

Session Opening Prayer – February 16, 2022

Opening Responses

Leader: Blessed be God,
who creates out of nothing,
who shapes beauty out of chaos,
breathes life into dust,
delights in designing difference
and embodies in each human
the image of our Maker.

All: Blessed be God forever.

Leader: Blessed be God
who gives each person a purpose:
calling the young for their energy
and the old for their wisdom;
refusing to discriminate
in terms of race, color,
intellect or giftedness;
affirming forgotten worth,
identifying hidden potential,
redeeming deep regrets.

All: Blessed be God forever.

Leader: Blessed be God
who forsakes heaven
to live on earth,
who, in Jesus,
is truly flesh of our flesh
and bone of our bone,
vulnerable to pain, rumor and conflict,
open to question,
committed to heal,
sentenced to death,
destined for resurrection,
vindicating the power and the love of God
ever holy, ever one.

All: Blessed be God forever.

Leader: Blessed be the Maker,
the Son and the Spirit
in our lives and our worship.

All: Amen.

Scripture reading: 1 John 2: 12-17

Prayer

One: Let us pray.

You keep us waiting...
you, the God of all time,
want us to wait for the right time
in which to discover who we are, where we must go,
who will be with us, and what we must do.

All: So thank you for the waiting time.

Two: You keep us looking...
you, the God of all space,
want us to look in the right and wrong places
for signs of hope, for people who are hopeless,
for visions of a better world
which will appear among the disappointments
of the world we know.

All: So thank you for the looking time.

Three: You keep us loving...
you, the God whose name is love, want us to be like you –
to love the loveless and the unloved and the unlovely;
to love without jealousy or design or threat;
and, most difficult of all, to love ourselves.

All: So thank you for the loving time.

Leader: And in all this, you keep us...
through hard questions with no easy answers,
through failing where we hoped to succeed
and making an impact when we thought we were useless,
through the patience and encouragement and love of others,
and through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit,
you keep us.

**All: So thank you...
for the keeping time and for now and forever. Amen.**