

## God of Hope

As you gather, sing *Jubilate Deo* (27) until everyone is settled and attentive to God. When everyone is there you can sing this chant in a round.

*Silence* Think over some of the things about our world which make you feel sad, or which disturb you. Think of areas where you feel powerless to change things for the better.

**Leader** Lord, in our weakness,

**All** we come to you for strength.

**Leader** In our blindness,

**All** we come to you for sight.

**Leader** In our desire for good to be accomplished,

**All** we come to you,  
the source of all goodness.

**Leader** In our longing for the coming  
of the Kingdom,

**All** we approach you, the King of kings.

**Leader** Lord, our God,

**Women** your light dispels all darkness,

**All** your springs make deserts blossom;

**Leader** the warmth of your love

**Women** melts what is frozen,

**Men** restores what was lost

**All** refreshes what was weary.

**Leader** In you, Lord God, there is always hope,

**All** because you have overcome sin and death,  
and opened to us the gates of heaven.

Sing *Such love* (50); *Just as I am* (28)

*Silence* In the peace of this stillness, still your body and mind. Allow God to fill you with his peace; peace of mind and peace of spirit. Things may seem hopeless to us, but 'with God all things are possible'.

**Leader** Listen now to these words  
from Paul's letter to the Ephesians.

Reading Ephesians 1.11-20

**Leader** This is the word of the Lord.

**All** Thanks be to God.

*Silence* Hope is not a doubtful wish; it is a joyful certainty about the future. Ask that God will increasingly open your mind to see this hope which he has called you to.

Sing *Open our eyes, Lord* (45); *Do not be afraid* (12)

**Leader** Heavenly Father, knowing that you love us,  
we come to you with  
our needs and concerns.  
We bring to your love  
our desire for deeper faith,  
and a clearer understanding  
of your will for us.

*Silence*

**All** Lord, you are our hope and our strength.

**Leader** We bring to your love our reluctance to  
trust you and our longing to trust you more.

*Silence*

**All** Lord, you are our hope and our strength.

**Leader** We bring to your love all who rely  
and depend on us,  
and our concern not to let them down.

*Silence*

**All** Lord, you are our hope and our strength.

**Leader** We bring to your love the areas of our life  
which have become too precious to us,  
and our desire to serve you alone.

*Silence*

**All** Lord, you are our hope and our strength,  
and we put our trust in you.

Sing *Nada te turbe* (39)

Finish with a shared Peace.