

Opening 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.**

Read Acts 1:6-11

Response

Time of silence and closing prayer