

Opening Prayer

God of the cosmos.
Creator of the galaxies.
Lover of the earth.
Breath of humanity.
Companion of creation – we praise you.

Alpha and Omega – first and last – all of creation fits within the bracket of your beginning and end. All of life is held in the embrace of your outstretched love. We gather here now to not only declare this is so, but through your spirit to experience this as so.

As we open our hearts to your heart, we ask that you realign our living with your will. That your concerns become our concerns. That your way of seeing become our way of seeing – so that we may weep when you weep and rejoice when you rejoice. Make us one with you – as Jesus spoke of being one with you. Nourish us with the fruit from the tree of life.

Yes we gather to be nourished by your love – your love that loves us into loving – loving our neighbours, loving our enemies and loving ourselves.

We gather to be nourished with your forgiveness – your forgiveness that releases us from the prison of our sin and guilt – especially from those areas of our lives we repeatedly fail in.

We gather to be nourished with your compassion – your compassion that moves us to feel the suffering of others as our own – because in truth we are all one.

We gather to be nourished with your righteousness – your righteousness that sharpens our senses to what is just and true and what is not.

We gather to be nourished with your joy – your joy that bubbles up in the midst of the desert places of disillusionment in our lives and despair in the world.

We gather to be nourished with your hope – your hope that promises new life – that the way things are needn't be the way things remain – that we can change – that no one is beyond changing – that we can bring change – that the world around us can change.

We gather today to be nourished by you – for without your nourishment – without your love, forgiveness, compassion, righteousness, joy and hope we wither away. We add to the hurts of the world when we live out of our own hurt. We add to the arrogance of the world when we do what we do out of our own need to be seen to be making a difference – or our own craving to be relevant rather than trusting and rooting our living in your unending love, we call your grace.

So finally O God, nourish us with the humility of Jesus today – who though he shared your form O God – chose to empty himself taking on the form of a servant faithful in every thought word and deed to your will. Humble us enough to surrender: to surrender our need to be in control; to surrender our need to be right; to surrender how we judgmentally compare ourselves to others; to surrender our need to be seen to be better than the people around us – be it more clever; more funny; more progressive; more kind; more generous; more spiritual...more....

Today, in this very moment give us that blessed assurance of knowing we are yours – this is our prayer. Amen.