

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light.

God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness.

God called the light 'day', and the darkness he called 'night'.

And there was evening, and there was morning – the first day.

Amen

Creator of the galaxies

Ruler of the farthest reaches of space

You are nearer to us than our own hands and feet

Closer to us than our own next breath

We sense your Presence

In the tightly curled hand of a newborn child

And in the open arms of a wide golden beach

We hear you in the sound of wind and waves

And in the soft chatter of happy children

Your presence is woven into the truth of your Word

And into our lives

And we are glad to sing your praise

Amen

At the moment of creation, everything was dark and chaos reigned...

The wind of God moved over the waters; movement and glimmers of light spread through the darkness...

With sounds like a thousand thunderstorms, and blinding flashes of lightning, the light began to split away from the darkness...

God divided light from darkness, day from night, the beginning of all time...

Lord, bring order from our chaos...

Lord, bring light in our darkness...

Lord, make new beginnings for us and for our world.

Amen.

Eternal God, it feels as if the whole world has changed beyond recognition and yet in you there is stability and the opportunity of a new beginning.

So, we pray now for those whose lives are in turmoil,
those whose lives have been turned upside down,
those who feel lost.

May they feel supported and find fresh hope,
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

We pray for those who are overwhelmed by worry,
about their jobs,
their money
or their physical and mental health
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

We pray for all children and young adults
as they return to school or college
and those who are home schooled,
for some it will come as a relief if there home life isn't
safe and loving
or they don't have enough to eat
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

We pray for the people of the Middle East,
particularly Gaza and Israel.

Lord the situation there is much too much for mankind
to resolve,

we ask that you move in that place with power, glory
and your redeeming justice.

We continue to hold Ukraine before you,

those caught in the fighting need your comfort Lord.
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

We pray today for those in Japan who have been affected by the serious earthquake.

That those who are still trapped, are found and we give our thanks for those who come to rescue and comfort'

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

We pray for those who work in the emergency services,
and those whose work is dangerous and traumatic.
We pray for those in refugees camps with little protection from the weather,

those who sleep rough,
those who can't afford to heat their homes
or buy nutritious food.

May they feel supported, and find fresh hope:
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

We pray for one another,
our families,
our communities,
our church fellowships.

May we support those who are unwell or grieving .
This morning in particular we hold out to you Claire,
Martin and Sophie in their grief.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

May we bring fresh hope to those who feel forgotten
and vulnerable,
and may we –
both practically and prayerfully –
share our faith in your Son Jesus
in whose name we entrust these prayers to you.
Amen.

Let us now say together the Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours, now and for ever.
Amen.**