O God, the Eternal One.
Through your hospitable love, you are always open to us.
You are open to our hopes, concerns, questions, struggles, needs and...our prayers.

You are the One who faithfully opens the way.
You opened the way in the wilderness for your wandering children when there seemed to be no way.
You opened the creaky doors of a fiery furnace to free your faithful servants who would not bow to idols.
You opened the mouths of reluctant prophets to speak your truths and hope.

When there was no earthly abode in this resistant world for the Messiah to be born,
You opened a place and made a room for him.
In the night, you opened the heavens so light could shine to signal that your light had come in Him.

Through Jesus,
You opened the scaly eyes of the blind.
You opened the callous ears of the deaf.
You opened closed and locked minds.
You opened rock hard hearts.
You opened ancient scriptures and made them speak like they had not spoken before.
You opened the circle of your beloved community to those who had been excluded and banished.

You opened space at the banquet table for unlikely and surprised guests.
You opened the opportunity for children to be blessed.
You opened yourself fully to the world, making yourself completely vulnerable on the cruel cross.

You opened the sealed and tightly guarded tomb.
You opened the understanding of a great crowd on Pentecost.
You opened dank jails where apostles were imprisoned because their work was not finished.
You open the whole world to gospel witness.

Lord, open us...now.

We want to be opened up individually, as a congregation, and as a world-wide church.
Open our eyes that we may see.
Open our ears that we may hear.
Open our hearts that we may love.
Open our hands that we may receive and give generously.
Open our imaginations that we may prophetically grasp your vision for creation.
Open our mouths that we may speak truth and promise. 
Open the windows and doors of the church to the future that is blowing in on the sometimes 
gusty breeze of your spirit.

Open us to hope. 
Open us to peace. 
Open us to eternal joy.

Open us, O God, and make us new. Amen.