

## Invocation

From Everlasting to Everlasting, you are God, Creator of all that was, and is, and is to come. And as we stand on the shores of life, we understand our smallness and the greatness of you. Yet you care for us – for our friends and loved ones, for neighbors near and far. And for that we pause give you thanks...

Oh Lord, in the words, melodies and quietness of this hour, help us draw near to us. May your Holy Spirit stir within us – encouraging us *to use those gifts that you have endowed us with* – in order that we might be *partners in creation* **with you**. For all too often we find ourselves fascinated by tempting possibilities to see for ourselves as something other than who we are and create for ourselves idols. Protect us from ourselves, Oh God. (Pause)

With confessing hearts, we boldly ask that when we wrong others, you ignore the blame we heap upon them – and forgive our shortcomings through the sacrifice of Jesus. For we remember that in all things we are forgiven in Christ. And we give thanks **that because** his Holy Spirit *dwells among us* we are never alone. May your Holy Spirit be revealed to us this morning as we seek to draw ever closer to you. For we ask this in the name of the beloved, who came to free us from the constraints of this world and – and who taught us **that we should pray** in saying...

### **Call to Offering**

The Bible calls us that it is indeed better to give than to receive, *living as heirs to the blessings of God's great kingdom*. As such, *let us leave a joyful legacy* that reflects God's ceaseless love – **to all people** - for generations to come. *For in giving offerings of commitment and service to the Almighty, we proclaim to the world* that God - is - **good** and worthy of our praise. The mornings' offering will now be received.

### **Prayer of Dedication**

O God, indeed you are good – and great are the blessings you have bestowed upon us. Accept this portion of the harvest of our toil, *together with our labor and our love*. Grant us your wisdom and grace which consecrates not only our silver but ourselves to your service, according to the measure and pattern *of Him who gave Himself for us*. Amen.