

Opening prayer: O God, we could not seek you if you had not first sought us. Sometimes we sense your presence and dimly discern your truth. Your love has called us into being; your love has revealed to us your way. Now, by the power of Christ in our midst, stir up these longings and affections that make life good, and cause us to reach forth to you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pastoral prayer: Almighty God, we turn to you for safety and refuge. Only you are God, and apart from you there is no good thing. Our sorrows increase when we fail to heed your gentle call. Our burdens grow heavy when we run after the gods of money and power. All hope fails us when we forsake your strength and love. You are the Lord, and divorced from you we have nothing that lasts.

Our lives stand in the appointment of your will, O God. You have assigned each of us our portion and our cup. You have blessed us in this good land and in the friendship of this congregation. If our lot in life is secure, it is because of your blessing. All the circumstances of our lives are in any

Pleasant, it is because of your  
Providence and Care. Surely we have  
a delightful inheritance as your  
Children, and we praise you for  
it.

Our hearts are glad today, for we  
have sensed your presence and  
rested in your peace, you have not  
abandoned us to our foolish ways,  
but to the evil that seeks to de-  
stroy us. Therefore we will lift  
our voices to praise you, and ~~to~~ in  
our daily walk we will seek to follow  
you.

Brought to us, we ask you, O Christ,  
the joy of your presence now and at  
last the eternal pleasures found at your  
pand. Keep us safe in your mercy and  
truth, O Lord, that we may abide forever  
in the shelter of your wings. —

1891