

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A time of open prayer when we can bring to God people and situations that we care about

CLOSING PRAYER

God of all delighting,
your laughter fills the universe
with pleasure in creation;
divine foolishness,
holy Jester,
eternal dance,
you touch the child in each of us
to open eyes of wonder,
hearts of welcome,
lives of innocence;
we trust you with our selves:
surprise us with your joy.
Amen.



DELIGHT – The Dance of Change

To be alive is to move and change, to be creative, co-creators with God

OPENING PRAYER

Holy Spirit of God, dancing and risking,
stretching our potential, be present to us now
in the energy of our becoming. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

The LORD created me at the beginning of his work,
the first of his acts of long ago.

Ages ago I was set up,

at the first, before the beginning of the earth.

When there were no depths I was brought forth,
when there were no springs abounding with water.

Before the mountains had been shaped,
before the hills, I was brought forth –
when he had not yet made earth and fields,
or the world's first bits of soil.

When he established the heavens, I was there,
when he drew a circle on the face of the deep,
when he made firm the skies above,
when he established the fountains of the deep,
when he assigned to the sea its limit,
so that the waters might not transgress his command,
when he marked out the foundations of the earth,
then I was beside him, like a master worker;
and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always,
rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the human race.

Proverbs 8.22–31



MUSIC AND SILENCE

In this time of quiet reflection we think of our own experiences.
Are we able to delight in our lives, to be playful, to laugh, to dance?
What would need to change in us to allow this to happen more often?

INVOCATION

O Holy Wisdom,
darling and delight in creation,
in your infinite gentleness
cradle our humanity,
fragile shell of our potential,
the complex knotted tangle of our lives,
impossible mess and muddle
of loves, wants and needs;
in your open embrace,
disturb and awaken us
with freedom to be and become
'Life's longing';
in the energy of your rejoicing,
infect us with your laughter,
intrigue us with your play,
gather us in the choreography of your abundant delight!



PRAYERS OF RECOGNITION

We bring to God the tangles that we face in our own lives,
the knotted relationships, hardened hearts, hurtful words
and actions, situations that seem too hard to undo.

Leader: In your infinite gentleness

All: Cradle our humanity

We bring to God all that is fragile and vulnerable in us,
where we have been wounded, where we have known weakness,
where we are close to breaking point.

Leader: In your infinite gentleness

All: Cradle our humanity

We bring to God all that is constrained in us,
the disapproving voices, the critical eyes, the cynical thoughts,
all that prevents us from delighting in our lives.

Leader: In your infinite gentleness

All: Cradle our humanity

And because God delights in us, we delight in the wonder of creation,
the beauty of the natural world, the immensity of the universe
and our particular calling to enjoy and care for it.

Leader: Disturb and awaken us

All: With freedom to be and become

We delight in the variety and peculiarity of the human race,
welcoming difference and diversity in the abundance of our living.

Leader: Disturb and awaken us

All: With freedom to be and become

We delight in your presence, as we learn to play, to dance,
to laugh and to rejoice. Free the child in us to be and to become
who we truly are.

Leader: Disturb and awaken us

All: With freedom to be and become