

All leaders and rulers are subject to the ultimate authority and power of God, the living truth.

*Let us focus our gaze on the great God of our making, as we pour out to him our prayers.*

The congregational response, as printed in to-day's bulletin:

You, O Lord: **are the ground of our being.**

Lord of all, give your Church such maturity and wisdom that we may not be swayed from our purpose and calling by trivialities or worldly pressures, but know increasingly our dependence on you in all things and proclaim your Gospel with steadfastness and joy. (pause) You, O Lord: **are the ground of our being.**

Lord of all, give to all monarchs, leaders and heads of state graciousness and integrity, that all in power and authority may undertake their duties in a spirit of humility; that the oppressed may find a voice, and the nations work together for the good of the world. (pause) You, O Lord: **are the ground of our being.**

Lord of all, give to our homes and places of work and leisure your harmony and peace; give us grace to respect one another and ourselves in the way we talk and think, and in the way we behave. (pause)

You, O Lord: **are the ground of our being.**

Lord of all, speak your peace into the hearts of all who are agitated, anxious or confused. Lay your hands of healing on all who are ill and let them know your reassurance and love. (pause) You, O Lord: **are the ground of our being.**

Lord of all, welcome into your kingdom all who have kept faith and now can lay their burdens down. May they rest in your peace for ever. (pause)

You, O Lord: **are the ground of our being.**

Lord of all, the order and complexity of creation sings your praise, and we give voice to it now as we offer you our song of lives rededicated to the work of your kingdom.

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**