

Opening Prayers

Opening Prayer

Lord, let us not dwell in the past,
nor worry about the future.
We cannot undo what is done.
We cannot foresee what will come.
Let us instead dwell in your peace,
love and be loved,
heal and be healed.
We give the past to you
and rest in your forgiveness.
We give the future to you
and rest in your love.
We live in your light,
open our eyes that we may see.
We live in your love,
let your love flow through us,
to the fulfilment of your kingdom.
Amen.

Opening Prayer

Jesus, people came to you
when they were in trouble or in pain.
Some touched you,
some were carried by friends,
some met you walking along the road,
some were approached by you...
You listened to people, you cared,
you recognised their faith,
you restored those who were sick,
with your words and your touch.
Please restore now all those among us,
who are distressed.
Let them find peace.
Restore those who live in fear.
Let them find rest in this hour when we sing and pray: ...

Opening Prayer

God, we do not always find it easy
to be open before you.
Often our thoughts and minds are elsewhere.
We allow too many things

to become obstacles
between ourselves and your presence.
Touch our lives with your love / light / grace / healing *(optional)*
and fill our worship with your holy spirit
that we may offer our lives and praise to you,
when we pray...

Opening Prayer

Loving God,
we come this morning with our lives,
our thoughts, our hope and our fears.
We come with our plans, our dreams, our memories.
We come with our time, our gifts and our skills.
We come with our family, our friends, and we come with ourselves.
We come to offer to you everything
we have and are.
We come to glorify your holy name, when we pray....

Opening Prayer

Lord, we come as we are,
to become what you meant us to be.
We come as we are,
broken, afraid, and full of disappointment at times.
And we ask you
to make us whole and set us free.
We come as we are,
with all our plans and our dreams,
our joy and our sorrows,
to be touched by your grace
and held in your love.
We come as we are, God,
and we praise you when we pray...

Opening Prayer on New Years Eve

God of all time,
who makes all things new,
we bring before you the year now ending.
For life full and good,
for opportunities recognised and taken,
for love known and shared.
we thank you.
Where we have fallen short,

forgive us.

When we worry over the past,

free us.

Fill us with joy and let us praise you, when we pray...

Opening Prayer at Christmas

Gracious God,

we thank you that Xmas each year

is an opportunity for retelling the story,

for giving and receiving,

for worship and song

and for renewal and rededication.

May the worship we share today

lead us to acts of service which transform people's lives.

May the carols we sing

help others to sing, even in their sadness.

May the gifts we give and get

deepen our spirit of giving.

May the candles we light

remind us that you intend no one to live in darkness.

May the people we meet

remind us that we meet you in our neighbours.

May the stories we tell

be good news of great joy to us and all people.

May the ways you come close to us at Xmas

never be forgotten

but, hidden in our memories,

be a rich resource

to lift us when times are painful

and things don't go well,

because you are our light

this season and always.

Amen.

Opening Prayer for all ages

Loving God, thank you.

Thank you for this day

and all the children and adults in this church.

Thank you God for our lives,

for the smiles of children

and the hugs of parents.

Thank you for prayers, songs and stories.
Thank you for sun, moon and stars.
Thank you for night and day,
for friends to walk at our side
and things to share.
Thank you for your presence, God,
now, when we pray:
"Our Father, who art..."

Opening Prayer: How great thou art...

Loving and merciful God,
how great thou art!
You made the stars, the thunder, the woods and the birds, -----
and you made us.
You know each and every one us sitting here.
You know our joys, and our pain.
You know our laughter and our tears.
Lord we come to you today just as we are.
Touch us, guide us and heal us.
In your gracious name we pray.
Amen.

Opening Prayer for Old and Young

Loving God, thank you.
Thank you for this day
and all the children and adults in this church.
Thank you God for our lives,
for the smiles of children
and the hugs of parents.
Thank you for prayers, songs and stories.
Thank you for sun, moon and stars.
Thank you for night and day,
for friends to walk at our side
and things to share.
Thank you for your coming, God -
in Jesus who loved and welcomed children.
Please, do come in us too:
Show us how you can use us,
so that we may help this earth
to become a place where everybody is welcome
and has a home to stay.
Amen.

Opening Prayer

Loving God,
we have come together in this place
with Jesus Christ in our midst.
Our hands are open to receive,
our hearts are open to give,
our minds long to learn,
and our souls reach out to one another,
when we pray: Our Father...

Opening prayer at baptism

Loving God,
today we are celebrating a feast.
We are going to baptise ...,
and all of us will be able to experience again something
of what happened at our own baptism.
We remember your promises for our whole lives.
We remember that you love us, and care for us,
that you nurture us, and that you will never leave us alone.
God, in baptism you say to us: I am with you.
I like you. I will never let you get lost.
That is why we celebrate in your name.
Help us to deepen and strengthen our relationships -
to you, to others, and to ourselves.
Take our hand and lead us on our life journey.
And hear us when we pray: Our Father...

The Adventure of Community - A Prayer from Iona

God who walks with us the adventure of community,
remind us of your constant presence.
When we are full - give us the strength to bring light to others.
When we are empty - comfort and renew us.
When we need challenge - teach and stretch us.
And when we need rest - provide a stopping place on the way.

Opening Prayer in Stewardship Season

Gracious and loving God, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all the gifts you have given us: our lives, our loved ones, all that we have and all that we are.
We thank you with hearts and hands and voices.
Most of all, we thank you for Jesus, your son and our brother, who came among us to show us the way to eternal life.

Jesus was the perfect steward of your gifts, showing that complete trust in you is necessary, and that giving and loving and serving are most crucial when following his path.

May the offerings of our time, our talents, and our material resources in this season be made throughout the whole year in the spirit that Jesus taught people then and is teaching us now.

May we remember him and his unconditional love, when we pray:
Our Father...

God of jubilation,

We offer you this morning
our voices, our hands, and our spirits,
lifted high in worship.

God of bright truth,

We offer you this morning
our careful listening, our open ears,
and our reverence for your Holy Word.

God of love incarnate,

We offer you this morning
our presence, our openness,
and our readiness for your coming.

Come, Holy Spirit, and inhabit our worship this morning,
that we may feel your Spirit brooding over this place
and making all things new in our hearts.