

Song before Service

Who breaks the power of sin and darkness

Welcome & Opening Prayer

Lord God, we come to you today, as did Nicodemus, with questions in our hearts and on our minds. Give us faith to believe in Jesus Christ, new birth by your Spirit, salvation from our sins and eternal life. In Jesus name, we pray. **Amen.**

Video - *Who was Nicodemus?*

Worship in Song

To God be the glory, great things he hath done
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son;
Who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
And opened the life gate that all may go in.

Praise the Lord. Praise the Lord.
Let the earth hear his voice.
Praise the Lord. Praise the Lord.
Let the people rejoice.
O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son:
And give him the glory. Great things he hath done.

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood.
To every believer the promise of God;
The vilest offender who truly believes,
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
But purer and higher, and greater will be
Our wonder, our rapture, when Jesus we see.

Confession

God shows his love for us in that, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Let us then show our love for him by confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

Lord Jesus Christ, crucified, risen and ascended for us: we have not loved you as our Redeemer, nor obeyed you as our Lord; we have not brought our

prayers to you, nor heeded your tears shed over the world. Forgive us, we pray; breathe into us a new spirit of service, and make us joyfully obedient to your will: for your glory's sake. Amen.

God's Assurance of Forgiveness

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon us, pardon and deliver us from all our sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and keep us in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Bible Reading

John 3.1-17 (*Church Bible page 887*)

This is the gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ

Prayer for Today

Loving God, giver of all light and life, you sent Jesus Christ into the world not to condemn, but to save. Help us to lift up the light of Christ so that the world might believe in him and receive the gift of eternal life; through Christ, the light of the world. **Amen.**

Sermon

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.

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

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

Gracious God, accept these gifts, and with them our lives, to be used in your service; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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

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

Here is love vast as the ocean,
Loving kindness as the flood,
When the Prince of life, our ransom,
Shed for us his precious blood.
Who his love will not remember?
Who can cease to sing his praise?
He can never be forgotten
Throughout heaven's eternal days.

On the mount of crucifixion
Fountains opened deep and wide;
Through the floodgates of God's mercy
Flowed a vast and gracious tide.
Grace and love, like mighty rivers,

Poured incessant from above,
And heaven's peace and perfect justice
Kissed a guilty world in love.

Let me, all thy love accepting,
Love thee, ever all my days;
Let me seek thy kingdom only,
And my life be to thy praise;
Thou alone shalt be my glory,
Nothing in the world I see;
Thou hast cleansed and sanctified me,
Thou thyself hast set me free.

In thy truth thou dost direct me
By thy Spirit through thy word;
And thy grace my need is meeting,
As I trust in thee, my Lord.
Of thy fullness thou art pouring
Thy great love and power on me,
Without measure, full and boundless,
Drawing out my heart to thee.

Worship in Song

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 power, 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.

Worship in Song

What is our hope in life and death
Christ alone Christ alone
What is our only confidence
That our souls to him belong
Who holds our days within his hand
What comes apart from his command
And what will keep us to the end
The love of Christ in which we stand

O sing hallelujah, our hope springs eternal
O sing hallelujah, now and ever we confess
Christ our hope in life and death

What truth can calm the troubled soul
God is good God is good
Where is his grace and goodness known
In our great Redeemer's blood
Who holds our faith when fears arise
Who stands above the stormy trial
Who sends the waves that bring us nigh
Unto the shore the rock of Christ

Unto the grave what will we sing
Christ he lives Christ he lives
And what reward will heaven bring
Everlasting life with him
There we will rise to meet the Lord
Then sin and death will be destroyed
And we will feast in endless joy
When Christ is ours forevermore

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

Who breaks the power of sin and darkness
Whose love is mighty and so much stronger
The King of glory, the King above all kings

Who shakes the whole earth with holy thunder
And leaves us breathless in awe and wonder
The King of glory, the King above all kings

This is amazing grace, this is unfailing love
That you would take my place
That you would bear my cross
You laid down your life, that I would be set free
Oh Jesus I sing for all that you've done for me

Who brings our chaos back into order
Who makes the orphan a son and daughter
The King of glory, the King of glory

Who rules the nations with truth and justice
Shines like the sun in all of its brilliance
The King of glory the King above all kings

Bridge

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave

Blessing

May the Father, who so loved the world that he gave his only Son, bring you by faith to his eternal life. **Amen.**

May Christ, who accepted the cup of sacrifice in obedience to the Father's will, keep you steadfast as you walk with him the way of his cross. **Amen.**

May the Spirit, who strengthens us to suffer with Christ that we may share his glory, set your minds on life and peace. **Amen.**

And may 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.

Music as we leave

What is our hope in life and death