

WELCOME

As we draw closer to the time when we can once again worship together, let us always be praying for opportunities to share our faith, in little and large ways, as we bear witness to the God who loves us, and holds us close to God's heart.

CALL TO WORSHIP

We come to worship God whose presence brings comfort to those in need.
We come to worship God whose love is greater than our imaginations.
We come to worship God of history, the present and the future.
We come to worship because God first loved us and we cannot help but respond in love.
So let us come and worship God.

SONG **Let us build a house**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W3Pb77ylz_Q words and music

Let us build a house where love can dwell
And all can safely live.
A place where saints and children tell
How hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
Rock of faith and vault of grace;
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions;
*All are welcome, all are welcome,
All are welcome in this place*

Let us build a house where prophets speak,
And words are strong and true,
Where all God's children dare to seek
To dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
And a symbol of God's grace;
Here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:
*All are welcome, all are welcome,
All are welcome in this place*

Let us build a house where love is found
In water, wine and wheat:
A banquet hall on holy ground,
Where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus,
Is revealed in time and space;
As we share in Christ the feast that frees us:
*All are welcome, all are welcome,
All are welcome in this place*

Let us build a house where hands will reach

beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger:
*All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.*

Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed
as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:
*All are welcome, all are welcome,
All are welcome in this place*

Words and Music Marty Haugen LicenSing No. 604575

PRAYER

Most loving God we come this day filled with the joy of beautiful mild Autumn days
and the joy of being able to come together.

***We come with praise for you because it is through you and your love for us
that we can be called community.***

When we think of the power that you have, power to create the world and all that is
in it, and so much beyond we struggle to comprehend.

***When we think of your love, love stronger even than death, it is too much to
take in.***

When we are reminded of your desire for us to live abundant lives we want to learn
more and to grow in faith and in life.

***For you are good and your love holds us and wraps around us in ways we do
not even understand.***

So our loving God, we praise you and bring you our prayers of adoration.

We confess you as Lord of all and delight in following you each day, but we also
confess that we are not as faithful as we would like.

God of grace, we wonder why, you, with so much power, seem to stand aside in the
suffering of the world.

We cry out in pain when the ones we love suffer and we ask 'Why?' and 'how long Lord must this go on?'

We are paralysed by the effects of Covid 19 where thousands upon thousands die and many more suffer. We struggle with the lockdown and we are fearful of coming out of our homes, wondering what the impact will be on our lives and on the lives of others. And we cry "Why? Oh God, why?"

But we know the answers. We human beings tend to think more of ourselves than of others, yet as we are locked up and restricted in our movements outside our houses we are reminded we are doing this for the sake of others. We feel guilty for doing little, yet when people were sent to war for the sake of others, we have been sent home for the sake of others.

Forgive us O God. Forgive all of us.

Even within our homes we are not all that we would wish to be. For the snappy word that cuts to another's heart, for the actions that cause another to stumble, for the forgotten word that could have eased another's pain.

Forgive us in your mercy for all we have failed to do, and all we have said or done that has caused harm. And forgives us our fear.

And in your forgiveness, help us to love.

For we ask these things in Jesus' name, the one who loved even his enemies, even unto death.

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

We can cast all our anxiety on God who cares for us deeply. So, be assured that the Spirit of God is resting upon us, restoring, supporting and strengthening us all with power. (1 Peter 5: 7, 10b) The good news therefore is this: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

STORY Dealing with obstacles

In ancient times, a King had a boulder placed on a roadway. He then hid himself and watched to see if anyone would move the boulder out of the way. Some of the king's wealthiest merchants and courtiers came by and simply walked around it.

Many people loudly blamed the King for not keeping the roads clear, but none of them did anything about getting the stone out of the way.

A peasant then came along carrying a load of vegetables. Upon approaching the boulder, the peasant laid down his burden and tried to push the stone out of the road. After much pushing and straining, he finally succeeded.

After the peasant went back to pick up his vegetables, he noticed a purse lying in the road where the boulder had been.

The purse contained many gold coins and a note from the King explaining that the gold was for the person who removed the boulder from the roadway.

Moral of the story:

Every obstacle we come across in life gives us an **opportunity to improve our circumstances**, and whilst the lazy complain, the others are creating opportunities through their kind hearts, generosity, and willingness to get things done.

SONG TiS 164 The great love of God

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5sdMssEBQoI> Music only- goes straight into the verse- no introduction.

The great love of God is revealed in the Son,
who came to this earth to redeem every one.

That love, like a stream flowing clear to the sea,
makes clean every heart that from sin would be free.

It binds the whole world, every barrier it breaks,
the hills it lays low, and the mountains it shakes.

