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Opening prayer: O God of mercy and truth, set us free from the bondage of all evil. And give us liberty of wisdom and the fullness of life revealed in Jesus Christ, our Lord, to whom be glory forever. Amen

Pastoral prayer: Almighty God, you are the author and finisher of all things. Your authority is from the beginning and remains to the end. ~~What~~ ^{Authority is from the beginning and remains to the end.} At your word light pushed back the darkness and everything that is was made. You called Moses and gave him the power of your law. You sent your Son, Jesus, and gave him the authority of your own presence. All the forces of evil must yield to your sovereignty.

Your love is patient, O God. your grace seems vulnerable; yet, it never is. your power is made perfect in weakness, and your strength has come to us in the gentleness of a Carpenter from Nazareth.

Hear us as we pray. Many of us are conflicted. The demon voices of our age have taken our dreams and shouted down our hopes. Our hearts are lonely, our bodies tired. Our minds are insensitive to truth. Our sins still follow us. We have come to praise you, O Christ, and we ask you now to take our lives and so order them that a small part of your goodness and radiant love may be found in this time and place. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.