

# PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING & PASTORAL CONCERN

We believe in you, O God.

We believe that you created us and this wonderful world in which we live, and that you continue to bring to birth things beyond our imagining.

We believe in Jesus Christ who entered our journey and experienced all our living, who walked in our humanness and by example showed us your way of life.

We open ourselves to your Spirit of Holiness, unseen and yet felt like the wind which blows and moves and stirs us, renewing and strengthening.

Gracious God, we give you thanks for your love for us - sure as the dawn, transforming our darkness, revealing your truth.

We give you thanks for the love which is gentle as a shower, healing our pain, binding our wounds.

We give you thanks for the love which is forgiving of our doubts, understanding of our vulnerability.

O God, your spirit of power and truth and love flows through the whole of our world, and encourages us to seek deeper relationship with you through our prayers.

God who listens, we so often have difficulty expressing our needs in words, and we seek the guidance of your spirit as we bring before you the concerns of our minds and hearts.

Holy and compassionate God, come to us in your grace today, for we need you, our whole earth needs you. Come to us in peace - for we live in a world torn apart by warfare, by hostility, by greed and by selfishness. Shed your light of peace upon lives broken by violence, by hunger, by poverty, by oppression.

Come to us in love - for there are so many who are lonely and afraid.

Shed your light of love into lives anxious or despairing, bring your consolation and caring through the compassion of those who reach out in your name.

Come to us with healing - for there are those among us who are grieving loved ones no longer with us, others who are struggling with illness, infirmity or pain.

Shed your light of wholeness that we may know the sustaining of your power and grace.

Come to us in hope - for we are living in difficult days and apprehensive of a future unknown.

Many of us feel we are only looking into darkness. Shed your light of confidence and trust that the days ahead are in your safekeeping.

As we seek to worship you this morning fill us with compassion for the needs of those around us, and for all those others whom we may never meet but who are also part of your worldwide human family. We take a moment in silence to bring all those needs of our hearts to you.....

We join the spoken and the silent prayers offered up to you with all others who are praying.

From churches and from street corners, from battle grounds and prison cells, from homes and from hospital rooms.

Gather us together as one world wide praying community of faith, as we are united through the love of Jesus Christ in whose name we pray.

Amen.