**Collects**

The collect as a prayer form dates back to at least the 5th century Roman church. It was used to gather the faithful for worship, and was an opening act of the liturgy. It’s now used as a collective prayer after a short space of silence for individual’s petitions and prayers that gathers things together into one focused expression. What makes the collect unique gift is its pattern and style. There is a specific structure:

**I. Address** –   The prayer begins by naming the God we worship, usually the Person of God the Father.

**II. Acknowledgement** – A quality or characteristic of God is mentioned that reflects the prayer request.

**III. Petition** – We ask for a specific thing that we need: guidance, hope, etc.

**IV. Aspiration** – the result we hope will come from the granting of our petition.

**V. “Pleading”** – the prayer is said through the mercy and merit of Jesus Christ our saviour, who by his cross has redeemed us all.

 Using this basic form, we can write our own eco-collects, and tailor them to our worship. E.g.

O God who separated the waters of the deep from the dry land, hear your people as we cry out to you for the oceans that you created. Heal the bleached reefs, hide leviathan from their hunters, and inspire us to clean what we have polluted. That all may once again appreciate the sight of your creation and hear the song of the whale. We ask these things through your Son, who walked on the Sea of Galilee and was obeyed by the storms. Amen