

2021 06 27: Opening Prayer

Dear Lord and parent of all.

We greet this new day, differently- gathered, in worship.

We celebrate the mysteries of life in all its forms shapes and sizes. We give thanks for the beauty of life and joy.

We are grateful for the rains that fill our dams. We celebrate the new vegetation on the slopes of our fire ravaged city mountains.

We praise and give thanks, God.

Dear Lord, the changing weather reminds us of the seasons of creation, of life cycles. This is so often denied by our modern 24/7 lifestyles.

Our rest is not, our calmness is not, our reflection is not. Not what you want for and of us. Forgive us, O God.

O Lord in the fear and uncertainty of the Covid -19 pandemic, we desire stronger faith in you, greater hope of a safer tomorrow, and a promise of a deeper spirit-accompanied living.

We struggle with existing in separation, with the fear of illness in isolation and maybe a lonely death. We fear for our loved ones as we mourn loved ones. We struggle with our helplessness. We are frustrated that the inequality in our country exacerbates those fears in the most vulnerable.

Yet, life in all its fulness, foolishness and falseness, abides with, and within the pandemic. We have no moratorium on wars, displacements, abuse, corrupt acts, institutional and interpersonal violence and murder, silly gossip, wild rumours and even family feuds. All continue.

Lord, forgive our selfish thoughts, actions, and neglect. Help us to see beyond our fear and pain.

Help everyone to believe that the literal call, worldwide, for all to "bare" arms for vaccination is an amazing opportunity for everyone to protect life.

We seek, O God, to find your life-giving presence, to spend time and energy on the things that really matter for all. We give thanks for your all-encompassing spirit, always alongside us, present, alert, ... always.

O Lord we know that as we seek your ear, touch your garment, offer our prayers, rest in your love, cherish your promises, and embrace all of nature, we can find a peace and a love that, through grace, makes apparent your footsteps in the sand, for us to follow. To re-faith us to generous action. Today, tomorrow, and beyond.

All forgiving gracious God, hear our prayer.

Amen