

**Worship in Song**

In the darkness we were waiting

**Welcome**

**Introduction to Worship**

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. *Isaiah 60:1-3*

**Worship in Song**

Hail to the Lord's Anointed;  
Great David's greater Son.  
Hail, in the time appointed  
His reign on earth begun.  
He comes to break oppression,  
To set the captive free,  
To take away transgression,  
And rule in equity.

He comes with succour speedy,  
To those who suffer wrong;  
To help the poor and needy,  
And bid the weak be strong:  
To give them songs for sighing,  
Their darkness turn to light,  
Whose souls, condemned and dying,  
Were precious in his sight.

He shall come down like showers  
Upon the fruitful earth:  
Love, joy, and hope, like flowers,  
Spring in his path to birth:  
Before him, on the mountains,  
Shall peace, the herald, go;  
And righteousness in fountains,  
From hill to valley flow.

Kings shall fall down before him,  
And gold and incense bring;  
All nations shall adore him,  
His praise all people sing;

To him shall prayer unceasing  
And daily vows ascend;  
His kingdom still increasing,  
A kingdom without end.

O'er every foe victorious,  
He on his throne shall rest;  
From age to age more glorious,  
All-blessing and all-blest.  
The tide of time shall never  
His covenant remove;  
His name shall stand for ever  
His changeless name of love.

**Confession**

The wise men sought to put Christ first and to worship him as God's anointed one, the Messiah.

**God of the Bethlehem star, we confess that our motives for seeking Jesus are not pure. We do not simply come to worship: we come to Christ, asking him to fulfill all our selfish desires. Help us, O Lord, to follow the example of the wise men, worshipping you with humility and laying our gifts before you. May we journey in faith, trusting that your light will lead and guide us, all the days of our life. Amen.**

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

**Prayer for Today**

O God, who by the leading of a star manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: mercifully grant that we, who know you now by faith, may at last behold your glory face to face; 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***

Matthew 2.1-12 (*Church Bible p807*)

This is the Gospel of the Lord  
**Praise to you, O Christ**

## ***Video - 'They won't be expecting that'***

### ***Worship in Song***

Darkness like a shroud covers the earth  
Evil like a cloud covers the people  
But the Lord will rise upon you  
And his glory will appear on you  
Nations will come to your light.

Arise shine your light has come  
The glory of the Lord has risen on you  
Arise shine your light has come  
Jesus the light of the world has come.

Children of the light be clean and pure  
Rise you sleepers, Christ will shine on you  
Take the Spirit's flashing two-edged sword  
And with faith declare God's mighty word  
Stand up and in his strength be strong.

Here among us now, Christ the light  
Kindles brighter flames in our trembling hearts  
Living word, our lamp, come guide our feet  
As we walk as one in light and peace  
Justice and truth shine like the sun.

Like a city bright, so let us blaze  
Lights in every street turning night to day  
And the darkness shall not overcome  
Till the fullness of Christ's kingdom comes  
Dawning to God's eternal day.

## ***Sermon***

### ***Affirmation of Faith***

Let us confess our faith in the Son of God:  
**In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of us all. The Word became flesh and lived for a while among us; we have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. Amen.**

## ***Prayers***

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

### ***The Peace***

Our Saviour Christ is the Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there shall be no end.

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

### ***Offertory Prayer***

**Lord Jesus Christ, for our sake you became poor. May our lives and gifts enrich the life of your world. 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.**

All honour and praise be yours always and everywhere, mighty creator, ever-living God, through Jesus Christ your only Son our Lord: for at this time we celebrate your glory made present in our midst. In the coming of the magi the King of all the world was revealed to the nations. In the waters of baptism Jesus was revealed as the Christ, the Saviour sent to redeem us. In the water made wine the new creation was revealed at the wedding feast. Poverty was turned to riches, sorrow into joy.

Therefore with all the angels of heaven we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name and say our joyful hymn of praise:

**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.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

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***

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup, **we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes./**

### ***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*

### ***Worship in Song***

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness  
Bow down before him, his glory proclaim;  
With gold of obedience and incense of lowliness,  
Kneel and adore him, the Lord is his name.

Low at his feet lay thy burden of carefulness,  
High on his heart he will bear it for thee,  
Comfort thy sorrows, and answer thy prayerfulness,  
Guiding thy steps as may best for thee be.

Fear not to enter his courts in the slenderness  
Of the poor wealth thou wouldst reckon as thine:  
Truth in its beauty and love in its tenderness:  
These are the offerings to lay on his shrine.

These, though we bring them in trembling and  
fearfulness,  
He will accept for the name that is dear;  
Mornings of joy give for evenings of tearfulness,  
Trust for our trembling, and hope for our fear.

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness  
Bow down before him, his glory proclaim  
With gold of obedience and incense of lowliness,  
Kneel and adore him, the Lord is his name.

### ***Worship in Song***

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

### ***Worship in Song***

In the darkness we were waiting  
Without hope without light  
Till from heaven you came running  
There was mercy in your eyes  
To fulfil the law and prophets  
To a virgin came the Word  
From a throne of endless glory  
To a cradle in the dirt

Praise the Father, praise the Son  
Praise the Spirit three in one  
God of glory, majesty  
Praise forever to the King of kings

To reveal the kingdom coming  
And to reconcile the lost  
To redeem the whole creation  
You did not despise the cross  
For even in your suffering  
You saw to the other side  
Knowing this was our salvation  
Jesus for our sake you died

And the morning that you rose  
All of heaven held its breath  
Till that stone was moved for good  
For the Lamb had conquered death  
And the dead rose from their tombs  
And the angels stood in awe  
For the souls of all who'd come  
To the Father are restored

And the Church of Christ was born  
Then the Spirit lit the flame  
Now this gospel truth of old  
Shall not kneel shall not faint  
By his blood and in His Name  
In his freedom I am free  
For the love of Jesus Christ  
Who has resurrected me

### ***Prayer after Communion***

Lord God, the bright splendour whom the  
nations seek: may we who with the wise men  
have been drawn by your light discern the glory  
of your presence in your Son, the Word made  
flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### ***Worship in Song***

In Christ alone my hope is found,  
He is my light, my strength, my song;  
This cornerstone, this solid ground,  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace,  
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease  
My comforter, my all in all,  
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! Who took on flesh,  
Fullness of God in helpless babe.  
This gift of love and righteousness,  
Scorned by the ones He came to save:  
Till on that cross as Jesus died,  
The wrath of God was satisfied  
For every sin on Him was laid;  
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground his body lay,  
Light of the world by darkness slain:  
Then bursting forth in glorious day  
Up from the grave He rose again.  
And as He stands in victory  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,  
For I am His and He is mine  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,  
This is the power of Christ in me;  
From life's first cry to final breath,  
Jesus commands my destiny.  
No power of hell, no scheme of man,  
Can ever pluck me from His hand;  
Till he returns or calls me home,  
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand!

### ***Blessing***

Christ the Son of God perfect in you the image of  
his glory and gladden your hearts with the good  
news of his kingdom; and the blessing of God  
almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be with you now and always. **Amen.**

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