

Prayer of thanksgiving:

It's easy for us to focus on the problems and the worries that surround us, but even in the most difficult of times there are so many things for which to give God thanks and praise. As our pace of life has had to change and our worlds have become smaller, our eyes are drawn to the little things – which in the end may turn out not to be so little after all.

Lord God,

We give you thanks for the beautiful sunshine
and the spring warmth which is making everything fresh and new.
We see it in the earth that was bare only a few weeks ago
as the bulbs compete to show off the yellows and blues of spring.

As the noise of the traffic dims, we hear more clearly the birdsong
and marvel that such sweetness and clarity can come from such small creatures.
We give you thanks that we can step outside and breathe in the fresh air.
Maybe we're able to go for a walk – and take some time just to be one with nature.
We see people – strangers – and the prescribed physical space between us
is lessened by the smiles and the looks that say, hey, we're in this together.
We're linked by something that is beyond us to fathom or give description to – but we
recognise the common bond.

Made in the image of God, each one of us.

We thank you that we are part of a common humanity.

We thank you Lord for the many small kindnesses being shown –
the acts of altruism that far outweigh those of selfishness.

We give you thanks for our families and our friends,
for all whom we love and who love us,
even as we pray for their protection and safe-keeping.

We thank you when we have enough to eat –
and we pray for those who don't
and ask that they may be helped by us or by others.

We thank you for the gift of time –
its preciousness a jewel which is so often overlooked.

Lord God, you have blessed us in so many ways,
help us take the time to count those blessings and give thanks for them.
Most of all, that we can worship you – even as we seek new ways to do so.

Lord, we thank you, we praise you and we adore you. Amen