

PRAYER OF APPROACH, CONFESSION, & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gracious God, we have gathered this morning together in spirit, although we are in many separate places. We come to give thanks for your loving care of us - to add our human voices to the chorus of praise which is sung by all your creation.

We come just as we are - distracted or weary, anxious or depressed, joyful or hopeful - knowing that you accept us and care about our lives. Many voices inside us are clamouring for our attention.

Calm us, that we might centre ourselves on you. Speak to us, Spirit of life, in words and in music, and in quiet, that we may be renewed in our faith and strengthened for the days ahead.

Loving God, we confess our separation and alienation from you, and come seeking to know your presence more fully.

We know you call us to live lives which are open to your movement within us, yet we often close our eyes and ears and hearts against that gracious invitation.

You show us ways of love, yet too often we choose the path of indifference and lack of compassion.

You call us to a life of community and reconciliation, you challenge us to sharing and generosity, but many times we would rather keep our energy, our time, our money for ourselves.

O God, come into our lives more fully, help us not to be so self-centred.

Create in us a renewed openness to your love, that through us that love may be poured forth to others.

In these difficult and challenging times, renew our hope and our vision for healing and positive future change, renew our commitment to those around us and the needs of our world, give us strength to nurture one another.

We pray, trusting in you to hear, to heal and to help us, as we join our hearts in the prayer you taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by thy name;

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;

Give us this day our daily bread;

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil;

For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever, AMEN...