

Opening Prayer

Patient God, we find it so easy to give “lip service” to the commandment to love. We can say we know of your love and that we respond in kind, but we far too often do not respond in loving ways toward others.

Dig deeper into our souls, O God. Expose the vain selfishness and the fear that seem to block true discipleship. Engage us in ministries of justice in which the kind of love that you call us to have is required, not just in our spoken word or in our offerings of monies, but in our very passionate nature.

Free us and inspire us to love all persons, those whom we would deem unlovable, and those whom we find it easy to love.

Help us love ourselves, respecting ourselves in gratitude for the gifts you have given to us; then move us to use these gifts in service to you.

We ask these things in the name of Jesus the Christ.

Amen.

adapted from a Pastoral Prayer (based on Matthew 22:34-40)
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