

## Opening Prayer

Bless the Lord o my soul

We praise you this day, dear God, as we should, each moment of each day. How wonderfully you clothe your created earth. How amazing it is to experience your creation upon creation? The wind and rain the sun and moon the mountains and valleys and oceans. And all of nature in radiant beauty. How wonderfully you have clothed us, O God? Your Godliness covers our nakedness. We are adorned with your love and fitted out with your justice. We wear your compassion on our breasts, your grace and purpose drape our shoulders. Our shoes fit to the shape of your mercy. Yet, O God we fail to see. We dress for fashion, for convenience. To show, to hide, and we don't present you to the world, but our dislocated selves.

Forgive us God

You created all that is, and all that will be. Solid foundations provide a bedrock for our faith and spiritual journeying. The order of the seasons provides certainty and opportunity to plant and harvest and feed and love and procreate and be. Yet o God we falter at every storm or crisis often questioning our foundations. We prefer war and threats for our security. We challenge nature itself. We disturb the climate in our pursuit of control. We lust for power, dominion, and glory. We practice love selfishly, we share goodness grudgingly, we donate miserly, yet ostentatiously from our overflowing barns.

Forgive us Lord

You sent the Christ child to be creation, with us. To be in harmony with us. Your sharing of yourself was revelation and joy. But we still shout crucify him preferring our own revelation and joy. O creator God the earth is full of your risen glory. You continue to send your Spirit. You continue to send your Spirit.

We gather today differently from the past yet the same as last week. That sameness is contrived by a pandemic, and we adapt out of need. The heavy toll of death and pain lingers heavily in the air. Loved ones, friends, colleagues, neighbours and family, gone too soon, too sudden, too un-memorialized, too young. Lord heal our hearts.

Lord of hosts we worship you today in your and our created universes. We meet in grace and peace and love. We praise, we share silence. We reflect, we give thanks, we mourn, we confess, we remember. We experience your spirit.

Lord may your glory endure forever. Amen