued and comforted me.

With You, God, life is manageable.  
As my life draws to a close,  
You beckon me with open arms.  
Thank You! Alleluia!

## Eucharist Prayer by Sybil Austin Skakle

Lord, I am yours. You are mine.  
You bless me by your presence.

I have known the role of impaired,  
Betrayed, grieved and guilty sinner.  
You have dealt with my pride,  
Yet convinced me of your love.  
I am a wounded healer,  
Broken that you might use  
My pain to heal others.

You promise blessing for affront.  
You promise hope for every doubt.  
You promise Eternal life—  
Understanding beyond death.

You taught me love beyond rejection  
To forgive in spite of hostility.  
Thank you for my life, God.  
Thank you for claiming me for your own.  
Teach me to truly worship You.



## New Life News Article Submission Guidelines

If you have a book review, article, poem, psalm, prayer, event, retreat summary or other item that would be of interest to DOC members, please submit them to the New Life News email address ([nln@dochr.org](mailto:nln@dochr.org) or [dochrist7@gmail.com](mailto:dochrist7@gmail.com)). They will be reviewed by the National Board members and included as soon as possible in the New Life News newsletter.

Guidelines for submission:

- ◆ Full name of author
- ◆ Title and date of the submission
- ◆ Any copyright/print permissions (yours to print/edit the article; others for any referenced material )
- ◆ Please keep articles to less than 500 words .

**For  
Aspiring  
New  
Life  
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Authors**

## Member News

### In Memory & Thanksgiving of Life

- ◆ Mary Lou Wagner, wife of Jim Wagner, passed away on October 22, 2014. (<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/dispatch/obituary.aspx?pid=172951578> )
- ◆ Margaret “Peggy” Flanagan, “86 years young,” passed away on August 5, 2015. ( <http://obituaries.nydailynews.com/obituaries/nydailynews/obituary.aspx?pid=175450970> )
- ◆ Joy “Suzanne” Petree Nuckols, daughter of long-time DOC members Joe and Ginny Petree, passed away on September 18, 2015. ( [http://www.brooksfuneralhomeandcrematory.com/?pagetype=obitlink&obit\\_id=1657734](http://www.brooksfuneralhomeandcrematory.com/?pagetype=obitlink&obit_id=1657734) )

### Support DOC

Through your membership and financial giving we can reach out to so many people. Please consider offering a donation this year to National DOC as well as your local DOC region.

New Life News (NLN) is published twice yearly: Spring and Fall. To continue mailing this newsletter, ***we need your prayers, donations and article ideas.*** Please send any donations to: **Disciplined Order of Christ, Attn: New Life News, PO Box 3681, Florence, SC 29502.**

**Thank you!**

I have enclosed a donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to help the ministry of the Disciplined Order of Christ

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### **Morning Prayer...**

Gracious and Loving God,  
now I rise to greet this day  
with desire to follow the  
Jesus way.

Keep me on the path of right  
and show me how I might  
share your love and grace  
with all who see my face.

Amen!



### **Evening Prayer...**

Gracious and Loving God,  
now I lay me down to  
sleep  
with a grateful heart and  
weary feet.

Grant me rest throughout  
this night  
and wake me up with  
praise and delight.

Amen!

~James K. Wagner