

**Paraphrase of John Baillie's prayer for the 5th morning of the month
(from his book *A Diary of Private Prayer*)**

by [Tim Isbell](#)

God of our forefathers in the faith, we cry out to you. You have been the refuge of good and wise people in every generation. When history began, you were the first enlightener of peoples' minds, and it was your Spirit that first led people out of their primitive state and made them human. Through all the ages, you have been the Lord and giver of life, the source of all knowledge, and the fountain of all goodness.

- The patriarchs trusted you, and you protected them from shame.
- The prophets searched for you, and you put your word on their lips.
- The psalmists rejoiced in you, and you are present in their song.
- The apostles waited on you, and you filled them with your Holy Spirit.
- The martyrs called on you, and you were with them in the middle of the flame.
- We cried out to you, and you heard and saved us out of our brokenness.

O you who were, and are, and will come, we thank you that this Way on which we walk is a mapped road. And that it is a road full of the footsteps of your saints, apostles, prophets, and martyrs. Thank you for the signs and signals you provided to mark the Way at every turn, and which we can know through the Bible. And we thank you for the great literature of the world. Above all, we give you sincere and humble thanks for the great gift of Jesus Christ, the pioneer of our faith. We praise you that you placed us in an age and a place where we can know your name. And we thank you that you do not call us to face any temptation or trial that our Lord Jesus did not first endure.

Lord, help us remember the heritage of Christian history. And please do not let us miss the glorious inheritance that you prepared for us, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.