

## Gathering Prayers

God who is our hope, we give thanks for this day and these people and for your word that will give this day meaning and provide us with direction.

May we stay close to you Lord and not let you pass from our view because then we will lose our way and our heart. Encourage us Lord, anchor us in your heart. May we desire your life, your Holy Spirit to live in us. May the only thing we fear be your absence, and may our greatest joy be living in your love.

Lord, God we thank you for gathering us here. You have said that whenever two or more are gathered in your name, that you are there in our midst. Knowing that with you all things are possible, help us to see our purpose in the sharing of ourselves this day. Open our eyes to the ways that we can help our friends connect faith and everyday life. Strengthen us to be able to accept the privilege and responsibility of supporting one another in love and service.

Bless all that we do here, so that each may experience the presence of you , or risen savior in ourselves and each other. We pray in Christ our Lord, Amen

Lord, help us to be truly present to each other and to you during this time we be sharing together.

Create in us a longing for your presence in our lives,

'Free us from all that takes us away from you. We ask this through Jesus in whose name we gather. Amen