

WELCOME

We welcome you all- via the use of technology, on person or using the printed orders of service. All are welcome.

CALL TO WORSHIP

When we welcome the little ones, we welcome Jesus.

When we open ourselves to God, we open ourselves to be changed.

We come in obedience to God, offering ourselves, our gifts and our lives to serve God and serve others.

And in all of this, let us worship God.

SONG **All Are Welcome**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nbyZQnPw-wk> 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 C.C.L.I. No. 237097 Used with permission

PRAYER

Mighty and merciful God, we meet to celebrate your greatness.
We join with the hosts of heaven to sing your praise and to offer you worship.

For you are worthy of adoration from every mouth,
and every tongue should praise you.

You created the earth by your power; you save the human race by your mercy; and
make it new by your grace.
Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we offer you our grateful praise.

For our slowness to recognize your gifts in other people and their calling to be
children of God: Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

For our reluctance to accept your free gifts and your gracious call to play our part in
your ministry: Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

For any cause of division in your body for which we are responsible: Lord, have

mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

In who You are, in who You have called us to be, we seek your forgiveness, in and through the name of Jesus in whose name we pray. Amen.

Adapted from Prayers from Rev Bruce Prewer

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

The good news is that all who trust in Christ will have their sins forgiven and receive eternal life. As you hold this faith, I declare that you are set free from all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, to whom be glory for ever and ever.

Thanks be to God!

STORY

Louise Redden, a poorly dressed lady with a look of defeat on her face, walked into a grocery store. She approached the owner of the store in a most humble manner and asked if he would let her charge a few groceries. She softly explained that her husband was very ill and unable to work. They had seven children and they needed food.

John Longhouse, the grocer, scoffed at her and requested that she leave his store. Visualizing the family needs, she said: "Please, sir! I will bring you the money just as soon as I can." John told her he could not give her credit, as she did not have a charge account at his store.

Standing beside the counter was a customer who overheard the conversation between the two. The customer walked forward and told the grocer that he would stand good for whatever she needed for her family.

The grocer said in a very reluctant voice, "Do you have a grocery list?" Louise replied, "Yes sir." "Okay" he said, "put your grocery list on the scales and whatever your grocery list weighs, I will give you that amount in groceries."

Louise hesitated a moment with a bowed head. Then she reached into her purse and took out a piece of paper and scribbled something on it. She then laid the piece of paper on the scale carefully with her head still bowed.

The eyes of the grocer and the customer showed amazement when the scale went down and stayed down. The grocer, staring at the scales, turned slowly to the customer and said begrudgingly, "I can't believe it." The customer smiled and the grocer started putting the groceries on the other side of the scales.

The scale did not balance so he continued to put more and more groceries on them until the scales would hold no more. The grocer stood there in utter disgust.

Finally, he grabbed the piece of paper from the scales and looked at it with greater amazement. It was not a grocery list. It was instead a prayer which said: "Dear Lord, you know my needs and I am leaving this in your hands."



The grocer gave her the groceries that he had gathered and stood in stunned silence. Louise thanked him and left the store. The customer handed a fifty-dollar bill to the grocer and said, "It was worth every penny of it."

It was sometime later that the grocer discovered the scales were broken; therefore, only God knows how much a prayer weighs.

READINGS

Psalm 13

¹How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me?

²How long must I bear pain in my soul, and have sorrow in my heart all day long? How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?

³Consider and answer me, O LORD my God! Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep the sleep of death,

⁴and my enemy will say, "I have prevailed"; my foes will rejoice because I am shaken.

⁵But I trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.

⁶I will sing to the LORD, because he has dealt bountifully with me.

SONG **Be Still for the presence of the Lord**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZugvUQ4m90U> Words and music

Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
The holy One, is here;
Come bow before him now
With reverence and fear
In him no sin is found
We stand on holy ground.
Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
The holy One, is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord
Is shining all around;
He burns with holy fire,
With splendour he is crowned:
How awesome is the sight
Our radiant king of light!
Be still, for the glory of the Lord
Is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord
Is moving in this place:
He comes to cleanse and heal,
To minister his grace -
No work too hard for him.
In faith receive from him.
Be still, for the power of the Lord
Is moving in this place.

