

## FORGIVENESS PRAYER SERVICE

### Opening Prayer

God of faithfulness,  
God ever new.  
We pause and together we welcome you into our midst,  
It is a time busy with many projects and possibilities.  
We are in need of energy and renewed hope.  
Wondering what change are we able to effect,  
By our words and actions and prayers,  
We need Your grace to guide our hearts.  
We need the power of Your Son to rekindle and sustain our passion.  
We need the wisdom of Your Spirit to see the ever-present possibility,  
For change and conversion, for growth and transformation.  
We pray that we may believe and experience more fully your forgiveness.  
Help us to become people of forgiveness in our world, in the friendship  
And justice of Jesus in whose name we pray.

All: Amen.

### Scripture Reading

John 20:19-23

Let us listen to the words from the Gospel of St. John.  
When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you". After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you". When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit: For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven. For those whose sins are retained, they are retained."  
The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

## Concluding Prayer

O God, who created us,  
Fill our minds with knowledge and appreciation of the hope  
With which and for which you created us.  
O God, who created us,  
Fill our hearts with courage to take the risks  
And pay the price that will make this hope come true.  
O God, who created us, breathed life and energy into our hands,  
May we always find joy in your hope for us.  
O God, who forgives us, lives in us, and calls us to do the same,  
May we find peace in your forgiveness,  
and the forgiveness is shared with others.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.