

*Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23; 1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10*

**Christ, our Guide: open wide the Gate of Life**

We approach the gate to your wondrous garden with curious anticipation, then venture out in all directions to explore forest trails, savannah plains, hidden coves, ocean tracts, and the universe of our own backyard.

As you have given abundantly, so may we contribute to the common, caring for our patch of earth and all its creatures.

**Christ, our Guide: open wide the Gate of Life**

We open the door of compassion with feelings of inadequacy – we see so many people in desperate situations. We pray for all suffering through the pandemic, and the ongoing trauma of displacement and poverty.

We give thanks for the courage and sacrifice of health and aid workers and pray for the wisdom to know where and how we can act most effectively in the world and our community.

As you have loved extravagantly, so may we be generous with our time and resources.

**Christ, our Guide: open wide the Gate of Life**

We enter the mystery you have made so real. We give thanks for the opening of your word and for those with whom we long to share bread and wine.

We give thanks for the many ways churches are responding to the state of emergency and pray this will be a time for deep reflection on the doors we might close and those we might open.

As you have thrown open the gate of wisdom to all, so may we be eager to enter along with all who come looking, questioning, and desiring.

**Christ, our Guide: open wide the Gate of Life**

We come to the gate of your heart - ready to pour forth our hurts, and fears, ready to admit our tiredness and stress. And we bring with us all needing comfort, strength and restoration of spirit ...

We also remember those with whom we have shared our lives, and give thanks that we are each called into your marvellous light.

Guiding Christ, as you have delighted and loved, suffered and overcome, so may we enter by your gate into life – in all its wonder, difficulty, mystery and abundance.

**Christ, our Guide: open wide the Gate of Life**