

## Opening prayers

*(Cara Heafey, & Rosalind Selby, adapted)*

God, our creator and provider,  
we bring you our thanks and praise.  
Everything we have and all that we are  
flow from your goodness.

Jesus, teller of parables, teacher and healer  
we come open to your word  
Your Gospel inspires us  
you have the power to transform our lives.

Spirit of life and joy,  
we bring you our thanks and praise.  
You draw us into community and friendship.  
You invite and inspire.

Three-in-one God,  
We bring you ourselves.  
Knowing that our lives and our fears and our desires  
are an open book before you.

Loving and Holy God,  
it is such a privilege  
to bring our honest prayers to you,  
to open the Scriptures and discover not only that ordinary women and men,  
but also Jesus himself, offer to you the gritty 'stuff' of their lives –  
it gives us the permission we need to be that honest  
not just 'polite' prayers, not just the heartfelt prayers that come out of the needs we  
experience and that we perceive in the lives of others –  
but the questions and challenges and anger and hurt  
of our very human emotions  
bursting from our hearts and minds and flung out at you.  
Thank you for listening to these too.  
And thank you for being in this day with us onwards whatever the future brings,

Loving and forgiving God,  
we also want to honestly offer our regrets and failures.  
We carry burdens of anger and frustration,  
we have turned away from opportunities to share your love  
we may have caused hurt to others.  
We lay our confessions before you and ask for forgiveness.

..... assurance of pardon. Amen

## **Thank God for Church** (Ana Gobledale, adapted)

### Spirit of Community

Thank you for church that has brought so many generations together

### Spirit of Truth

Thank you for inspired ministry and worship that has opened ears, minds and hearts to your presence.

### Spirit of Trust

Thank you for familiar words of prayer that provide solid grounding for yet another day and onward as we Walk the Way.

### Spirit of Comfort

Thank you for the familiar melodies that reside in the core of our being.

### Spirit of Eternity

Thank you for the new lyrics set to old tunes that connect our today with the yesterday of others and our future together.

### Spirit of Generosity

Thank you for all the many opportunities to share the gifts of each other in Your name.

### Spirit of New Life

Thank you for the challenge to change, to act, to carry on following you, wherever that may take us.

### Spirit of Power

Thank you for others with whom to work for justice and peace, so together we can make a difference in our world.

### Spirit of Love

Thank you for this community we call Church here at Princes Street.  
All the history, dedication, joy and service.  
The members, ministers, elders, music and companionship.

### God, the living community of Creator, Son and Spirit

We give you thanks for what has been, our coming together today and what will emerge in the future.

Amen

***A prayer of intercession*** (from Roots, adapted)

Across the ages you, Jesus, have called men and women to follow you,  
and to walk in the way of righteousness and truth.

We praise you for the witness of Christians in every generation,  
for those who have served you as they  
shared the Gospel with the people they met  
and struggled for the poor and oppressed  
and sought peace in our world.

**Christ who calls us,**  
hear our prayer.

Bless your followers today, we pray.

We remember all who have made sacrifices to serve you.

We recall in a time of quiet all those we have known and know of  
who are part of the witness and worship here at Princes St.

**Christ who calls us,**  
hear our prayer.

Give to the world your deep peace,  
and help us overcome the oppression and violence that destroys lives.  
We pray especially for those nations tinged with hatred and injustice,  
and look to a world in which all may have enough.

**Christ who calls us,**  
hear our prayer.

Comfort and hold all who are sick and sorrowing,  
and give your wisdom and peace to those who care for them.  
We pray especially for ...

**Christ who calls us,**  
hear our prayer.

Teach us, each one, to follow you, Lord Jesus,  
to be your disciples, the heralds of your kingdom.  
Though we sometimes feel weary, strengthen us to persevere,  
and so to run the race that lies before us,  
in thankfulness and hope.

for we ask in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray:

Our Father.....

**Amen.**