

## **Opening Prayer, CMM, 16 May 2021**

Jesu, lover of our souls – and our minds and our bodies,  
We fly to you today.

We meet,  
both gathered and widespread,  
together and dispersed,  
some of us 'socially distanced' in this sanctuary,  
some with loved ones in our homes,  
and others of us perhaps sitting without anyone beside us,  
and yet others tuned in from distant places.

Wherever we are, Jesu, lover of us all,  
we find ourselves bound together  
in an act as old as two thousand years  
and as fresh as this morning's dew.

This thing called 'worship' is a beautiful mystery, Lord,  
wherein, by our words and actions,  
by the posture of our hearts,  
the opening of our minds  
and the words on our lips,  
we declare the 'worthship' of our God.

And ...  
Jesu, lover of us all,  
in the mystery called grace  
we find that in this act you meet us  
and your good Spirit speaks deep within ourselves  
telling us again that we are your beloved,  
held in an embrace that will never let us go.

And ...  
the warmth of that embrace is such  
that broken places inside us begin to heal,  
wholeness begins to happen,

peace comes to the heart of who we are.

And more than that ...  
wondrously, your Spirit lifts us out of ourselves,  
and we can change to be more like you,  
lifted out of our self-obsession into seeing others with new eyes – your eyes,  
out of our ego-love into love of others,  
love of stranger  
and even love of enemy.

And then, Jesu lover of us all...  
When that happens,  
We have worshipped,  
We have begun to love the Lord our God  
with all our hearts,  
and all our minds,  
and all our souls  
and all our strength.

Let that happen for us this morning Lord,  
whoever we are and wherever we are,  
Help us to worship.

In your name we pray.

**Amen**

**Now, as one family we pray ...**

Our Father/Mother in heaven  
Hallowed be your name.  
Your Kin-dom come, your will be done,  
On earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
And forgive us our debts  
As we forgive those who are in our debt.

Lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil,  
For yours in the kin-dom,  
The power and the glory,  
For ever and ever.  
**Amen**