

Lord God of freedom, of mercy, and of life,
 teach us we pray, to turn toward you and
 allow without fear with open hands, trusting
 that this life is, indeed, a wonderful
 gift and that others, in spite of differences,
 are here for us to love.

Help us, Creator and Redeemer God, to see
 your world and ourselves through the eyes
 of your Son, Jesus, so that we might be
 truly thankful and compassionate to our
 families, our fellow workers and students, our
 fellow Christians, and our neighbors - close at
 hand and afar.

Seeking to become one with your love
 and mercy, O God, we pray for others - ones
 that suffer in spirit or mind or body, that they
 may have relief and wholeness; ones who grieve,
 that they may know the value of the ones or the other
 losses they mourn; ones who are anxious and afraid,
 that they may experience the peace to be found in trusting
 you. We pray also for persons who are lonely,
 that they may find satisfying companionship; and
 for all who are oppressed or excluded by barriers
 or labels, that they may know themselves to be part
 of your body, and find freedom to live a full & rich
 life.

Master, you have made our lives the occasion for

New beginnings, if only we have eyes to see. This
hour marks ~~such~~ an opportunity for many of
us, provide us with strength and direction
to meet the challenge of our present day
Discipleship - Through your Son to whom
we offer our thanks and our longings as we con-
tinue to pray - Lord's prayer.