

Prayers of Praise, Thanksgiving and Confession

Creator God, we praise you!

You are the creator of all things; without you there would be no stars or planets;
without you there would be no canyons or deserts; no beaches or mountain ranges;
and without you there would be no plants or animals or people.

Inspirational God, we thank you that you give us inquisitive minds;

Thank you for eager brains which are hungry to acquire new knowledge and use new skills.

Thank you for the unique talents and gifts you give each one of us and for opportunities to learn and grow as your children day by day. Thank you for homes and families; for playgroups and nurseries and schools; for colleges and universities.

In the silence we THANK YOU for the people who have helped us to learn and grow.

[SILENCE]

Generous God, we thank you for all you have provided for us.

We thank you that we live in a world which is so wonderfully enriched by the people who share their gifts with others: thank you for musicians and engineers; for scientists, writers, and artists; for builders, doctors and dancers; for explorers, counsellors and teachers.

We thank you that we live in a world which is blessed by the people who bring hope and love to those in despair; who bring healing to those who are damaged; who bring joy and laughter to those who have experienced pain and loss.

In the silence we think of gifts and talents you call us to use for the benefit of others.

[SILENCE]

Merciful and forgiving God, we are sorry for the times when we have ignored the gifts and talents you have given us; and we are sorry for the times when we have boasted about our own gifts and talents and made fun of others who could not do the things that we could do.

We are sorry for the times we have not appreciated the people who have tried to help us learn and we are sorry for the occasions when we have wasted our own precious time and the time of others. We are sorry for being selfish and hurting other people's feelings.

Forgive us, we pray and show us TODAY the talents and gifts you would like us to develop further and share with others.

AMEN

