





a liturgy of love

An opening ritual:

We gather here as equals, as beloved and frail human beings, full of big hopes and big faults, united in our common desire to walk towards the light that we see.

We gather in a circle to symbolize our equality.

We breathe together in silence, opening our hearts to God, to our deepest selves, to one another, and to all of creation, pulsating with light and life....

We stand and move together to bring our bodies and breath into the same rhythm, and our hearts into the same desire and joy.

body prayer

An opening prayer:

O Light of Love to whom all hearts are open  
and all desires known, and from whom no  
secrets are hid, so fill our hearts with your  
radiance that we may overflow with love for  
all people and all creation, through Christ our  
Lord. *Amen.*

The Living God is with us!  
*And with all creation!*

Lift up your hearts!  
*We lift them to the living God.*

Let us give thanks to the Creator of  
all.

*It is a good, right, and joyful thing  
to give our thanks and praise.*

words, songs, poems, stories of gratitude and  
praise may be shared ...

Let us open our hearts in prayer to the living God, the Great Spirit in whom we live and move and have our being, saying, *So say we all.*

We thank you for this good earth, this beautiful, fragile, resilient creation, and for the wisdom and will to cherish, understand, reverence, enjoy, rightly use, and conserve it, we pray to the living God: *So say we all.*



For all in danger, hunger or sorrow, for the aged and infirm, the widowed and orphaned, the sick and suffering in body or mind; for prisoners and refugees, the poor and oppressed, the unemployed and destitute; for the bereaved and alone, the war-torn and wounded, for the bullied and misunderstood and marginalized, and for all who care for them, we raise our hearts in compassion and we pray to the living God: *So say we all.*

For all who hold positions of trust in the worlds of religion, education, government, business, community, culture, and family, that they may promote the well-being of all creation, and that we may stand strong together to creatively and nonviolently resist them when they do harm, we pray to the living God: *So say we all.*

For all who are driven by the love of money and power, who abuse their positions of privilege and trust: for the greedy and arrogant, the selfish and complacent, the partisan and prejudiced; for the bigoted and ignorant, the corrupt and careless, the incompetent and complacent, that they may be humbled and turn toward your wisdom, passion, and light, we pray to the living God: *So say we all.*

For any who have caused us pain, for those we struggle to understand and strain to love, for all who do not love us and all who consider themselves our enemies, that they may be truly blessed and that we may be fully reconciled, we pray to the living God:  
*So say we all.*

For the circles of family, colleagues, and friends of which we are a part, for the grace to learn, desire, and do your will humbly and harmoniously in our daily life and work, and to share and spread your love wherever we go, we pray to the living God. *So say we all..*

For ourselves we pray:  
that we may be people rooted deeply in  
prayer, drawing life from you,  
that we may brim over with passion, living  
life to the full,  
that we may flourish as a royal priesthood,  
using our diverse gifts for the common good,  
and that we may fulfill our purpose through  
life's joy and pain, struggle and hope, labor  
and rest ...

We pray to the living God. *So say we all.*  
*Amen.*



A prayer of confession:

Let us prepare our hearts for  
communion by confessing our  
sins.



Gracious God, we have hurt others,  
and we have been hurt./

We have presumed upon others, and  
we have been presumed upon./

We have taken others for granted,  
and we have been taken for granted./

We have judged others, and we have  
been judged./

In these and other ways, we have  
wounded others and been wounded./  
As we receive Your forgiveness for  
our wrongs,/

we extend forgiveness to others who  
have wronged us./

Have mercy upon us all. Amen.

Words of assurance and pardon are shared, and people may pass the peace.



The Living God is with us!  
*And with all creation!*

Lift up your hearts!  
*We lift them to the living God.*

Let us give thanks to the Creator  
of all.

*It is right to give our thanks and  
praise.*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Living God who loves us with the faithful care of a father and mother. For this reason, we join with all creation to proclaim your glory:

(With a loud voice)

*Holy, Holy, Holy One,  
God of power, God of love.  
Earth, sea, and sky are full of  
your glory.*

*With joy we praise you!  
With joy we praise you! Amen!*

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious Creator, source, depth, meaning, and mystery of life. Your Spirit has always been with creation, participating in its development through billions of years, calling forth life, infusing beauty, diversity, and harmony, inspiring joy and love.

