

Almighty God
We believe in you
We accept you
We trust and have confidence in you

The world says why believe?
There is so much conflict about
There is so much hurt
There is so much misunderstanding

And when we look around
we too see
 the conflicts
 The wars,
 the quarrels

We wonder when it will end

Yet when we say we believe
We know that belief in you
Does not sort out our problems
People still hurt
There is still sadness

And with the psalmist

We sit and send anguished
Cries to you
Acknowledging the dilemmas
Looking for the answers

For when we say we believe in you
We mean so much more than passively accepting you
For you assure us of your love and mercy:
you assure us of your kindness
and offer us your forgiveness
when again and again we make mistakes

That assurance and forgiveness has inspired so many
Down through the ages
Given them the will to persist
When times were difficult.

When we say we believe
We think of you
As the creator of the universe
The clue to its purpose
And the very clue to our humanity

We can hold onto you
Our creator
Knowing that we can come before you as we do now

And confess those times we have failed one another
And grieved your heart
Through careless talk,
Through our broken promises
Or our empty speech

For all that we have left undone
For all that we have done amiss
We feel your
Gracious spirit
Running through our lives
Forgiving us and setting us free from guilt
To live our lives in love.
Help us remember just how Jesus treated people:
with loving care
and remind us how He didn't turn away
from anybody even the people who turned away from
Him.

We can sense you
Are calling us today
Calling us to be the instrument by which
Others come to know
And acknowledge you.

Give us grace to love one another

For we have seen your glory
In the face of your son Jesus Christ
The way the truth and the life

Help us to walk in the way of his commandants,
That both in name and truth
We may be his disciples
And so reflect by our lives
The glory that is yours
Through Jesus Christ your son
who reigns with you and the Holy spirit
one god now and for ever.
Amen