

Morning Prayer A

OPENING RESPONSES

Leader: In the beginning, before time,
before people, before the world began,
All: GOD WAS.

Leader: Here and now, among us, beside us,
clearer than air, closer than breathing,
All: GOD IS

Leader: In all that is to come,
when we have turned to dust
and human knowledge has been
completed,
All: GOD WILL BE.

Leader: Not despairing of earth,
but delighting in it,
not condemning the world
but redeeming it
through Jesus Christ,
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
All: GOD WAS,
GOD IS,
GOD WILL BE.

PRAYER

Leader: Let us Pray.
Holy and gracious God,
we live in a world of wonder,
conceived by your divine imagination.
The universe is your creation
born out of love and generosity.
Hallowed be your name.
All: HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME.

Leader: Through centuries
of thought and searching,
through law and wisdom,
insight and experience,
your will and purpose
were gradually glimpsed until, in Jesus,
all that was hidden was revealed, and
you let earth be touched by heaven.
Hallowed be your name.
All: HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME.

Leader: In the beauty of the earth,

in the silence of our hearts,
in the community of your church,
in all works of grace and kindness,
in forgiving from the heart
and in worship from the soul,
your Spirit confirms the truth
by which we live.
Hallowed be your name.
All: HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME.

Leader: If, knowing this,
we have failed to love you, our Maker,
been hesitant to follow your Son,
and suspected the power of your Spirit,
Lord have mercy.
All: LORD HAVE MERCY.

Leader: If we have desired comfort
more than devotion,
if we have satisfied our wants
more than we have served your will,
if we have worshipped a lesser god
and gone for an easier gospel,
Christ have mercy.
All: CHRIST HAVE MERCY

Leader: If in the face of your openness,
we have privatized our wealth,
limited our company
to those like us,
restricted our conversation
to matters of no consequence,
and in all this
compromised our integrity
and lost faith in our faith,
Lord have mercy.
All: LORD HAVE MERCY

silence...

Leader: Forgive us, O God, that we may have
no defense against your will;
and then make us friends of your
purpose and worthy companions of Jesus,
in whose name we pray.
All: AMEN.

PSALM 95

Leader: Come, let us sing a joyful song to God,
shout in triumph

to the rock of our salvation,
All: LET US ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE
WITH GRATITUDE

AND WORSHIP WITH JOY.

Leader: The Lord is a great God,
greater than every idol.

All: THE DEPTHS OF THE EARTH
ARE IN GOD'S CARE,
AS ARE THE HIGHEST MOUNTAINS.

Leader: The sea belongs to God
whose hands carved out the land.

All: LET US DRAW NEAR TO GOD
AND COME BEFORE OUR MAKER,
FOR WE ARE THE FLOCK
WHOM GOD SHEPHERDS.

SCRIPTURE READING

Leader: Hear the Word of God.

All: OUR EARS AND HEARTS ARE OPEN.

(reading)

Leader: Give thanks to the One
whose Word is life.

All: BLEST BE GOD FOREVER.

3 MINUTES OF SILENCE

PRAYERS OF CONCERN

Leader: Let us pray:

Because you, God, love the world,
because in Christ you walked it,
we dare to pray:

God send your spirit;

All: RENEW THE LIFE OF THE EARTH.

Leader: To connect the words
of ancient scripture
to the life of the world today;
to let the urgent summons of Jesus
surpass our reticence to respond,
God, send your spirit;

All: RENEW THE LIFE OF THE EARTH.

*(Wild Goose Publications: A Wee Worship Book,
paraphrased)*

Leader: To awaken the minds of those in power
to the realities of those they govern;
to confront the arrogance

of the privileged
with the vulnerability of the poor,
God, send your spirit;

All: RENEW THE LIFE OF THE EARTH.

Leader: To engage the fragile state of the planet
with those who abuse it;

to let the pain of those who are hurting
awaken the caring potential
in the healthy,

God, send your spirit;

All: RENEW THE LIFE OF THE EARTH.

Leader: To place our lives into your good care
in this time of great distress;

to know that we are loved
beyond our understanding;
to trust that you hold us tenderly
no matter the circumstance of our lives,

God send your spirit;

All: RENEW THE LIFE OF THE EARTH.

Leader: To eradicate the distance between
our convictions and commitments,
our potentials and our performance,
our prayers and our politics,
our faith and our discipleship,
God, send your spirit;

All: RENEW THE LIFE OF THE EARTH.

CLOSING RESPONSES

Leader: Is it true that God loves the world?

All: AMEN! THIS IS TRUE!

Leader: Is it true the God loves all people?

All: AMEN! THIS IS TRUE!

Leader: Is it true that Jesus came
to make all things new?

All: AMEN! THIS IS TRUE!

Leader: Then let us go
as those whom God has called,
to bear witness
to the love and justice of heaven,
to be beacons of light
and signs of transformation,
for of such is the kingdom of heaven.

All: AMEN AND AMEN.