

CLOSING RITE

OUR FATHER

CLOSING PRAYER

LET US BLESS THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

CLOSING HYMN

Lord of All Hopefulness (Text Jan Struther)

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
Whose trust ever child-like, no care could destroy,
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,
Be there at our labours, and give us, we pray,
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
Your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace,
Be there at our homing and give us, we pray,
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,
Be there at our sleeping and give us, we pray,
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

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Gathering with Hope

- A Prayer Service for this Time

Gathering Rite

Welcome

Opening Hymn & Procession

Longing for light we wait in darkness, longing
for truth we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people, light for
the world to see.

*Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts,
shine through the darkness.*

*Christ be our light! Shine in your church
gathered today.*

Longing for peace, our world is troubled,
longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us, make
us your living voice.

Longing for food many are hungry, longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed.

Longing for shelter, many are homeless, longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone.

Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another, making your kingdom come.

Christ be our Light (Bernadette Farrell)



(Please be seated)

Word of God

Psalm 23:

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want. He makes me down to lie
In pastures green, he leadeth me, the quiet waters by.

My soul he doth restore again and me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness, E'en for his own name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through death's dark vale, Yet will I fear no ill;
For thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me comfort still.

Goodness and mercy all my life shall surely follow me;
And in God's house for ever more my dwelling place shall be.

Pause

Psalm 26: *R. The Lord is my light and my help.*

The Lord is my light and my help;
whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
before whom shall I shrink?

There is one thing I ask of the Lord, for this I long,
to live in the house of the Lord,
all the days of my life,
to savour the sweetness of the Lord,
to behold his temple.

I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness
in the land of the living.
Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.
Hope in the Lord!

Pause

Quiet Time

Prayers of Intercession

(Please stand)

God of Hope: (response - Hear our prayer.)

ACCEPTANCE AND SHARING OF LIGHT

Lighting of Candles

All:

*Lord,
the light I choose to let into my life today
is based on my hope in you.
It is a small flame,
but I believe that it can dispel a bit more darkness tonight.
I join this flame to the flames of each individual here,
for it is through us
that Christ's light will shine
in the midst of the struggles and cares of the world.*

Litany of hope

R. Christ who was, who is, and who is to come, you are our light and our hope.