Lord, we join with faiths all around the world in this time of celebration. Many faiths, all celebrating newness of life and hope, all offering thanksgiving for deliverance from despair and distress.

We will use many symbols to commemorate our gratitude; we'll join together in special meals and give thanks to you for your kindness and blessing. Our children and grandchildren will hear stories and participate in things we must explain to them, so those who follow will also understand and share in the blessing.

Yet, there are times when those who need to participate in the celebration are awaiting the decisions of others as to whether they will be included in the party; seated at the table.

Help us, Lord, to share our stories, to share our thanksgiving, to share our abundance. In the midst of voices clamoring for a following, offering hope to some but not all, may we continue to be a voice in the wilderness for those whose hope is in short supply, until such a time as hope is restored to all of your creation.

To this end we pray, In Jesus' name, amen.