

## Opening Prayer

Not the feint God of listless imagination  
But you the God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob  
Be here this morning  
To make promises we never believe can be kept  
To unbind us from altars which others have tied us  
To meet us in the evening, and wrestle with us until dawn

Not the easy call of comfort and prejudice and expectation  
But the life giving call to more, to love, to have true faith  
To be salt of the earth  
Light on the hill  
Give us that call this morning

Not the forgiveness which we earn through the pain of our self-flagellation  
Not the pardon that is half-hearted, shortlived and begrudging  
But the forgiveness, the loosening, the liberation of Jesus Christ  
For that we pray this morning

As we confess to you our sins – Oh God forgive us we pray....

*Silence*

Oh Lord throw them far from us – our sins  
Wash us clean, cleaner than the whitest of snows  
Pronounce your pardon, deep in the echoing chambers of our fragile hearts  
That we would know by your Spirit  
That we are your sons and daughters

This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ  
Who we worship  
And in whose name worship  
Together  
Father, Son and Spirit

AMEN