A Welcoming Opening Prayer

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
We gather this morning from all over your city;
we gather from the places you've called us to serve.

We come with hearts, minds, and hands that are full, Lord,
full of stories to tell:
stories of praise and thanksgiving,
stories of sadness and confession.

Some of us carry urgent requests for you, Lord;
we need you to move quickly in our lives and our world.

We carry these things before you, Lord,
openly and honestly
as an act of love for you and our neighbor.

May all of our offerings
be a sacrifice of praise to you this day.

Gather our stories into your story,
gather our work into your work,
bring our lives into your life.

For you have called us here, Lord,
you have carried us,
and all these things, to you.

And so we gather, Lord, for worship,
not by our power, but by the power of your Spirit;
not in our name, but in the name of your Son.
May we, today, be a sacrifice of praise to you. Amen.

Written by Matthew Kaemingk in "*Work and Worship*" p. 216