

Opening Prayer

Please join me in prayer.

Mystery and Power, Gentleness and Joy, we gather to celebrate your gift of love and its physical presence among us embodied in the love of _____ & _____. We delight in the ways you have touched **our** lives with a variety of loving relationships. We give thanks for all the ways we have experienced love through the care and affection of the people who have loved us.

We rejoice that finally our society has made the decision to recognise such undeniable and unstoppable love between two people, as that between _____ & _____, as something to be respected and celebrated—true and equal in the eyes of the law.

Even as we celebrate love, we remember how too often we have failed to be loving, times we have taken for granted, even hurt, the people for whom we care most. When we have neglected and strained the bonds that unite us with others. Help us find forgiveness and reconciliation, and renew within us an affectionate spirit.

Enrich our lives with the gracious gift of love so that we may embrace others with love. May our participation in this celebration of love and commitment give to each of us a new joy and responsiveness to the relationships we cherish.

Amen.