

God of all creation, you have planted a great longing within us, and that longing has brought us to this time and place of fellowship. We dare to believe that we have been created in your image. At the same time, we believe that we have marred that image.

We come, confessing our many faults and failures. You have given us so many good gifts, but we have refused to acknowledge most of them. We confess with sorrow that we have refused to share our bounty with those who are in need. We have received a vision of what might be, but we have let the dream die and fade. We have turned aside from the straight and narrow way, which leads to life, and instead have chosen the path of least resistance.

We have been surrounded by friends and loved ones who have made great sacrifices for us, but we, in turn, have failed to show them our gratitude. We have let watchful eyes lose their sparkle and waiting hearts lose their hope because we did not care enough. With humility we confess our selfishness, our indifference, and our lack of love.

Your sleepers are scattered on many hillsides. We pray for your children, our sisters and brothers, who are anxious, lonely, troubled, hungry, sick, and suffering because of physical, mental, and spiritual pain. We pray that all might know that beneath the cares of life are the everlasting arms, lifting, giving constant support and courage.

From the ending of each old chapter of life's story to the beginning of each new chapter, help us all to trust in your goodness! This we ask in the spirit of the One Who came to set us free -