

## Opening Prayer:

Almighty God you are beyond us in the furthest reaches of the heavens; yet, you are here among us in your Spirit and in your Word. Speak to our hearts in this hour. Calm us; Comfort us; Challenge us; Create us anew as your people. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen

Pastoral Prayer: Loving God, you are the Creator and Sinner of each passing year and each passing day, of sunshine and rain, of workdays and Vacation.

Thank you for the Variety in your world - for the mountains and seacoasts, for pine forests and wheat fields, for cities and countryside. Forgive us for destroying the beauty of this earth and threatening its very life. Inspire us to care for your gift, the earth. Empower us to change those habits that destroy and pollute.

Thank you for the Variety of relationships in this world - for Grandparents and Grandchildren, for parents and children, for brothers and sisters, for special friends. Forgive us when we take these relationships for granted, when



in selfishness we hurt by withdrawing  
or lashing out. Guide us to that balance  
between giving love and accepting love, between  
serving the needs of others and allowing others  
to serve our needs.

Hear our prayers for the sick and dying  
for those who have experience death in their  
family. Be a sure presence in the midst of fear  
and uncertainty.