*In your infinite love you created us in your image and allowed us to share in the precious gift of life. You gave us a home in this beautiful world to live in harmony with you, with one another, and with all our fellow creatures.*



But we have so often turned from your love and wisdom. We have chosen our own way and broken faith with you, our neighbors, and our fellow creatures on this planet.

*We have filled your beautiful world with injustice, unkindness, lust, pride, racism, prejudice, and greed, and now all around us we see the tragic harvest of the bitter seed we have*  
*SOWN.*

We have lived out stories of domination rather than mutual care.

*We have been captured by stories of revolution and revenge rather than reconciliation.*

We have descended into stories of purification and exclusion rather than embracing all in your nondiscriminatory love.

*We have pursued empty stories of endless accumulation rather than generosity and abundance.*  
We have retreated into stories of isolation rather than participating in your repair and healing of the world.

*And we have often surrendered to stories of victimization rather than becoming protagonists in our own mutual liberation.*

Yet through it all, you have remained faithful to us. You graciously called us to turn from our destructive ways and return to you. You sent us prophets, priests, sages, storytellers, and poets to lead us to repentance and wisdom. In the fulness of time, through Mary, a humble woman full of faith, you sent Jesus into the world.

*Living among us, Jesus loved us. In word and deed, he proclaimed the good news of a new story of love and wholeness. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, and in imitation of your perfect love, he taught us to love the stranger, the outsider, and the enemy. He redirected us from violence to peace, from fear to faith, from rivalry to mutual service, and from worry and greed to generosity, justice, and joy. He taught us to pray:*

1. O God, whose love makes us one family,

2. May you be known as holy, just, and good.

3. Now, here on earth, may your commonwealth come,

4. On earth as in heaven, may your dreams come true.

5. Give us today our bread for today.
4. Forgive us our wrongs as we forgive.
3. Lead us away from the perilous trial.
2. Liberate us from the evil.

1. For the kingdom is yours and yours alone.

2. The power is yours and yours alone.

3. The glory is yours and yours alone.

4. Now and forever amen.

5. Alleluia ...

4. Alleluia ...

3. Alleluia ...

2. Alleluia ...

1. Amen.

On the night before he showed us the full extent of his love, Jesus took a loaf of bread, gave thanks, broke it, gave it to his friends, and asked them to remember him.

*As supper was ending, he took a cup of wine. Again he gave thanks and gave it to his friends, and asked them to remember him.*

We now remember Jesus ... his life of truthfulness and love ... *how he gathered little children and blessed them* ... how he ate at table with the excluded and forgotten ... *how he moved toward the sick in body and mind with healing* ... how he preached and embodied God's new story of love ... *how he confronted hypocrites and called all to rethink their lives* ... how he invited broken people like us to be disciples ... *how he forgave those who tortured and killed him* ... how he promised to rise among and in us ... *and to be with us always, even now.*



Now, gathered as one family around this table of joyful reconciliation and fellowship, united in your Spirit, we gratefully offer you our lives as a living sacrifice, so that the risen Christ may fill these bodies and live through us as the ongoing embodiment of Christ on this earth.

*As Christ spread out his arms upon the cross with a love that embraces all creation, we rejoice to enter that embrace and extend it to all, wherever we go.*



-Child of God, take this bread/cup as  
a sign of God's great love for you  
and for all creation.

or

-May your body be an embodiment  
of Christ.

-May you be filled with the wine of  
God's Spirit.

or ...



As Christ has loved us, let us now love one another. As Christ has served us, let us now serve one another. As Christ has told us the good news, the story of God's revolutionary love, let us now go forth to live good news by doing justice, loving kindness, and walking humbly with God.

*All: Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Amen!*

[Exchange a sign of peace and love - a hug, a handshake, a fist bump, a high five, a smile, a wave.... and a word of peace.]

