

## Gathering Question

Group members take turns answering the gathering question, designed to help folks get to know each other better in classic ice-breaker fashion. Each one shares briefly before the group takes up the primary conversation for this particular time together.

*Where is your favorite place of natural beauty and why?*

## Conversation Prompt

Each person in the group responds in turn to the session's conversation prompt, which invites sharing of personal experiences and stories around faith and community. Generous listening and attending to how long each person shares will help everyone feel welcomed into the conversation.

*How did you find your way to the Episcopal Church? What does the Episcopal Church do to feed your spirit and strengthen your connection with God? What keeps you coming back?*

## Insights and Invitations

As the conversation draws to a close, facilitators may lift up insights from what has unfolded within the group session, including questions suited for additional personal reflection or for revisiting together in the group's next gathering.

*Facilitator Insights and Invitations*

## Closing Prayer

Each gathering concludes with a time of prayer, suited to group disposition. Whether the group embraces a pattern of sharing personal favorites, joining in The Lord's Prayer, or leveraging the closing prayer provided in the conversation guide, this time of caring strengthens the connections we know through the love of Jesus Christ, at work in human community.

Adapted from Eucharistic Prayer C (*Book of Common Prayer*, page 369)

Leader: Our Lord be with you.

Responder: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

*We invite your prayers and thanksgivings in the chat to be read aloud by The Responder.*

*A period of silence is kept after the last prayer request before The Leader prays:*

Leader: God of all power, Guardian of our Galaxy, you are worthy of glory and praise.  
From your imagination all things came to be. You bring each of us forth,  
blessing us with memory, reason, and skill.

Daily, we turn against you by turning against one another.  
Again and again, you call us to return to your perfect love.  
You sent your only Son, born of a woman,  
to open for us the way of freedom and peace  
by showing us how to be human at full-stretch.

Responder: So, we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus,  
and with all those in every generation to proclaim:  
Holy, holy, holy!

Leader: And all God's beloved children said,

Responder: Amen!



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*What moves you to tears or gives you goosebumps?*

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*Describe your current "relationship status" with Jesus (single, married, "it's complicated," etc.).  
What else do you want from this connection in your life? What key things do you share when someone asks about your faith or spiritual life?*

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Borrowed from our Baptismal Covenant (*Book of Common Prayer*, page 304)

**Leader:** Our Lord be with you.

**Responder:** And also with you.

**Leader:** Let us pray.

*We invite your prayers and thanksgivings in the chat to be read aloud by The Responder.*

*A period of silence is kept after the last prayer request before The Leader prays:*

**Leader:** Loving God: Mother, Father, and Parent of us all;  
Blessed Jesus: model and advocate, savior and friend;  
Holy Spirit: rushing wind and purifying fire,  
we give thanks to and praise You; each one and all.

**Responder:** Guide us as we follow in the footsteps of our ancestors.  
Lead us away from selfishness, correcting us when we err.  
Give us courage to do what is holy, right, and good,  
by considering always those whose situations are worse than our own.  
And make us always instruments of your peace,  
as we strive to seek and serve You in others.

**Leader:** With Jesus, our constant companion, we are bold to pray:

**Responder:** Thy will be done! Amen.

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*What do you crave more of in your daily life? How can you create space for this?*

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*For what do you hunger and thirst spiritually? In what ways is the Holy Spirit awakening or satisfying your desire(s)?*

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A recipe from Prayer 70: "Grace at Meals" (*Book of Common Prayer*, page 835)

**Leader:**            *Our Lord be with you.*

**Responder:**      *And also with you.*

**Leader:**            *Let us pray.*

*We invite your prayers and thanksgivings in the chat to be read aloud by The Responder.*

*A period of silence is kept after the last prayer request before The Leader prays:*

