

# Prayers at times of ordination and induction

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## Prayer for Elders and their pastoral care responsibilities

Loving, strengthening God,  
through your church you call people  
into positions of leadership  
and to care for you people.  
Such a task loving God  
can be filled with joy one moment  
and frustration the next.  
So today we pray for those  
you have called to be Elders in this church  
thinking especially of the task of pastoral care  
of your people here.  
Give to those you have called the strength and the wisdom  
to care for your people.  
Lord, it is not always doing it themselves,  
but about being part of a team  
sharing with the whole congregation  
making sure that this your church,  
cares for its people  
physically, mentally and spiritually,  
ensuring that it is not only the few who are cared for but all.  
Loving God, may those you have called,  
find their faith and trust in you  
strengthened and their vision  
of your Kingdom enlarged.

*All* Amen.

David Coote

## Hymn: O Shepherd-God

O Shepherd-God, your people knew your presence on their way –  
its sign, a fire to guard by night, a cloud to guide by day;  
their goal, a distant promised land, a home where they'd belong,  
a place of peace, of hopes fulfilled, their song, your freedom-song.

In later years your people learned to trust a shepherd-king;  
to value in their prophets, too, the wisdom shepherds bring;  
and Jesus, the good shepherd, called on burdened souls to come;  
he sought the wayward, healed the sick, and led his followers home.

So many in our world today have nowhere they belong,  
like sheep without a shepherd, lost, like singers with no song;  
their minds and spirits sorely lack a hope that satisfies,  
that wholesome Bread, the Word of Life, the peace true faith supplies.

Lord Christ, we're called to feed your lambs, restore the sheep that stray,  
to learn the wisdom shepherds need for this, your work today;  
your cross, the sign of selfless love, will light the way ahead;  
we'll serve with joy the God who raised our Shepherd from the dead.

*Tune: Ladywell*

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