

## Opening Prayer

All-seeing, ever-seeing God

You, O God, whose seeing holds a considering, a going beyond the surface, an encountering of the truth...

You, whose seeing, is never a glance, never a looking that skims lightly over the details and moves on.

It is Your way of seeing that invites our attention this morning.

We are somewhat scared of your seeing...assuming that it holds the worst...an aloof judgement, an exposing of the wrongs that lie deep within us, and your gaze makes us want to hide, not only from you, but from ourselves as well. We are so used to depending on our skills to mask, to pretend and to conceal that we deceive ourselves into thinking we can do that with you. And so it is that we distance ourselves from you, separate from your seeing, separate from you.

But that is not how you see, is it God? Jesus showed us how you see. Your seeing leads to an engaging, an engaging that is filled with love, filled with kindness, filled with liberating truth. It is a seeing that helps us to see the world around us through a new lens, a new possibility, a new mercy. Your seeing never holds judgement, never distances nor rejects...but instead, invites us and our world to grow, to deepen and to begin again.

And if we allow it to, your seeing can help us see...help us see what you see, help us to turn a looking into a seeing...seeing beyond ourselves, seeing into the truth that is all around us, seeing what is desperately trying to get our attention: the hunger, the joblessness, the victims, the injustices...seeing the person in our reach... acknowledging their presence. If we truly see with your eyes it will cause us to consider, to confront, to imagine until a new understanding arises. It will cause us to take time and to make time to see the humanity in the other and maybe, hopefully, to call forth the humanity within ourselves.

And so, our deeply seeing God, we take time to consider our seeing in the light of your seeing. We take time...

Amen