



you will forgive us, you will show us your love and we will be able to move forward. Teach us new ways of being your children in this world. And let us speak of you, knowing we are loved by your unconditional grace and mercy. Amen

## Assurance of Grace

O God, your heart is full of mercy. May we hear and trust your words to each of us: 'Your



- God is our mediator, and we are thankful. What does mediation look like in our Christian contexts today?

- Children here represent the new way of levelling out our social understandings. All are valued, all are recognized as children of God. Do we recognize that or are we living in hierarchy?
- This passage sometimes focuses on a defensive use of 'whoever is not against us is for us' in that there are those against us! Another way to look at this is that there are many for us. Who are our partners? How do we work with others? Are there ways of embracing difference? Is there mutuality in our practice, we can all benefit from compassion and the outworking of God's love?
- Purposefully harsh in the physical descriptions, this points us towards how difficult discipleship can be especially in managing change. Discuss how change can be slow and difficult. Should we do it even though it is hard?
- Using imagery of human bodies – how we act (hands), how we walk with God (foot), how we see the world (eye). How are we living a faithful life? A reflection on biblical understanding of the whole body, the church, the body of Christ are interesting additions here.

## Affirmation of Faith

All Holy God, who gives us life and love, grace and mercy, and is glorified by all the earth...We believe and trust in you.

All Holy Son, who came to be with us and live like us, to show us new ways to challenge and to love the unloved... We believe and trust in you.

All Holy Spirit, who remains in and around us, helping us to love and serve, to tell the stories of hope and to fight for justice...We believe and trust in you.

This is our faith, the faith of the church, our faith in Jesus Christ our saviour  
Amen.

## Prayers of Intercession

Let us bring our hearts and minds to God. Let us pray.

Sisters and brothers in Christ, God invites us to bring our doubts and fears, our joys and concerns, our petitions and praise, and offer them for the earth and all its creatures.

God of all creation. You are our holy and most wondrous God, who made this wonderful earth. We thank you for this world and all who live, work and play, within it. We bring to



