

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

Let's put down everything else:
Our distractions, our preoccupying thoughts
Let's leave behind the things we know we have to do
The chores, the tasks, the busywork
And step into
 A time set apart.

We come here, to laptop, computer,
To lounge or dining room chair
To worship.
To have our sense of self expanded
Filled, drawn into the presence of the divine
And the wonder of community.

We are here to look Love full in the face
And to be changed even just a little.

Let's worship God.

A prayer of invocation...

God who is so frequently found at the edges
God who hovers over margins, who blurs boundaries
God who is buried just beneath all that dares us to take a risk;
We ask that as we worship,
You call us deeply into your song.
Bring us out of our kitchens, our living rooms,
Out of ourselves and into the knowledge of your holy, thrilling story.

In the name of love,
Amen.

Acknowledgement of country

As we gather, at the end of NAIDOC week,
We remember the first nations of this land and particularly the people have
cared for the land on which we live for thousands upon thousands of years.
May we commit to seeking and hearing the wisdom of these people. May we
commit to hope, and to work for reconciliation, hope and life. Amen.

We sing: Let Us Talents And Tongues Employ

See video link- such a fun song to start the day with I think.

Let us talents and tongues employ,
reaching out with a shout of joy:
bread is broken, the wine is poured,
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.
Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again.
Pass the Word around: loaves abound!

Christ is able to make us one,
at his table he set the tone,
teaching people to live to bless,
love in word and in deed express.
Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again.
Pass the Word around: loaves abound!

Jesus calls us in, sends us out
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share:
God (Immanuel) everywhere!
Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again.
Pass the Word around: loaves abound!

Prayers of who we are

Small God, big God.
God in spaces unseen

God glimpsed in puppies and reflected on lakes
We thank you for all that we have that is good:
Every spark of joy, every pure note sung,
Every laugh, every warm embrace, every love known.
(add some things you are thankful for!)
Thank you.

We thank you too for the harder, heavier moments,
When we can't remember what the lovely moments feel like.
Thank you that these moments don't define us
Thank you that you are with us during them,
Thank you for what we might learn about ourselves and each other during
them.

Please, Small God, Big God, loving God, Freeing God,
Forgive us for the times we forget you are around.
Forgive us for the times we can't remember your name,
Except as a curse word.
Forgive us our laziness, our negligence, our quiet hatred and sprawling
hypocrisy.
Forgive us and have this forgiveness bloom inside us the knowledge that we
can change, and the will to do it.
Heal us into loving more, humbling ourselves, into giving, into grace, into
thankfulness.

Amen.

Hear Christ's words of grace to all of us: "your sins are forgiven".
Thanks be to God.

We hear from Scripture

Matthew 25:14-30

"For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two

more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'

Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Early Word

See video link: what gifts have you got hidden away?

We hear again from Scripture

Judges 4:1-7

The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, after Ehud died. So the LORD sold them into the hand of King Jabin of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor; the commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-ha-goïim. Then the Israelites cried out to the LORD for help; for

he had nine hundred chariots of iron, and had oppressed the Israelites cruelly twenty years.

At that time Deborah, a prophetess, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel. She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the Israelites came up to her for judgment. She sent and summoned Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, “The LORD, the God of Israel, commands you, ‘Go, take position at Mount Tabor, bringing ten thousand from the tribe of Naphtali and the tribe of Zebulun. I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin’s army, to meet you by the Wadi Kishon with his chariots and his troops; and I will give him into your hand.’”

Reflection: what are we risking when we read the bible?

See video link

We sing: Take my life and let it be

See video link: let this be a prayer for you. If this version is a bit tricky to sing along with, why not just listen.

Take my life and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee
Take my hands and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love
At the impulse of Thy love

Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee
Take my voice and let me sing
Always, only for my King
Always, only for my King

Take my silver and my gold
Not a mite would I withhold
Take my moments and my days
Let them flow in ceaseless praise
Let them flow in ceaseless praise

Take my will and make it Thine
It shall be no longer mine
Take my heart, it is Thine own
It shall be Thy royal throne
It shall be Thy royal throne

Take my heart, it is Thine own
It shall be Thy royal throne

Prayers of the People

Lord God, we give you thanks for all your gifts to us—for daily food, for health, for each breath we take, for freedom to choose, and for the gifts of your word, your power and your love. Our hearts are truly overwhelmed when we consider how you have entrusted so much to us.

May we be worthy of that trust—may we be a people who are unafraid to live as fully and as richly as you want us to live.

Help us, O God, as followers of Jesus, to multiply all that you have given us, to risk spreading your word and perhaps see it misunderstood, to gamble by loving those whom others think worthy only of hate, to take chances by doing good to those who have not done good to us. Help us be faith filled and desire to increase your glory and your goodness in this world. Make us people who share in both word and deed that which you have given to us.

We pray for the church both gathered and scattered today, both here and around the world, that it may encourage all of its members to discover, develop and use all their gifts, those of nature and those of grace.

Holy Comforter, healing Spirit, grant your peace to those who are sick and those who grieve, and especially those of our own church families who are suffering today. Radiate through their lives with the light of your presence, that renewed healing and strength may be theirs.

We pray, dear Lord, for those whose actions offend us most and for those whom we have learned to fear and despise. Through your great love, make

tender all hearts hardened by hatred, bigotry and suspicion; and work your justice among us.

For what do the people pray? Offer your own prayers to the God who hears us all.

God of hope and new life, help us to see the joy and abundant life you intend for us. Forgive our short-sightedness and often miserly attitudes toward the created world which you have entrusted to our care.

Give us your peace—peace which is not so much an absence of trouble, as an awareness of your guiding presence and bounteous gifts in all that we do; for these our prayers we bring to you in the name of Jesus the Christ.

Amen.

We are sent out

This week: may the Giver of Good Gifts

Walk with us, and push us even just a little.

May Jesus the faithful one help us take risks when these risks would lead to a life more fully lived in service to God.

May we know our worth, and want to give ourselves away.

May we be ever guided by love, instead of fear,

And may we seek wisdom, hope, and joy wherever we are.

Amen.