

**the home
this night
and every night. Amen.**

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE “Wait for the Lord”

Taize

*Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord: keep watch, take heart!*

SERENITY PRAYER EXERCISE

BLESSING

from *Celtic Daily Prayer*

**May God shield us;
may God fill us;
may God keep us;
may God watch us;
may God bring us this night
to the nearness of Christ’s love. Amen**

SERENITY PRAYER

by Reinhold Niebuhr (1892-1971)

Complete, Unabridged, Original Version.

God, give us grace to accept with serenity
the things that cannot be changed,
Courage to change the things
which should be changed,
and the Wisdom to distinguish
the one from the other.

*(Although known most widely in its abbreviated form above,
the entire prayer reads as follows...)*

Living one day at a time,
Enjoying one moment at a time,
Accepting hardship as a pathway to peace,
Taking, as Jesus did,
This sinful world as it is,
Not as I would have it,
Trusting that You will make all things right,
If I surrender to Your will,
So that I may be reasonably happy in this life,
And supremely happy with You forever in the next.
Amen.

Shortened Version

God grant us the serenity to accept the things we cannot change,
the courage to change the things we can,
and the wisdom to know the difference.

A WAY TO PRAY THE SERENITY PRAYER
by Terry Minchow-Proffitt

Tonight we'll practice a prayer approach called *lectio divina*, or "sacred reading." This prayerful way of reading is most often applied to Scripture, but tonight we'll apply it to the Serenity Prayer.

I. First, with the prayer in hand, get quiet and prepare your heart to hear what God might say. *Come, Holy Spirit and give me a good word for my life and your world.*

Next, we'll read the prayer together, the whole prayer in its initial, more expanded, version. After reading, take 3-5 minutes to read over it quietly to yourself. Here all you do is savor the words, getting the lay of the land. For now, in this moment, treat this as God's love letter to you, to us.

SILENCE

II. Now, we'll read the prayer again in unison, this time the shorter version (at the top). As you read, or "pray," this prayer, ask yourself, *What word is God speaking to me at this moment?* Here are some questions that might help you:

- *God, give us grace to accept with serenity the things that cannot be changed,*

Am I trying to control too much of my life or the lives of those around me? Do I obsess so much with change that I've lost my sense of God's peace that surpasses all understanding? Pray for **acceptance** and the **serenity** that issues from acceptance.

- *. . . Courage to change the things which should be changed,*

Do I see something in myself or in the world that needs to change, but I'm in need of **courage** to try to change it? Pray for the courage to do your part.

- *. . . and the Wisdom to distinguish the one from the other.*

Or finally, "Do I need the strength and clarity of **wisdom**, the ability to sort out what needs to be changed and what needs to be let go?"

SILENCE

III. To conclude, we'll read the prayer once more in unison, this time the shortened version at the bottom of the page. Then take whatever "word," or insight, you've been given, and sit with it in the silence. Pray that God will plant it as a seed within you heart.

SILENCE