

Worship Material
God shakes things up
Materials from Roots Bible Study
Sunday 7th January

Begin with an opening prayer

God of new beginnings,
blessing our worship, our church, our world and us,
shine your light into our lives,
your peace into our hearts,
your healing into our woundedness,
your strength into our struggles.
Empower us with your Spirit that we may serve you afresh.
In Jesus name we pray.

Amen.

Read Genesis 1:1-5

Bible notes

At the start of everything is God, bringing order in chaos and light in the darkness. Whatever this account is saying about cosmic origins, one thing is certain, God is at work. The words about God creating light are echoed at the start of John's Gospel (1:5,9). The word for wind also means breath and spirit, a reminder that God is personally involved and invested in everything that happens around us and within us. God is at the start of everything but is also the throbbing heartbeat in everything. In another creation song, the psalmist sings of God's active involvement in the world God has made (Psalm 104). Isaiah looks forward to a time when God will do all this again, making anew heaven and new earth (Isaiah 65:17-25), and both John and Paul speak of Christ as the one who creates and sustains and brings about what Isaiah saw. The picture of the creating and sustaining God is a thread running through the whole Bible story.

Prayer

Prayer of thanksgiving

All powerful God, you shake us out of complacency,
you remind us of the meaning of service,
you restore our relationship with you and others,
you empower us with your spirit and bless us with your grace,

you speak your words of reassurance over us.
Thank you for each new day, each new beginning,
and each touch of your grace in our lives.

Amen.

A prayer to conclude

Help us to look for you, Lord, around every corner,
in every place and at every time.
Help us to be in tune with new things you are doing,
and help us to join in.

Amen.