

Opening Prayer

Creator God, from the moment your spirit hovered over the waters of this earth, we were part of a vision held lovingly within your heart. From the moment you spoke and separated darkness from light, you created space where we might one day walk. From the moment your joy spilled out into green and living things, your beauty was revealed for us to taste and see. Creator God, for this world, beauty and majesty, passion and artistry, a green and pleasant place, we praise your mighty name.

Even though you have given us a world of beauty,

We have spoilt it through our desire to satisfy our earthly needs and desires,

Even though you have given us abundant riches and produce to feed us,

So many go hungry,

We are so unwilling to share,

You have given us a world to care for, and we think only of ourselves,

Forgive us, Gracious God, for each time that your heart is saddened by our selfishness,

For those times that we have no thought for others but ourselves,

No cares but ours,

Enable us to see this world as a gift from you,

To be shared, protected and nurtured

To love and care for those who live upon it as your children, created in your image,

We ask this so that your name may be glorified through the beauty of this world

And the service of our lives

Lord, you are full of compassion

You are gracious, slow to anger, and generous in mercy; with you there is always forgiveness!

Those of us who are mourning, we open our hearts to you to know your comforting presence;

those of us who are struggling, we turn to you for strength and guidance;

those of us rejoicing, we acknowledge your work in our lives in gratitude

Gracious God, in your amazing mercy, reach out to us in ways that only you know how

How wonderful it is to know your acceptance, to know your love, despite everything

How extraordinary it is to know and engage with a God whose nature is to forgive, to reconcile and to make new

Loving God, you fill all things with a fullness and hope that we can never comprehend.

Thank you for leading us into a time where more of reality is being unveiled for us all to see.

We pray that you will take away our natural temptation for cynicism, denial, fear and despair.

Help us have the courage to awaken to greater truth, greater humility, and greater care for one another.

May we place our hope in what matters and what lasts, trusting in your eternal presence and love.

Listen to our hearts' longings for the healing of our suffering world.

Knowing, good God, you are hearing us better than we are speaking, we offer these prayers in all the holy names of God.

Amen.