It's yours, it is ours, O how lavishly giv'n!
the pearl of great price, and the treasure of heav'n.

Daniel Thambyrajah Niles Used with permission

READINGS

1 Peter 4: 12-14, 5: 6-11

¹² Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.

⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. ⁷ Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

⁸ Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

¹⁰ And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. ¹¹ To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

John 17: 1-11

17 After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed:

"Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. ² For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. ³ Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. ⁴ I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. ⁵ And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.

⁶ "I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. ⁸ For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. ⁹ I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. ¹⁰ All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. ¹¹ I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one.

SERMON 'Cast all your cares'

SONG TiS 590 What a friend we have in Jesus

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YTpUQO0aryw> words and music

What a friend we have in Jesus
all our sins and griefs to bear,
what a privilege to carry
everything to God in prayer.
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry
everything to God in prayer!

2. Have we trials and temptations,
is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged:
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful
who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness:
take it to the Lord in prayer.

3. Are we weak and heavy-laden,
cumbered with a load of care?
Jesus is our only refuge:
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do your friends despise, forsake you?
Take it to the Lord in prayer;
In his arms he'll take and shield you,
You will find a solace there.

Words Joseph Medlicott Scriven/ Music William Penfro Rowlands C.C.L.I. No. 237097

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE- Thanksgiving (adapted Rev Bruce Prewer)

Give thanks to God who is so good,
Whose love endures forever.

We give thanks today, O God, or all who have given of themselves to help everyone in this time of Covid 19. Through them you have reached out to countless people, bringing them restored health, bringing comfort and encouragement, bringing goods and supplies, as well as carrying people into the journey beyond this earthly life.
Give thanks to God who is so good,
Whose love endures forever.

For the gift of faith that enables the friends of Christ to go on living boldly even in the face of enemies that attack us from both without and within:
Give thanks to God, who is so good,
Whose love endures forever.

For the mercy which rebukes and the grace which forgives us when we have made shonky deals with the enemies of the kingdom of heaven:
Give thanks to God, who is so good,
Whose love endures forever.

For the spiritual courage that enables the 'pure of heart' to retain integrity when all around them appears to be two-faced and corrupt.
Give thanks to God, who is so good,
Whose love endures forever.

For the good friends who in our personal hour of acute temptation are there beside us to listen, to clarify the issues, to steady us, and to lead us through by example:
Give thanks to God, who is so good,
Whose love endures forever.

For every insight or warning from the Holy Scriptures that helps us recognise the enemy of evil in its many disguises and to go on the offensive.
Give thanks to God, who is so good,
Whose love endures forever.

For the fellowship of the church where the Spirit of Christ is quietly working through ordinary people like us, leading towards that victory which cannot be denied.
Give thanks to God, who is so good,
Whose love endures forever.

For that Host of remarkable goodness and mercy who “spreads a table before us in the presence of our enemies.”
Give thanks to God, who is so good,
Whose love endures forever.

And now let us join together in the prayer Jesus taught his disciples saying..

***Our Father in heaven hallowed be Your name,
Your kingdom come, Your will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread and
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and forever, Amen.***

OFFERING

During this time of Covid 19 we encourage you all to continue to give your gifts of money back to God. This is part of our response to God’s goodness.

Loving God, may you bless these gifts which we bring, that they may be more than just money, more than a small part of our lives and something which can show how much we appreciate you, and how we can use these gifts to serve others, Amen.

PASSING THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you

And also with you

SONG TiS 411 Filled with the Spirits power with one accord

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=43wnrzFb73c> music only music continues beyond 3 verses.

[stop at 1.40]

Filled with the Spirit's power, with one accord
the infant church confessed its risen Lord:
O Holy Spirit, in the church today
no less your power of fellowship display.

Now with the mind of Christ set us on fire,
that unity may be our great desire:
give joy and peace; give faith to hear your call,
and readiness in each to work for all.

Widen our love, good Spirit, to embrace
in your strong care all those of every race:
like wind and fire with life among us move
till we are known as Christ's, and Christians prove.

Words J R Peacey/Music Walter Greatorex Song no 2585109 / C.C.L.I. No. 237097

BENEDICTION

If we think that there are no spiritual enemies around and within us,
we have already lost the battle.

If we think there is no Spirit of grace, mercy and truth available to us,
we have forgotten our birthright.

If we expect the greater unity of the Church to come without pain,
we will look and wait in vain.

Yet if we dare to love others with the same love with which Christ has loved us,

Christ's great prayer will be closer to fulfilment

(Rev Bruce Prewer)

The overflowing grace of Christ Jesus,
the embracing love of God,
and the invigorating friendship of the Spirit,
will be with you now and always,
Amen!