

Opening Prayer

19th February 2023

Come to us
Maker of the good earth
Come to us
Into the very heart of us
The soul of us
The being of us
Come into our very breath
Come into us
We pray

Come to us
Oh Jesus Christ
Firstborn of Mary
Son of Joseph, son of Israel, son of God
Master carpenter
Who at the last
Through wood and nails
Purchased our whole salvation
Come to us
Come into the soul of us
The being of us
The very essence of us
The very essence of me

Come to us
Oh Holy Spirit
Midwife of creation
Wildness of Pentecost fire
Tender dove of baptism
Advocate, helper, the one alongside
The one within
Come to us
Come into the soul of us
The being of us
The very essence of us
The very essence of the person called me

Forgive us our sins
Our big ones
Our small ones
The persistent ones
The unknown ones
The fear, and compulsions within which are the root of sin

With deep sadness
We confess.
That we have not been who we were made to be
That we have neglected our calling to live as Jesus
We have lived unlovingly because we see our neighbour as one like us
We have lived indulgently because we balked at the the narrowness of the path
We have lived rigidly because the pain of change was too much
We have lived fretfully because we did not trust in you

Come now and forgive us our sins
Let them be flung far from us
As far as East is from West
Take them from us
Let them not hang around us
Have mercy on us we pray
Have mercy on us
Oh Lamb of God have mercy upon us
And now let us know that we are forgiven
Held in you
Made new

And hear us now in the words which Jesus taught us

Our Father, who art in heaven
Hallowed be thy name
Thy kingdom come, they will be done
On earth as it is in heaven
Give us this day our daily bread
And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil
For thine is the kingdom
The power and the glory
Forever and ever

AMEN