**Leader:**            *Cosmic Chef, give us grateful hearts and make us mindful of the needs of others.  
Bless your gifts to our bodies, that we may use them to serve you.  
You provide for us food, which brings our hearts and souls warmth.  
Fine beans and grapes and fruits you give us,  
to put smiles on our lips, to splash joy's blush on our cheeks.*

**Responder:**        *We thank you for your bounty, asking daily only for our fair share.*

**Leader:**            *While we sit at different tables, we know we share one feast.*

**Responder:**        *And we rejoice across the airwaves, apart yet together. Amen!*

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*Who or what awakens your curiosity and courage?*

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*Since the time of the early church, Christians were called to serve one another as an act of worship to God. Call to mind a time when someone served you. How did/does that experience affect your faith?*

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*"A Prayer attributed to St. Francis" (Book of Common Prayer, page 833)*

**Leader:** Our Lord be with you.

**Responder:** And also with you.

**Leader:** Let us pray.

*We invite your prayers and thanksgivings in the chat to be read aloud by The Responder.*

*A period of silence is kept after the last prayer request before The Leader prays:*

**Leader:** Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

*Where there is hatred, let us sow love;*

*where there is injury, pardon;*

*where there is discord, union;*

*where there is doubt, faith;*

*where there is despair, hope;*

*where there is darkness, light;*

*where there is sadness, joy.*

**Responder:** Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console;  
to be understood, as to understand;  
to be loved, as to love.

**Leader:** For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;

**Responder:** and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.



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*Who are your heroes and why?*

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*What do you wish you could tell your 10-year-old self about God?*

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A play on Psalm 139 (*Book of Common Prayer*, page 795)

Leader: *Our Lord be with you.*

Responder: *And also with you.*

Leader: *Let us pray.*

*We invite your prayers and thanksgivings in the chat to be read aloud by The Responder.*

*A period of silence is kept after the last prayer request before The Leader prays:*

Leader: *Lord, you know us better than we know ourselves;  
our habits and secrets, our comings and our goings.*

Responder: *We do not say a word that you have not already heard,  
you surround us with all-knowing love.*

Leader: *Your perfect knowledge is more wonderful than we can imagine,  
why would we ever want to flee from you?*

Responder: *You are with us from birth to death, in heaven and on earth,  
you fly like winged birds, and swim with scaled fishes.*

Leader: *Always and everywhere, your hands guide us along our paths.  
In the cool of winter and the heat of summer, you are present to us.*

Responder: *For you, dark is light, and light is dark. Like shadows in the day or starlight at night,  
you illumined our being, as we floated in the vast vacuum of the not-yet.*

Leader: *We thank you because we are wonderful, we are marvelous in your sight!  
Our bodies are for rejoicing; formed of primal elements and glorious thoughts.*

Responder: *You write each of us into your story, a necessary chapter in your magnum opus.  
How great is your mind and your heart, O God!*

Leader: *Your thoughts, O Lord, number more than the sands of time.  
Teach us to think only of love, as you do.*

Responder: *Search us out, and know us, Creator-God.  
Lead us in the ways that give life, abundantly. Amen.*





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*Who or what are you grateful for today?*

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Each person in the group responds in turn to the session's conversation prompt, which invites sharing of personal experiences and stories around faith and community. Generous listening and attending to how long each person shares will help everyone feel welcomed into the conversation.

*In what ways does your faith lead to generosity? How do you offer your time, talents, and treasure to serve God?*

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"A Prayer of St. Chrysostom" from Evening Prayer, Rite II (*Book of Common Prayer*, page 126)

Leader: Our Lord be with you.

Responder: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

*We invite your prayers and thanksgivings in the chat to be read aloud by The Responder.*

*A period of silence is kept after the last prayer request before The Leader prays:*

Leader: Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time, with one accord,  
to make our common supplication to you;

Responder: and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that,  
when two or three are gathered together in his Name,  
you will be in the midst of them:

Leader: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us;

Responder: granting us, in this world; knowledge of your truth,  
and, in the age to come; life everlasting. Amen.