

**You have heard our words of praise.
You have heard our words of thanksgiving.
You have handed us these sweet children right into our laps,
into the middle of our lives; these, our reflections of hope.**

**Now, in this moment, at this time, in this very room,
please, oh please, gently but surely, pull back the curtain of our souls
and know us. Look upon our hurt, sadness, pain, and questions.
See the cloudiness of our desire for the Divine.
You know our need for You, but help us to know it.**

**Lord of all, turn off the noise in our souls
to all that is false so that we might hear your still, small,
Voice that is true.
Somewhere inside of us, as much as we
believe that you see us and love us beyond all that we can imagine,
remind us again, for it is so easy to forget.
We do believe. Help our unbelief.**

**Forgive us for hurting those we love.
Forgive us for not seeing their needs, their pain, their
gifts of love to us. Forgive us for seeing only ourselves.
Give us your glasses of love so that we might see as You see.**

**For all our brothers and sisters in Virginia, as we shake our heads in
the horror and senselessness of it all, we
turn to You, for where else do we go?
Lord, even when we think we can't hear one more description of
death, or see one more picture of tears, or
ask one more question about the lostness of the soul who
robbed life, we must continue to look; we must not turn away from
their pain. For it is also our pain.
So, now, we do pray for the families of *all* who died, for divine
strength and peace.**

**For faith, for hope, and for love we pray,
In the name of the Risen Christ,
Amen.**