

Great God of our spiritual ancestors, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,

We praise you for coming to live on earth.

We praise you for blessing all the families on the earth through your Son, Jesus.

We thank you that because of Jesus, we are blessed.

We thank you that you make your home in all places of the earth,
that we can encounter you anywhere and everywhere.

We thank you for the opportunity to worship together in Spirit and in truth,
even while we cannot meet together physically.

We thank you for your love and faithfulness to your people here and around the world.

Help us to realize that you are with us, every hour of every day.

May we proclaim with Jacob, "Surely the Lord is in this place,"
and perhaps even join him in expressing his and our own ignorance:

"Surely the Lord is in this place, *and I did not know it!*"

May we grow continually in our awareness of your presence,
through the power of the Holy Spirit.

May we invite others into this awareness.

Grant us courage to share your presence and love with those whom we meet.

May your Spirit of power also be with Christians around the world who suffer persecution.

May they deeply experience your peace and your presence.

We hold before you people who are close to our hearts and people we don't know, near us and
far away.

People who feel discarded, unloved, fearful, inadequate, or angry.

Be present with them, hold their hearts and their minds. Give them strength and courage, and
an awareness of your presence.

We also hold before you people who feel capable, secure, satisfied, enthusiastic, or admired.

In their strength and joy, may they not forget you, the giver of all good things and the ultimate
joy in life.

Unite our congregation in your love.

Now, we unite our voices in the prayer Jesus teaches his disciples:

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.