

# An Order of Prayer for Opening a Meeting



## OPENING

*The leader may light a candle and place it in front of or in the center of the group, while saying:*

We belong to Christ,  
**in whom we have been baptized.**

*A time of silence is kept.*

From the joys and satisfactions, the cares and concerns of our lives,  
**gather us in, O God.**

For attention to your presence, for thanksgiving and praise,  
**gather us in, O God.**

For comfort and solace, for encouragement and strength,  
**gather us in, O God.**

For this community and for this time of prayer,  
**gather us in, O God.**

## PSALMODY

### PSALM 100

<sup>1</sup>Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all you lands!

<sup>2</sup>**Serve the LORD with gladness; come into God's presence with a song.**

<sup>3</sup>Know that the LORD is God, our maker to whom we belong;  
**we are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture.**

<sup>4</sup>Enter the gates of the LORD with thanksgiving and the courts with praise;  
**give thanks and bless God's holy name.**

<sup>5</sup>Good indeed is the LORD, whose steadfast love is everlasting,  
**whose faithfulness endures from age to age.**

## WORD

*One or more readings are read.*

*A time of silence follows, after which a member or members of the group may offer reflections especially as to how this passage relates to their lives or to the work of the group.*

*This response concludes the time of reflection:*

Your word, O God, is a lamp to my feet,  
and a light to my path.

## PRAYERS

Let us give thanks for God's blessings to us especially today.

*Here blessings may be named silently or aloud.*

God of love,  
hear our prayer.

Let us bring before God needs and concerns known to us.

*Here people and situations of concern may be named silently or aloud.*

God of love,  
hear our prayer.

Let us bring before God our own needs.

*Here specific needs may be mentioned silently or aloud.*

God of love,  
hear our prayer.

Let us ask for God's guidance and blessing upon our time today.

*Here specific items before the group may be mentioned silently or aloud.*

God of love,  
hear our prayer.

Finally, let us pray for all things in the words our Savior taught us.

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.

May God bless us and bless the work we are called to do in Jesus' name.  
Amen.