Source: [Musixmatch](#) Songwriters: David Evans Be Still lyrics © Thank You Music Ltd.

Matthew 10: 37-42

³⁷Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; ³⁸and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

⁴⁰“Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. ⁴¹Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; ⁴²and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”

This is God’s word,

Let us give thanks to God

SERMON *The Grace of welcome*

SONG *TiS 129 Amazing Grace*

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
that saved a wretch like me
I once was lost but now am found,
was blind but now I see

As grace first taught my heart to fear
so grace my fears relieved
how precious did that grace appear,
the hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come
God's grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.

Words John Newton/American Folk hymn melody CCLI license no. 237097

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Most loving God, you have put it in our hearts to pray for one another.
Please hear our prayers, correct their errors, and bless all that is wise and loving.

We pray for the young and the strong, and all who are full of joy and high hopes today.
We pray for the elderly and the weak, and all who are utterly weary and disheartened today.

We pray for the wise and the generous, and those who are looking for new challenges today.
We pray for the foolish and the selfish, and those who evading their responsibilities today.

We pray for peace-keepers and peacemakers, and all who work for justice and peace today.
We pray for the hostile and the treacherous, and all who will resort to violence today.

We pray for the well housed and well fed, and those who share their good fortune today.
We pray for the homeless and the hungry, and all whose plight is ignored today.

We pray for the patient and the merciful, and all who will make new friends today.
We pray for the hasty and the judgmental, and all who will create some misery today.

We pray for the healthy and the buoyant, and those who will share much happiness today.
We pray for the dying and the sad, and those who will weep inconsolably today.

We pray for the faithful and the loving, and all who will worship with delight today.
We pray for the faithless and the cynical, and all who will find life a drag today.

We pray for our loved ones and our friends, and those whom we will meet casually today.
We pray for strangers and enemies, and those who will think evil of us today.

Loving God, please bring the day nearer when our prayers and our deeds will work in perfect harmony,
and we will be a blessing to all those whose lives touch ours. Through Christ Jesus our Saviour.
Amen!

...And now, let us join with the Christians of all nations in the prayer Jesus taught his disciples as we say

***Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our sins,
As we forgive those who sin against us.***

***And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For yours is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
Forever and ever, Amen.***

OFFERING

We glorify you, O God, through these gifts and our lives. May they be used to reveal your glory in ways which proclaim Jesus as your beloved Son, and in ways which show that we have indeed listened to him. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen

PASSING OF THE PEACE

May the peace of the Lord be with you
And also with you

SONG **TiS 595 O Jesus I have promised**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aNz-33V1V8A> music only

O Jesus I have promised
to serve you to the end;
Be Thou for ever near me,
my master and my friend:
I shall not fear the battle
if thou are by my side,
nor wander from the pathway
if you will be my guide.

O let me feel you near me:
the world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle,
and tempting sounds I hear;
my foes are ever near me,
around me and within;
but, Jesus, draw me nearer,
and shield my soul from sin.

O let me hear you speaking
in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion,
the murmurs of self-will;
Lord, speak to reassure me,
to chasten or control;
O speak, and make me listen,
true guardian of my soul.

Lord, let me see your footmarks
and in them plant my own;
that I may follow boldly
and in your strength alone;
O guide me, call me, draw me,
uphold me to the end;
and then in heaven receive me,
my Saviour and my friend.

Words John Ernest Bode/Music William Harold Ferguson C.C.L.I. No. 237097

BENEDICTION

Go out with the Gospel ringing in your ears
with joy flooding your heart
and a spring energising your step
and with love flowing through your hands.

The Lover of the universe will uphold you,
the Saviour of the lost will enfold you,;

the Spirit of truth will mould you,
now and evermore,

.
Amen!

Adapted from Rev Bruce Prewer