

Opening Prayer

Ever-giving God.

Ever-giving God we are in awe of what you lavish upon us.

We take a moment to reflect on Your giving...

We consider setting suns and rising moons, mountain rock pools and pounding seas and we marvel how this planet, this universe holds Your beauty and mystery and gives us glimpses into Your unplumbed depths. You never stop handing us Your exquisite, intricate nature in varied and remarkable forms for our delight so why is it that we love it and destroy it in the same breath.

You provide us with all we need to live and grow...foods that fill recipe books with endless mouth-watering possibilities. Yet we receive and hoard, forgetting that true nourishment comes from breaking loaves and fishes into enough for all.

You offer us peace that passes understanding, a place of depth that would secure us through all that life brings our way. We long for this gift yet we want it on our terms and we want it now...forgetting that it is based on trust and trust is built on many steps.

You place before us the gift of wisdom, offering us a way to enrich how we live and how we give in our time on this earth. Yet we are loathe to unwrap this gift reverently and carefully, relying more often on our own egotistic opinions that lack depth and wreak havoc in an already crumbling world.

You lavish us with grace brimming with forgiveness, mercy and kindness, an undeserving gift we struggle to receive as we hold tightly to our grudges, our judgements and ill will.

Yet...even still, You gift us with Your presence; a presence that not only promises never to leave, but that also constantly invites us to plumb the depths of all You are and all You offer in these amazing gifts. Forgive us for interpreting Your giving only in terms of that which will stroke our egos and benefit us materially. Help us to see that Your more extravagant gifts lie in those that bring life, life to all.

We are humbled by Your giving, O God. When You give, You give of Your very nature, You give Yourself. Help us to truly receive You in Your gifts so that we may be transformed in our own giving...a deep giving back to You and all that is Yours.

Amen