

*This liturgy is designed for use in your homes, your gardens or anywhere else you may find yourselves. Some of you may be in small groups, others may be alone- either is fine. What follows is a framework that you can alter if the desire arises, and which contains a few additional elements you can opt to partake of.*

*The framework here is just that; it is not an entry into worship in and of itself. Therefore, I suggest you ready yourselves by finding somewhere as comfortable, spacious, and beautiful as possible, and still yourselves before you begin. You may like to light a candle to be a focus as you worship, and to remind you that you gather in the presence of Christ.*

*As you gather, you might like to have some pens/pencils/markers and paper with you to engage fully. If you are worshipping with a small group, you might like to elect one person to lead, or take turns leading through the different sections. I suggest you at least take turns praying out loud and divide up the scripture reading among you. Be prepared to pray extemporaneously (that is prayer that is not pre-written or prepared) at times, and to bring the person that you are into this time of worship. Text in bold can be used as a guide to when other voices might be added to a prayer, but this is not prescriptive. Discern as you see fit.*

*And remember, you are none of you alone.*

## **A service of Worship**

### **Call to worship**

Brethren!

Rejoice! We are in the presence of God  
Rejoice! For each day is a new beginning  
Rejoice! In the truth of who we are and  
What we have come here to do.

We are drawn to this sacred ground to call to God  
To bring ourselves in wonder and gentle seeking  
To meet with the holy, and to ask to be broken open  
And filled once again.

Let's bring our minds, bodies, hearts, selves into this time of worship.  
The Lord is near.

*(take some time to get comfortable, to find something beautiful to look at, to remember why you're doing this today)*

### **Prayers of who we are**

Rejoice in the Lord always,  
Again I will say, rejoice.

We thank you, dancing spirit, for the love which sustains us  
For the truth which is unchanging,  
For the life of Jesus showing us how to walk with others  
And for his death and resurrection, offering life and hope for all.

We can't always sing for joy,  
Or remember the good parts of our lives and yours.  
Forgive us when we choose deliberately to ignore the many gifts we've been given  
When we are driven by greed, distraction or selfishness.  
Help us remember who we are, to remember too the life that we are called to live, and remind us that you are helping us live it.  
Bring us to gentleness, to that which is good, worthy, pure and holy.

Rekindle the spirit of joy within us,  
Help us find our rejoicing.

Amen.

### **Declaration of Forgiveness**

You and I, we are all loved, welcomed with open arms, and forgiven.  
Thanks indeed be to God.

### **Early Word**

*(see video- Rejoice!)*

**We sing:** Rejoice in the Lord always

*Super fun song to sing with your family, or alone, with some very cute kids singing on the video. This song is a round, and super easy to sing, so listen as many times as you need, and if there is more than one of you, why not try to sing the different parts?*

Rejoice in the Lord, always  
And again I say rejoice.  
Rejoice in the Lord, always  
And again I say rejoice.

Rejoice! Rejoice!  
And again I say rejoice!  
Rejoice! Rejoice!  
And again I say rejoice!

*(repeat as needed!)*

### **Scripture Reading**

Philippians 4:1-9

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. <sup>2</sup>I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. <sup>3</sup>Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life. <sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always;

again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup>Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup>Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. <sup>9</sup>Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

## **Reflection**

*See video: what if we're not in the mood?*

## **We sing:** Joyful Joyful, We Adore Thee

*This song is so well known, and so joyful sounding, and this version is lovely and cheering. Notice though, that as well as proclaiming joy and naming God in various ways, the hymn is also a prayer asking for help to rejoice and to love one another, as well as a reminder of all the ways the earth itself rejoices. Beautiful. Turn it up!*

Joyful joyful we adore thee  
God of glory Lord of love  
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee  
Opening to the sun above

Melt the clouds of sin and sadness  
Drive the dark of doubt away  
Giver of immortal gladness  
Fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee  
Earth and heaven reflect thy rays  
Stars and angels sing around thee  
Centre of unbroken praise

Field and forest, vale and mountain  
Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea  
Singing bird and flowing fountain

Call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving  
Ever blessing, ever blest  
Wellspring of the joy of living  
Ocean depth of happy rest!

Thou our Father, Christ our brother,  
All who live in love are thine.  
Teach us how to love each other  
Lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals join the happy chorus  
Which the morning stars began  
Father love is reigning o'er us  
Brother love binds man to man

Ever singing, march we onward  
Victors in the midst of strife  
Joyful music leads us sunward  
In the triumph song of life

Thou our Father, Christ our brother,  
All who live in love are thine.  
Teach us how to love each other  
Lift us to the joy divine.

### **Prayers of the People**

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

For all people in their daily life and work;  
**for our families, friends, and neighbours,  
and for those who are alone.**

For this community, our country, and the world;  
**for all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.**

For the just and proper use of your creation;  
**for the victims of hunger, fear, injustice and oppression.**

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;  
**for those who minister to the sick,  
the friendless and the needy.**

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;  
**for all who proclaim the gospel,  
and for all who seek the truth.**

For the Uniting Church in Australia,  
for Deirdre Palmer, president of the Assembly,  
for Denise Liersch our moderator and for Andrew Boatman our chairperson  
of presbytery,  
for our elders and members of the parish council,  
and for all who care for one another in this congregation;  
**for all who serve God in the church.**

For our own needs,  
and for others for whom you have called us to pray.

*Hold silence, and offer your own petitions and prayers either silently or out loud.*

Hear us, Lord;  
**for your mercy is great.**

Gracious God,  
you have heard the prayers of your faithful people;  
you know our needs before we ask,  
and our ignorance in asking.

Grant our requests as may be best for us.

This we ask in the name of your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**We are sent out**

Brethren, Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

Let your gentleness be known to everyone.

The Lord is near.

Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

And may the love of God, the presence of Christ and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you now, and evermore.

**Amen.**