

Prayer of Confession

Jesus, lover and friend, you showed us holiness in action through the way you lived your life. You gave away your power in the service of others and turned our understanding of blessedness on its head.

We confess the difficulties we experience in living as you lived and loving as you loved

We confess how easy it is to concentrate on our own pleasures - taking note of the plight of many in the world only as the news momentarily grabs our attention.

We confess our capacity to be so consumed by our own agendas that our concern for the needs of others shrinks all too rapidly.

We confess our failure to act when we see around us weakness, pain, suffering and powerlessness.

- A time of silent confession -

We confess our reluctance to love our enemies and to do good to those who dislike or even hate us.

We confess the ease with which we become conformed to the world's standards rather than facing the challenge of conforming to those of Christ.

Stir up your Spirit in us, Lord, that we may experience the happiness and blessing of being your disciples in more than name only.

Strengthen us to be people who sing and live your song of love; who willingly serve our neighbors—even those we don't especially like; who seek justice and mercy for all and who truly repent of what is past and look with anticipation for what is yet to come. This we pray in your name and for your sake. **Amen.**