

PRAYER OF APPROACH, CONFESSION, PARDON

**Sustaining God
throughout the ages
we hear your strong Word of love for Creation,
spoken from the beginning and in the flesh Christ became
with power, with compassion;
crying out against the harm we do and the wrong we choose
amidst all the noise of strife
and the wiles of injustice passed off as necessity;
Yours is the stern voice of loving and urgent warning;
the voice of encouragement and grace
so different from the intimidation and entitlement
which disregards the personalities of the Earth
the wisdom of the poor and powerless.**

**May we build our faith on the rock of swift response
leaving behind the sand of self-sufficiency
finding our place and purpose
in caring partnership
with our family of Creation,
on whom you made us to depend;
for whose good you called us into being.**

**Sustaining God, we confess
the violence and injustice we have knowingly chosen
our refusal to invest in transition with justice
as nations, churches and individuals**

**We acknowledge
harm done through ignorance in the past
harm done through fear in the present
a preference to offend you rather than those who sustain injustice
confusing an awareness of our limits
with insignificance and the despair that flows from it**

**So with joy and hope we recall words that we may trust
that Christ Jesus embrace Creation to save sinners:
to all who turn to him he says' your sins are forgiven"
He also says:Follow me!"
Thanks be to God
AMEN**