

Be alert and watchful; keep yourselves ready.

*As we begin a new year in the life of the Church, let us pray together to the God of our making.*

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

O God, keep us awake to you: **and alive to your call.**

Holy God, just as we are we come to you, and ask for your kingdom to come in us and in this place; increase our faith and our love for you,

so that we may become the lights in darkness that we are called to be. (pause)

O God, keep us awake to you: **and alive to your call.**

Holy God, the signs in our world of hate, distrust and greed are shown to us clearly every day. May we see with your eyes the signs of hope and victory; the opportunities for loving service, for encouragement, reassurance and thanksgiving.

(pause) O God, keep us awake to you: **and alive to your call.**

Holy God, bless the parenting and befriending in all our relationships, and increase our love for one another. Give us the humility to accept guidance and warnings, lovingly given, and the courage to uphold one another in the faith. (pause)

O God, keep us awake to you: **and alive to your call.**

Holy God, we bring to you in love those who are weary with ongoing pain and weakness, those who are frail with age and all who are vulnerable;

Pour your living strength into their lives and protect them from all that is harmful.

(pause) O God, keep us awake to you: **and alive to your call.**

Holy God, we pray for all who have come to the end of their earthly life, and for those whose lives feel empty without them.

Give comfort to the bereaved, and everlasting peace to all who rest in your love.

(pause) O God, keep us awake to you: **and alive to your call.**

Holy God, your faithful care has brought us safely to this moment; we thank you for your constant love, forgiveness, strength and protection.

Holy God, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**