

When your people were in Exile, you spoke through the disciples of Isaiah and showed that you are a **God for all peoples**. May we not try to keep you for ourselves, in smugness and pride, but help us to share your love with all, and even to discover this love already alive in others who are at present strangers to us.

Lord, hear us... *Lord, graciously hear us*



*(Together) And you showed us that you are a **God of Love** by revealing yourself most fully in Jesus, who taught us about you, who healed sickness and divisions, and who poured out his life in unconditional love on the Cross. May we value his risen presence in scripture, in the sacraments and wherever two or three or more are gathered in your name.*

United in the Spirit, we ask all of this through Jesus, the Word made flesh, your Son and Our Lord. Amen



Across space and across time



***How great Thou art!
How great Thou art!***

The Gradual Revelation of God's Creative Love

(Together) Lord God, our loving Father, in faith we acknowledge that you have reached out to us in love, across space and across time, in ongoing creative love.

(One person in turn might read each paragraph. All make the response)

You reached out to us through Abraham, who first saw you in faith as the **God of his family**. Teach us to bear witness to this trust in you within our own families.

Lord, hear us ... *Lord graciously hear us.*

You reached out to Moses, showing yourself to be a **God who was reliable**, not moody like the other imaginings of divinity at that time. Rather, you showed us yourself as one who can be trusted without fail. Be with us as we move through desert experiences of dryness and apathy. Help us to find strength in your living presence among our companions on the way, as we support one another in building community together. Lord, hear us... *Lord, graciously hear us.*

You taught us through the prophet Elijah that You are the **only one God** amidst all the false gods of society. Help us to be a prophetic community today, in a world where fertility and sexuality are abused and exploited. Lord, hear us... *Lord, graciously hear us.*

Speaking through the prophet Amos, you showed us you are the **God who hungers for justice** for the poor. When we come together in worship, gathered in the presence



of love, may we reflect there upon the *demands* of love in our world. As a community may we honour and respond to your presence in the poor, hungry and underprivileged around us.

Lord, hear us... *Lord, graciously hear us.*

In Hosea you showed us that you are a **God of mercy**; that you do not turn away the sinner, but invite sinners to join with you in the work of reconciliation. Help us to be a true community of forgiveness, really accepting your forgiveness for ourselves, and working as a community of reconciliation in our families and the wider neighbourhood around us.

Lord, hear us... *Lord, graciously hear us.*

You showed the prophet Isaiah, and sent him to show us, that you are a **God of holiness**. Send your Spirit of holiness among us too, sanctifying our community and building up greater unity among us, so that we can move forward together in reverence and purpose for your greater glory.

Lord, hear us... *Lord, graciously hear us.*



In Jeremiah you showed us your desire to **make a love-pact in the heart of each one of your people**. Take away the stony blockages in our hearts and warm them with the full humanity for which you created

them, so that together we may reach out more warmly in friendship one another and to our neighbours.

Lord, hear us... *Lord, graciously hear us.*