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Gracious and loving God, thank you for the gift of life and the privilege of gathering here in this place to worship you in the company of family and friends.

We are grateful that each week we can enter the sanctuary of your grace, knowing that we can leave the cares and concerns of the past week in your hands. And we look forward to a new week in which we can always turn to you for the courage we need to face our challenges, and the strength we need to respond with love to the ones that we meet on the way.

Lord Jesus, we know about the miracles that we read about in the Gospels; the way you cared for people, fed them, and healed them. We know that you sent your disciples out to do the same in your name. As we grow in our willingness to follow you and to hear your voice, may we not so much seek miracles for ourselves, but rather be little miracles for people who need you and need hope. Open our eyes and ears, energize our hands and feet, and enlarge our hearts and minds with the spirit of generosity. Then we will be one in spirit, and people will know you not by what we say, but by what we do.

With so many distractions, desires, and demands that clamor for our attention, this call for us to be little miracles will not be easy. So we ask you, Holy Spirit, to be our counselor and comforter, our teacher and guide. Enable the giftedness you created within us, and grant us any new gift that we might need along the way.

With these things in mind, we lift up those among us who need an extra portion of love and grace this day, especially those who are in pain, are sick, or grieving.

As we worship today, Lord, may the gifts of music, scripture, exhortation, and fellowship fill us with what is needed as today's daily bread, and may your mercy, grace, and forgiveness create a new day in our hearts. These prayers and the sighs from the deepest parts of our souls we lift to you in Jesus' name.  
Amen.