

## **Call to worship** Psalm 29: 1&2

Praise the LORD, you heavenly beings;  
praise his glory and power.

<sup>2</sup> Praise the LORD's glorious name;  
bow down before the Holy One in garments of worship.

(alternate ending used)

## **Opening prayers** (Word in the World, adapted)

Holy God

We gather before you now in worship.

We come as ourselves for we know nothing is hidden to you.

We come, not dressed up in our 'Sunday best' but  
clothed in our garments of worship – clothes of humility, wonder, openness and  
gratitude.

We worship you because trust, belief, and the desire to live your life bring us to seek  
your presence now and always.

Holy Spirit of God, guide us, for we would follow Jesus.

Open our minds and hearts to his truth;

enliven our imagination to his presence;

excite our emotions to his offered love;

increase our gratitude for his living, dying and rising;

and strengthen us in our commitment,

that we may walk in step with him, our Lord and Saviour.

Lord Jesus,

we follow you because we trust you; you are the Way.

We follow you because we believe you; you are the Truth.

We follow you because we cannot live without you; you are the Life.

Almighty God we also want to be open and honest about our faults and failures.

We have done things and said things that betray us.

We have turned away on occasion, kept silent, or looked for help and comfort in the  
wrong directions.

We want to express our sorrow and ask for your forgiveness in Jesus once more and  
so renew and refresh our commitment to follow Him in our lives.

Amen

**Prayers of concern** (Susan Sayers, adapted)

Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus is affirmed at his Baptism as God's beloved Son, and we too are given the Spirit of God which affirms us as God's adopted daughters and sons.

Let us pray

May the Spirit of God in our hearts plead for the Church and for the world.  
Great God of all time and space, fill the Church with such joy in believing that all Christians overflow with love, compassion, generosity and humility.  
Let us walk your way and live your life.

May the Spirit of God: fill us to overflowing.  
Great God of power and justice,  
fill the arenas of leadership and conflict  
with sharpened consciences and with courage,  
so that wise decisions are made,  
needs met and wrongs righted.  
We pray with all our heart for peace and stability across the world, but particularly in the United States at this time of political turmoil and violence.  
May peace be the guiding light for all.

May the Spirit of God: fill us to overflowing.  
Great God of gentleness and truth, fill every home with new insight and greater understanding.  
Especially in this new time of lockdown we pray for love and mutual respect in all households and pray for those who live in fear of the ones they live with.  
Break down the divisive barriers and build up our capacity to love.

May the Spirit of God: fill us to overflowing.  
Great God of attentive caring, fill us with your practical compassion; may all who suffer be heard, comforted and cared for.  
Heal both their situation and our hardness of heart.

May the Spirit of God: fill us to overflowing.  
Great God of unending being,  
bless the dying and the bereaved with hope in your everlasting life.  
Prepare us all for life which lasts for ever.

May the Spirit of God: fill us to overflowing.  
Great God of all creation, fill our mouths with praises and our hearts with gratitude,  
for all the glory that surrounds us.  
Merciful Father,  
accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ who taught us His prayer: Our Father..... Amen.