

9 Give us this day our daily bread

We reflect on our dependence on God for life,
and our responsibility to share his gifts

Singing

Leader You, Father, are the Creator
All and we the children of your creative love.
Leader You, Father, are the Provider
All and we the receivers of your gifts.
Leader Yours, Lord, is the greatness,
the splendour and the majesty.
All For all things come from you
and of your own do we give you.

Keeping Stillness

Make your body still. Become aware of your breathing, and feel your pulse beating, keeping you alive. This life you have is a gift, given to you and sustained by God's love. Remind yourself of your complete dependence on God for life, and therefore all your daily needs. Wealth and temporal power lull us into thinking that we are really in control. Use this time to touch base with the deeper, hidden reality: we only exist and have free will to choose because God loves us and desires it for us. When we ask God to 'give us . . .' we are acknowledging our dependence on our Creator, and our trust in God as the Good Provider.

Leader Hear these words of Jesus, as he teaches his followers
about God's loving, daily provision.

Reading Luke 12:22-31

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Singing

Leader Blessed be God our Father,
All who gives good gifts to his children.
Men The sun shines on both unjust and just.
Women The rain falls on both evil and good.
Leader Blessed be God our Father,
All who gives good gifts to his children.
Women Perfectly and finely tuned,
this planet supports life in diversity and abundance.
Men Perfectly and finely tuned,
the universe is governed by laws which anchor,
yet allow for development and change.
Leader Blessed be God our Father,

All who gives good gifts to his children.
Men Though the gifts are taken while the Giver is ignored;
Women though demands are made which conflict with his will;
Leader blessed be God our Father,
All who gives good gifts to his children.

Leader The Lord is your keeper;
All the Lord is your shade at your right hand.

Leader The sun shall not strike you by day,
All nor the moon by night.

Leader The Lord will keep you from all evil;
All he will keep your life.

Leader Blessed be God our Father,
All who gives good gifts to his children.

Leader Let us open our hearts and minds
to the gifts God wants to give us.
(From Psalm 121)

Keeping Stillness

Trusting our heavenly Father, we are going to use this space to receive from God not what we have decided we would like, but what God wishes to give us, both as individuals and as Church. We do this by faith, not sight, because the gifts may be given without any outward sign. We do it thankfully, happy to receive whatever strength or protection, healing or anointing God needs us to have, whether it matches our plans or not.

Singing

Keeping Stillness

In your imagination, gather around you those you long to know God as the giver of good gifts: those who at present do not trust him, or do not know him as he really is; those who need to know they are loved, accepted and forgiven; those who are trying to live good lives in their own strength. Imagine yourself distributing God's love to them from the huge, limitless resources of God's abundance.

All Our Father, our loving parent, our Maker, our friend,
your very name is holy.
With the angels and saints we worship you.
As you reign in heaven,
so may the kingdom of heaven extend to all the earth.
As your will is accomplished in heaven,
so may your will be done on earth.
As your created beings, we trust in your good provision.
We ask for enough to enable us to live this day
in your love and service.
We commend to you the practical needs of us all.
We ask you to forgive us,
just as we have forgiven those who have offended us in any way.
Give us your protection against evil
and guide us away from temptation

so that we do not fall into sin.
We pray these things to you alone
because the kingdom is yours,
and all power and glory are yours,
for ever and for ever.
Amen.

Leader As God our Provider teaches us,
may we live generously, take joy in giving,
and share whatever we have with one another.
All For in God alone is our treasure and our security.
Amen.