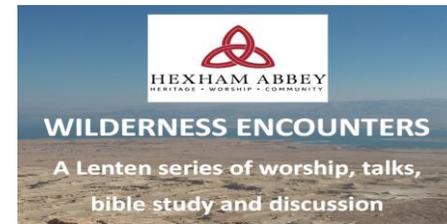


O loving God,
come amongst us in our learning and discussion;
bless us in our fellowship and friendship;
guide us into the depths of your love for us;
fill our homes, our lives and our church
with your refreshing grace;
and draw us ever deeper in the joy of your Kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.



Opening Prayer

O God of the guiding star, the bush that blazes
show us your way.

O God of the still, small voice,
the wind that blows where it chooses
fill us with life.

O God of the stormy seas, and the water that refreshes
teach us your truth.

O God of the wild places and of the hearth,
of our inward and outward journeys
set our feet on your road this night.

May God bless us and may the angels
and saints guard over us.
May we live this day and every day
in justice and joy. **Amen**

Prayers of approach

We are here God, here where you have brought us.
In our laughter and struggling through life,

in these times of pandemic, fear and isolation
you have travelled with us;
in painful and joyful moments,
and in the beauty of each other
we have glimpsed you and known you.

Loving God our Maker
we are glad to be here with you.

We are here Jesus,
here where you have called us.
In our questioning and listening,
you have travelled with us;
in the sharing of stories and in the
unfolding of the scriptures
we have recognised you and loved you.

Jesus Christ our friend and brother
we are glad to be here with you

We are here, Holy Spirit,
here where you have led us.
In our doubting and our longing,
you have travelled with us;
in the love of friends and of strangers
we have known you and blessed you.

Holy Spirit our comforter and disturber
we are glad to be here with you

We are here God,
and there are others here with us;

angels who have walked with us,
saints who have been here before us,
friends who have met us on our way.

Gathered with your people,
warmed with the wonder of your welcome
we are glad to be here with you

You know us, God.
You made us, you love us.
You know the worst and the best about us.
You know what hurts us.
You know how we hurt others.
You know what keeps us away from you.

In the silence of this moment, we ask you to meet us and
heal us, to bring us close to you, and to prepare us for this
evening and that we would be open to your Holy Spirit
working amongst us.

(Silence)

O God have mercy on us,
Christ have mercy on us.

Listen to the words of Jesus, words that we can trust:
'I came that you may have life and have it in all its
abundance.'
Thanks be to God.
Amen.