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# OPENING KAVANA

## RESPONSIVE READING

LEADER

Prayer is at the heart not only of great religion, but of significant living.

CONGREGATION

**Without prayer we cannot scale the heights of compassion or attain the peaks of love for fellow human beings of which we are capable.**

LEADER

Prayer has endured not because a priesthood ordained it, nor because a tradition hallowed it, but because human beings are ever seeking to probe our inner depths and bring to light our hidden yearnings.

CONGREGATION

**Prayer requires no consecrated space, no appointed hour. Indeed, it needs no words.**

LEADER

Prayer is a step on which we rise from the self we are to the self we wish to be.

CONGREGATION

**Prayer blesses us with the power to choose wisely, to act generously and to live helpfully.**

LEADER

Prayer affirms hope and reinforces our actions.

CONGREGATION

**Prayer is the search for silence amidst the noise of life.**

LEADER

Our prayers are not answered when we are given what we ask, but when we are challenged to be what we can be.