

Opening prayer: Almighty God, bless us with a deep sense of your presence with us this hour. We cannot worship you or sing your praises, we cannot lift our prayers or hear your word, except by the power of your Spirit. Grant us your Spirit this morning, in our midst as your people. And in our hearts and minds. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Pastoral prayer: God of heaven and earth, of the past and the present and the future, we thank you for J.C. through whom we know your love for us and all the world. ~~We~~ We thank you for Jesus Christ, through whom we know new depths of life here and now and through whom we hope for eternal life.

We thank you for your Holy Spirit, who nurtures and sustains our very being, who reminds us of your presence and love, who inspires us to see in the ordinary occurrences of life glimpses of eternal things.

We pray for those to whom you seem very far away. We pray for those whose faith is faltering, who face sickness or death or fear and doubt. Grant them the shelter of your comforting, reassuring Spirit. Grant them courage and renewed faith in Jesus Christ as Savior

From the desk of ...

Carolyn Y. Smith  
PLANNING MANAGER

And Lord.

We pray for our world, in which violence  
and injustice shatters innocent dreams and dis-  
tort lives beyond repair. We pray for our world,  
in which souls die even as bodies live. We pray  
for our world, in which greed for money and  
power has hardened human hearts, while the poor die  
in quiet despair. O God, teach us and your world  
the way of sacrifice, instead of self-aggrandizement.  
Teach us and your world the way of community,  
instead of individual advancement and pleasure.  
O God, speak loudly and clearly, for our ears  
have grown deaf. We have tried desperately to shut  
out the hurting, hungry, war-torn, greedy world.

Forgive our deafness of heart, which refuses  
to hear and obey your voice. Forgive our blindness,  
which refuses to see you in the injured neighbor.  
Forgive our heartlessness of heart. With fear and trembling  
we ask for caring hearts and clear eyes and