## **OPENING PRAYER**

## PRAYER OF APPROACH & CONFESSION

Lord God, we gather in this place not because we are deserving of Your love and not because we have lived faithfully. We gather here because You have called us. You loved us before we could love You. You have given Your Son for our salvation. We bless You, praise You, and thank You. Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty! You are great, and greatly to be praised. we long to follow Jesus Christ in our lives! His life, death and resurrection give us hope, Through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Loving God, You call us to be the salt of the earth, but too often we consider Your way to be bland, and we miss the delight of life filled with flavor that spreads from us to those around us.

Forgive us, Lord, and help us be more like Jesus.

You call us to be the light of the world, but too often our actions do not bring praise to You. We make choices that help us blend into our culture rather than stand out as Your people. Forgive us, Lord, and help us be more like Jesus.

You call us to settle matters quickly, but too often we nurse grudges and look for ways to settle scores on our own terms. Forgive us, Lord, and help us be more like Jesus. You call us to go the second mile, but too often we consider our own convenience first, passing up opportunities to show love to our neighbour. Forgive us, Lord, and help us be more like Jesus.

## a time for silent confession

Lord, hear our prayer.

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Lord, have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy on me. (repeat)