

## GATHERING PRAYER

ALL

God of our hope, we give thanks for this night and for Your love that makes us a family and gives this night and all our lives meaning and direction. Stay close to us so that we do not lose our way and our heart. Give us courage and root us in Your commandments so that Your plan will be accomplished in our lives. Amen.

ALL

God of Love, as we gather in Your presence, open our mind and hearts to You and to each other.

## A CREED TO LIVE BY

Don't undermine your worth by comparing yourself with others. It is because we are different that each of us is special.

Don't take for granted the things closest to your heart. Cling to them as you would your life, for without them life is meaningless.

Don't let your life slip through your fingers by living in the past or for the future. By living your life one day at a time, you live all the days of your life.

Don't give up when you still have something to give. Nothing is really over until the moment you stop trying.

Don't dismiss your dreams. To be without dreams is to be without hope.

ALL

When my friends search, Lord,  
Help me be part of their journey.

When my friends stumble, Lord,  
Help me catch them.

When my friends hurt, Lord,

Help me carry them.

When my friends fall, Lord,  
Help me pick them back up.

Help my friends know I'm there for them, Lord,  
And help me know they're there for me. Amen

READING-An adapted reading of a letter from St. Paul.

Dear Friends,

Truly we have much to celebrate as daughters and sons of God. We have received a whole treasure house of spiritual gifts. We may not understand it, but it was God's plan from the very beginning to give us the power of the Holy Spirit. Sometimes, because of our lack of self-confidence, we get lost rather than stand tall in our dignity, goodness, and strength. May the Spirit of God within us break through our lostness and weakness, and reveal to each of us today what we have become through Jesus. The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

didn't use yet!!!

*Help us Lord as a family united in you to be truly present to each other and to You .*

*Create in us a longing for Your presence in our lives.*

*Free us from **all** that takes us away from you.*

*Be present in all parts of our decisions. .*

*We ask this in the presence of Jesus in whose name we gather.*