

Opening Prayer

Lord God, we gather today to adore you.

You are the ground of all that is.

You hold us in being, and without you we could not be.

Before we were born, before time began, before the universe came into being, you were.

When time is finished, when the universe is no more, you will still be.

Nothing can take your power from you.

And in your presence we can only be silent before the mystery of your being, for no words of ours can do justice to your grandeur.

Forgive us for living as if it matters little that Jesus was raised from the dead.

We continue to live in doubt and discouragement, desperately trying to make our lives secure, without much hope for the future.

We continue to practice empty religion – meaningless piety and legalistic moralism, divorced from the life-giving power of your Spirit.

Yet you have spoken to us.

Out of universal silence your living word has sprung.

You have spoken, and given form and beauty to the world.

You have spoken, and given purpose to human life.

You have spoken, and declared the forgiveness of our sin.

You have spoken, and freed us from the fear of death.

Lord Jesus Christ, divine Word, speak to us now.

Show us the beauty of life; unite us to the eternal purpose; remove our guilt; conquer the fear of death in our hearts.

Speak and let us hear.

Thank you that the same power that raised Jesus from the dead is at work in us now.

Thank you for displaying your strength and love, and enabling us to love you and give ourselves for others.

Thank you for the promise that we, too, will be raised and that we will one day see you face to face.

In the name of Christ,

AMEN