

BEGINNING

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTORY PRAYER

This is the day that the Lord has made

Let us rejoice and be glad in it

Gracious God, who made the world and set the moon and the stars in the heavens, we praise and bless you for the wonders of your creation that surround us. Help us to be aware of your presence as we celebrate your glory, that we may share in your concern for all created things.

CONFESSION

Be praised, my Lord, through those who forgive for love of you; through those who endure sickness and trial. We bring to mind those occasions when we have not spoken or acted as we should, and we pray for those people who have been hurt by our words and deeds.

Lord have mercy

Lord have mercy

We repent of those times when we have not cared for the creation as we ought, allowing it to be spoiled and damaged through our thoughtlessness.

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Christ have mercy

Christ have mercy

We are sorry that we have not valued ourselves as children of God, allowing negative thoughts and feelings to cause us to stumble on the path.

Lord have mercy

Lord have mercy

For all these things, we ask God's forgiveness through Christ whose love redeemed us all.

Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people on it and spirit to those who walk in it: I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. I am the Lord, that is my name; my glory I give to no other. [Isaiah 42:5–8]

Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created. [Revelation 4:11]

ENDING

*We gather at the end of our time together
Meeting together to rest in your peace*

We rejoice in the evidence of God's love in creation, and for the opportunities to discover and learn that we have experienced. Through the wonders of the natural world, help us to discern God's glory.

For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible. All things were created through him and for him. [Colossians 1:16, ESV] For this we give thanks.

Here you could offer a short time for sharing discoveries and experiences, showing art works and constructions, and demonstrating new skills learned or old ones practised. This should be an occasion in which everyone can participate if they wish, encouraging all ages to contribute their achievements in an informal and affirming way.

We rejoice in the evidence of God's love in each other and in ourselves, and for the miracle that is our lives.

*I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.
[Psalm 139:14, ESV]*

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We commit ourselves to working together to care for God's creation and for our neighbours, that we may live in harmony with all.

Renew us in the spirit of our minds, that we may put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. [Ephesians 4:23–24]

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. [John 1:1–5]

Let us go in peace, for God makes known to us the path of life. In his presence there is fullness of joy; at his right hand are pleasures for evermore.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all, ever more, Amen