

Worship in Song

Through every trial

Countdown and Welcome

Introduction

In today's service we shall hear about Hosea, the Old Testament prophet, who was told by God to marry Gomer, a prostitute, and remain faithful to her in marriage even though she would be and was unfaithful to him. The life of Hosea serves as an illustration of God's faithfulness and endless love for his people in spite of their unfaithfulness.

Call to Worship

It is in this place of holiness that we can come with our fears and doubts.

We come to this place, to hear the words of peace, hope and joy that God speaks to us.

It is in this place of discovery that we can come searching

We come to this place, to find the One who has been looking for us.

It is in this place of openness that we can come knocking

We come to this place, to be embraced by the One whose heart is never locked.

Worship in Song

Praise my soul the King of heaven
To his feet thy tribute bring
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
Who like thee his praise should sing
Praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him
Praise the everlasting King

Praise Him for his grace and favour
To our fathers in distress
Praise him still the same forever
Slow to chide and swift to bless
Praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him
Glorious in his faithfulness

Father-like he tends and spares us
Well our feeble frame he knows
In his hands he gently bears us
Rescues us from all our foes
Praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him
Widely as His mercy flows

Angels in the height adore him
Ye behold him face to face
Sun and moon bow down before him
Dwellers all in time and space
Praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him
Praise with us the God of grace

Confession

O Lord of mercy and compassion, we come as those who have been unfaithful to you and have forsaken the Covenant Love you have shared with us. For our wandering, wayward ways, hear our confessions of sin and selfishness and offer us your forgiveness.

Almighty and most merciful Father, we have wandered and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against your holy laws. We have left undone those things that we ought to have done; and we have done those things that we ought not to have done; and there is no health in us. But you, O Lord, have mercy upon us sinners. Spare those who confess their faults. Restore those who are penitent, according to your promises declared to mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may live a disciplined, righteous and godly life, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Jesus said, 'Seek and you will find. Knock and the door will be opened to you. Ask and it will be given to you.' So know this - God has promised us grace and forgiveness in the love of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Special Prayer for Today

Merciful God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as pass our understanding: pour into our hearts such love toward you that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Bible Reading

Hosea 1.2–10 (*Church Bible page 751*)

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Sermon

Worship in Song

Through every trial, through every fear
Through every tear we can't conceal
God we look to you
Through every storm, through every pain
Through every grief we can't explain
God we look to you

You became a Man of Sorrows
that we might know joy
You have treasured every tear drop
And said that you'd restore
You will not forget your people
You'll make all things new
Until you do we choose to trust in you

You are our hope, you are our strength
You are the anchor in the depths
God we look to you
You will return, you will sustain
You will bring joy we can't contain
Come Lord Jesus come

Bridge

You will make all things new,
Until you do we choose to trust in you
You will make all things new
Until you do we choose to worship you

Affirmation of Faith

We believe the grace of God has dawned upon us with healing for all the world, and so we rejoice to declare our faith in him:

We trust in God the Father, who has revealed his love and kindness to us, and in his mercy saved us, not for any good deed of our own, but because he is merciful.

We trust in Jesus Christ, who gave himself up for us to free us from our sin, and set us apart for himself a people eager to do good.

We trust in the Holy Spirit, whom God poured out on us generously through Christ our Saviour so that justified by grace we might become heirs with the hope of eternal life. Amen.

Prayers

At the end: Merciful Father,
accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Peace

Christ is our peace. He has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross. We meet in his name and share his peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Offertory Prayer

Everything in heaven and earth comes from you, Lord. We give you only what is yours. May you be praised forever and ever. Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

Father, you made the world and love your creation. You gave your Son Jesus Christ to be our Saviour. His dying and rising have set us free from sin and death. And so we gladly thank you, with saints and angels praising you, and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you. He broke the bread, gave it to them and said: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine. Again he praised you, gave it to them and said: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross. Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Christ is the bread of life:

**When we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus, until you
come in glory.**

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth. Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms and bring us with all the saints to feast at your table in heaven. Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on
earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily
bread. 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 for ever. Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
**Though we are many, we are one body, because
we all share in one bread.**

Giving of Communion

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you. Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

We receive communion

Hymn during Communion

Father of Heaven, whose love profound
A ransom for our souls has found,
Before thy throne we sinners bend:
To us thy pardoning love extend.

Almighty Son, incarnate Word,
Our Prophet, Priest, Redeemer, Lord.
Before thy throne we sinners bend:
To us thy saving grace extend.

Eternal Spirit, by whose breath
The soul is raised from sin and death,
Before thy throne we sinners bend:
To us thy quickening power extend.

Thrice Holy. Father, Spirit, Son.
Mysterious Godhead! Three in One.
Before Thy throne we sinners bend:
Grace, pardon, life to us extend.

Hymn during Communion

How deep the Father's love for us
How vast beyond all measure
That he should give his only Son
To make a wretch his treasure
How great the pain of searing loss
The Father turns his face away
As wounds which mar the chosen one
Bring many sons to glory.

Behold the man upon a cross
My sin upon his shoulders
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers
It was my sin that held him there
Until it was accomplished
His dying breath has brought me life
I know that is finished.

I will not boast in anything
No gifts, no powers, no wisdom
But I will boast in Jesus Christ
His death and resurrection
Why should I gain from his reward
I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom.

Hymn during Communion

How good it is to sing, to bring our praise to Him
Whose love and mercy knows no end
He brings the sun and rain, He calls each star by name
The universe resounds with praise

O shout for joy to God and sing a new song
Extol the Lord of life for His provision
And He delights in those who love and fear Him
All those who put their hope in God

He gathers families, orphans and refugees
And binds the wounds of those who mourn
The humble lifted high, the proud He casts aside
His justice faithful as the dawn

What friend or foe can last, before His icy blast
The winds and waves obey His voice
Yet mercy will prevail, His love will reconcile
The nations of the earth to Him

Prayer after Communion

**Father of all, we give you thanks and praise,
that when we were still far off you met us in
your Son and brought us home. Dying and
living, he declared your love, gave us grace,
and opened the gate of glory. May we who
share Christ's body live his risen life;**

**we who drink his cup bring life to others; we
whom the Spirit lights give light to the
world. Keep us firm in the hope you have
set before us, so we and all your children
shall be free, and the whole earth live to
praise your name; through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Worship in Song

We won't fear the battle, we won't fear the night
We will walk the Valley with You by our side
You will go before us, you will lead the way
We have found a refuge only You can save

Sing with joy now our God is for us
The Father's love is a strong and mighty fortress
Raise your voice now no love is greater
Who can stand against us if our God is for us

Even when I stumble, even when I fall
Even when I turn back still Your love is sure
You will not abandon, you will not forsake
You will cheer me onward with never ending grace

Bridge

Neither height nor depth can separate us
Hell and death will not defeat us
He who gave His Son to free us holds me in His love

Blessing

Now to him who is able to keep us from
falling and to present us without blemish
before the presence of his glory with
rejoicing, to the only God, our Saviour
through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory,
majesty, dominion and authority, before all
time and now and for ever. And the blessing
of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the
Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with
you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

Music as we leave

The king of love is my delight