

*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 -October 4th**

### **Call to Worship**

This is no ordinary place: this is the house of God.

This is the place where the prophets cry out  
for peace and justice and righteousness.

It is the place where God reaches down  
into the corners of our lives,  
to offer us the mystery of holy love.

This is no ordinary gathering.

This is no ordinary place: this is the house of God.

### **We Sing:** Come O God of all the Earth

#### Verse 1

Come, O God of all the earth;  
come to us, O Righteous One.  
Come and bring our love to birth;  
in the glory of your Son.

#### Chorus

Sing out, earth and skies!  
Sing of the God who loves you.  
Raise your joyful cries,  
Dance to the life around you.

#### Verse 2

Come, O God of wind and flame;  
fill the earth with righteousness.  
Teach us all to sing your name;  
may our lives your love confess.

#### Verse 3

Come, O God of flashing light;  
twinkling star and burning sun.  
God of day and God of night;  
in your light we all are one.

Verse 4

Come, O God of snow and rain;  
shower down upon the earth.  
Come, O God of joy and pain;  
God of sorrow, God of mirth.

Verse 5

Come, O Justice, come, O Peace;  
come and shape our hearts anew.  
Come and make oppression cease;  
bring us all to life in you.

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

God of yesterday,  
**we praise you for your goodness to our forebears;**  
you led them out of slavery to a land of promise,  
**and from exile you showed them the way home.**  
You raised prophets and teachers,  
and came to us in Jesus Christ,  
**who lived, died and rose again for our sake.**

God of today,  
**we see you at work in our time.**  
As people are led into freedom from sin and suffering,  
**as your Spirit forms the life of Christ among us,**  
as we are drawn into greater and deeper unity,  
**we give you thanks and praise.**

God of tomorrow,  
**we look for signs of the coming of Christ;**  
sounds of joy and gladness,  
**people sharing what they have with others,**  
**the knowledge of Christ covering the earth**  
**as the waters cover the sea.**

God of yesterday, today, and tomorrow,  
**we lift our hearts, our minds and our lives to worship you,**

**now and for ever,  
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

O God,  
we confess the things we try to hide from you;  
the things we try to hide from others;  
the things we try to hide from ourselves.  
We confess the worry and heartbreak  
that we have caused others,  
and the things we have said and done  
which make it hard for them to forgive us.  
We confess the times we have made it easy  
for others to go wrong;  
we confess the harm we have done, and cannot undo,  
making it hard for us to forgive ourselves.  
Lord, have mercy, forgive us and renew us.  
**Amen.**

God says:  
I will make a covenant of peace with you;  
my dwelling place shall be with you,  
and I will be your God.

You are forgiven and loved.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### **Early word**

*See video- Can you name the 10 commandments?*

Also- pray the body prayer with me!  
It goes like this:  
God be in my head and in my understanding  
God be in my eyes, and in my looking  
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking  
God be in my heart and in my thinking  
God be at my end and at my departing.  
Amen.

*And we could add  
God be in my hands, and in my helping  
God be in my legs and in my moving  
Can you think of any more?*

## **Scripture Reading**

Exodus 20:1-17

Then God spoke all these words: I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments. You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

## **Reflection**

*See video: commands, suggestions, descriptions? What are the 10 commandments about?*

**We Sing:** Open your ears, O faithful people

Open you ears o faithful people  
Open your eyes to hear God's word  
Open your hearts O royal priesthood  
God has come to you

Chorus  
God has spoken to the people  
Hallelujah  
God has spoken words of wisdom  
Hallelujah

They who have ears to hear the message  
They who have ears, now let them hear  
They who would learn the way of wisdom  
Let them hear God's word

### **Offering**

How can you think about your actions in light of the idea of human flourishing?  
How can you move and think and speak and see so that you, and all around you, experience the liberty that God brings?  
The body prayer we prayed earlier is a simple but perhaps helpful way to commit yourself daily to doing this.  
Why not pray it again now, or at the end and beginning of each new day?

### **Prayers of the People**

Loving God, hear us  
as we offer these prayers in love for others.

For those who lack love  
because their hurts are too great –

*Silence*

Through Christ,  
may we be your friends and servants,  
**bringers of love and life.**

For those who lack hope  
because their ideals have been shattered —

*Silence*

Through Christ,  
may we be your friends and servants,  
**bringers of love and life.**

For those who lack life  
because their weariness is too overwhelming —

*Silence*

Through Christ,  
may we be your friends and servants,  
**bringers of love and life.**

*Offer any prayers you have for those you know and love*

Fill your people with love, hope and life.  
Cause us to celebrate with the joyful,  
mourn with the sorrowful,  
sit quietly with the weary,  
and encourage the eager.  
Touch us with the power of resurrection  
through Christ.

**Amen.**

**We are sent out**

Whatever you do, in word or deed,  
do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,  
giving thanks to God through him.

Go forth and live a life that is pleasing to God.  
And this is God's commandment:  
that we should believe in the name of Jesus Christ

and love one another,  
just as he has commanded us.  
**Amen.**