

## Opening Bible verse

*"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." Isaiah 43: v 19*

## Preparing our hearts

The month of September is often associated with new starts – a new academic year, a new church year, a new season as summer changes to autumn. A new start needs preparing for – a change of uniform, different books, a warmer jumper.....

Whatever our September looks like, new or the same, we are offered a new start with God our Heavenly Father, every single day of our lives.

*The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.*  
Lamentations 3: 22-23

We bring ourselves before you, Lord, and offer you the day that has passed and the day that lies ahead, in the sure and certain knowledge that your love for us and faithfulness to us are always new and never run out. **Amen**

## Hymn

Great is thy faithfulness  
Oh God my Father;  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;  
Thou changest not,  
Thy compassions they fail not;  
As Thou hast been Thou forever will be.

### Refrain

*Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning New mercies I see;  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided:  
Great is Thy faithfulness  
Lord unto me!*

Summer and winter  
And springtime and harvest;  
Sun, moon, and stars  
In their courses above  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
To Thy great faithfulness  
Mercy and love.

### Refrain

Pardon for sin  
And a peace that endureth,  
Thine own dear presence  
To cheer and to guide;  
Strength for today  
And bright hope for tomorrow:  
Blessings all mine with ten thousand beside!

### Refrain

*(Thomas O. Chisholm)*

## Time to reflect

Have you ever thought that the God of fresh starts and new beginnings, who is always creating, renewing and restoring is also the God who never changes and who is always the same? When we are going through times of change or when we want things to move on but they don't, God is in both the constant and the change, offering us a new start and a clean slate every day, regardless of what's going on around us.

*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Hebrews 13: v 8*

## Pause

## Prayer

Thank you, Lord, that you care for each one of us and that you know all about us. Thank you that you sent your son, Jesus Christ, both fully human and fully divine, to share in and understand our human experiences and to open up the way to a loving relationship with you. **Amen**

## Hymn

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
most blessed, most glorious,  
the Ancient of Days,  
almighty, victorious,  
thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;  
thy justice like mountains high soaring above  
thy clouds, which are fountains  
of goodness and love.

To all life thou givest, to both great and small;  
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;  
we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,  
and wither and perish  
but naught changeth thee.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,  
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;  
all praise we would render, O help us to see  
'tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.  
(Walter C. Smith)

## Bible verse

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new  
creation. The old has passed away;  
behold, the new has come.*  
2 Corinthians 5: v 17

## Blessing

*The Lord bless you and keep you:  
The Lord make his face shine upon you  
and be gracious unto you:  
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you,  
and give you peace.*  
Numbers 6: vv 24-26

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# A NEW START