

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.

And remember, you are none of you alone.

A Service of Worship

Call to Worship

What love would move the heavens
And birth oceans
What love would form creatures of all sizes and shapes
And humans in love's image
What love would pour itself into skin
To lead us by the hand?

Love has called us here
We are here to learn the ways of love.
Let us worship in love and truth

Psalm 90

Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

You turn us back to dust, and say, "Turn back, you mortals."

For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past, or like a watch in the night.

You sweep them away; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning;
in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.

For we are consumed by your anger; by your wrath we are overwhelmed.

You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your countenance.

For all our days pass away under your wrath; our years come to an end like a sigh.

The days of our life are seventy years, or perhaps eighty, if we are strong; even then their span is only toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away.

Who considers the power of your anger? Your wrath is as great as the fear that is due you.

So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.

Turn, O LORD! How long? Have compassion on your servants!

Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

Make us glad as many days as you have afflicted us, and as many years as we have seen evil.

Let your work be manifest to your servants, and your glorious power to their children.

Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and prosper for us the work of our hands— O prosper the work of our hands!

Early word

Who loves you?

Love is interesting. Lots of people have loved you.

Spend some time now thinking about all the people who love you, and who have helped you be who you are. Are there many?

What about all the people you love? Try listing all of them out loud!

Now make a list of the ways you love people. Get your family to help you.

Love can be so many things!

Big things, and small things, and colourful things.

But what do you think love actually *is*?

Draw a picture of what love looks like.

We learn about love from God, who we believe is love. God is the beginning of all love.

So when we love one another, or receive love, that is God's love coming to us and going out from us, which is pretty amazing.

Let's pray a prayer about all the love in our lives.

Jesus, thank you for love.

Thank you for big love, like the love of our families,
like your love for us, the love we feel when we have a great day,
when we see the blue sky, when we remember to be kind.

Jesus thank you for small love, like when our mum picks up after us,
like when someone makes us a sandwich, like when we swap smiles with a stranger.

Thank you Jesus for comfortable love,
and smelly love,
and good tasting love,
thank you for sister love,
brother love,

mum and dad and grandparent love,
for crunchy love,
put together love,
old love and new love.
Thank you for the ways you love us,
and most of all, thank you for teaching us how to love as well.
Amen.

Sometimes we don't love well enough. This can make us sad, and hurt other people.
But we can always talk to God about it, and know that God still loves us.

Let's pray another prayer.

Mum and Dad God,
It is so hard to love.
To really dig to the guts of us
And love with our whole selves
Help us when we are tired
And don't even want to look at that one person let alone love them.
Help us when we are distracted
To remember and look closely to see who is hurting.
Help us when we are lazy, and can't be bothered thinking of anyone but ourselves.
Help us to love, even though it is hard.
Help us to love people who are different, people who we don't understand, people who
are hurting, even though we can't see it, and even people who we don't like.
Help us know what love looks like.
Amen

Everybody! God loves you, and is interested in teaching you about love!
It doesn't matter if you've made mistakes, you are still a part of Gods' plan, you are still
given God's love. Amen.

We sing: Love the Lord Your God

*See video. A song I used to sing when I was young about loving God with all of you- try singing in a
round if you can!*

Love the Lord your God
with all your heart
and all your soul
and all your mind
and love all of mankind
as you love yourself

x2

We've got Christian lives to live,
We've got Jesus' love to give
We've got nothing to hide
Because in Him we abide

Scripture reading

Matthew 22:34-46

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your Neighbour as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: "What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." He said to them, "How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying, 'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet"'? If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?" No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

Reflection

See video: what is love anyway?

A Song: Remedy

This is probably not a song you're familiar with, but I love it. Just a simple song about Jesus. I think it should be easy song to pick up, or you could just listen along.

Here we are
Here we are
Broken and used
Mistreated, abused
Here we are

Here you are
Here you are
Beautiful one came as the Son
Here you are

So we lift up our voices
Open our heads

Cling to the love that we can't comprehend
Lift up our voices
Lift up your heads
Sing to the one who has freed us from sin

He is the one who has saved us
(He is the remedy)
He is the one whose embraced us
(He is the remedy)
He is the one who has come and is coming again (he is the remedy)
He is the remedy (he is the remedy)
He is the remedy
He is the remedy
(He is the remedy)

Here we are
Here we are
Bandaged and bruised
Awaiting a cure
Here we are

Here you are
Here you are
A beautiful king brings us relief
Here you are

So we lift up our voices and open our heads
Let go of the things that would keep us from him
Lift up your voices
Lift up your heads
Sing to the one who has freed us from sin

He is the one who has saved us
(He is the remedy)
He is the one who has embraced us
(He is the remedy)
He is the one who has come and is coming again (he is the remedy)
He is the remedy (he is the remedy)
He is the remedy
He is the remedy
(He is the remedy)

Prayers of the people

We bring our prayers for all the people of the world, all of whom are our neighbour.

Let us pray.

You, wonderful God, whose glory the heavens declare
and whose handiwork the whole earth sees;
be with astronomers and astronauts
artists, photographers and bush walkers.

You, whose Spirit brooded over the face of the earth
and brought breath to all that lives and grows;
be with health workers who control viruses and bacteria,
or engineer genes and chromosomes.

You, for whom truth is not mere facts and figures,
but relationship and the gift of eternal love;
be with those whose science has left them empty
or whose technology has become a slavery.

You, who give us faith that leads to many doubts,
and deep doubts that lead to a larger faith;
be with all agnostics and those who despair,
and all the pure of heart who hunger for you.

You, who should mother and father forsake us,
cherish us as your very own family;
be with abused children and street kids,
social workers, magistrates and foster parents.

You, who when thick darkness covered humanity,
leapt into the night bringing light and joy;
be with night-shift workers and police,
evangelists, counsellors and pastors.

You, whose first-born, perfect Child
covered our sins and bore our griefs;
be with mothers and midwives,
the falsely accused and sorely abused.

You, who banish fears and bring a new dawn,
who swallow up death in victory;
be with those who risk their lives for others
and all who today face death alone.

You, who know our needs before we utter them
and do far more than we can ask or imagine;
 be with us as we offer these prayers
 and with all who have forgotten how to pray.

Through Jesus Christ our Brother and Saviour.
Amen and Amen!

We are sent out

A blessing from a black rock prayer book

The world now is too dangerous and too beautiful
for anything but love.
May your eyes be so blessed you see God in everyone.
Your ears, so you hear the cry of the poor.
May your hands be so blessed
that everything you touch is a sacrament.
Your lips, so you speak nothing but the truth with love.
May your feet be so blessed you run to those who need you.
And may your heart be so opened, so set on fire,
that your love, *your* love, changes everything.
And may the blessing of the God who created you, loves you,
and sustains you, be with you now and always.

May it be so.