

This short act of worship has been prepared for use while we are unable to gather together to worship. If you are well enough we invite you to spend a few moments with God, perhaps at 10:30am, the usual time our worship begins, knowing that other people are also sharing this act of worship with you.



As we come to worship you may like to have a time of silence and light a candle. Let us remember that wherever we are, God is with us.

Gathering Words

Lord, we come for guidance for our journey,
your word for our minds,
And the power of the Spirit to give us life.
We have come to you, Lord,
Because you are the way, the truth and the life. Amen.

Scripture: Psalm 66: 16, 19-20

Come and hear, all you who fear God,
and I will tell what he has done for me.
Truly God has listened;
he has given heed to the words of my prayer.
Blessed be God,
because he has not rejected my prayer
or removed his steadfast love from me.

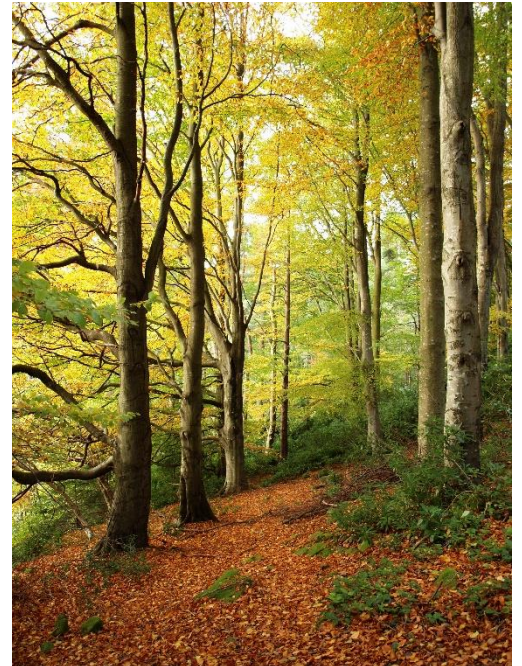
Adoration

In you we live and move
and all we are is known to you –
the depths of fear and the heights of hope
and the endlessness of our need for love:

Loving God, we adore you.

In you is space and breadth and room
for each of us to be ourselves –
to stretch and breathe, to laugh and weep
and sound the songs we long to sing:

Loving God, we adore you.



In you is time and strength to wait
for each of us to dare to dream and trust our hope
that you are love which does not end –
but ever holds us safe and close:

Loving God, we adore you.

In you we find ourselves fulfilled –
the unknown God, unseen, unnamed,
the great I AM who is, for us,
the word of life, made flesh, come true:

Loving God, we adore you. Amen.

Reading: John 14:15-21

‘If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

‘I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.’

Additional Readings: Psalm 66:8-20, 1 Peter 3:13-22, Acts 17:22-31

Reflect

Jesus promises he will never leave his disciples orphaned.

In these days of pandemic, we have, for a time, lost something of our freedom, our social interaction, our physical connection to each other. While we keep connected to each other in other ways to mitigate some of that loss, the loss is there all the same, and at times, we can feel lonely or orphaned.

Just as Jesus assures his disciples, Jesus assures us too – he will never leave us, and his Spirit is coming (has come!) and he lives with us.

Yes Jesus lives with us. He comes for you.

With a deep longing to know you, and the deep longings of your heart.

How does that make you feel?

Spend a few moments noting down those feelings.

What deep longings are there in your heart today?

Write them down and offer them to Jesus. Listen for his voice.

Spirit of the Living God

Use the words of this song as a prayer/meditation. Allow God's Spirit to wash over you, fill you and refresh you.

*Spirit of the living God,
Fall afresh on me;
Spirit of the living God,
Fall afresh on me.
Fill me anew,
Fill me anew.
Spirit of the Lord
Fall afresh on me.*



Prayers for ourselves and others

Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
One God, in perfect Community,

look now on us, *and hear our prayer for our community:*

where there is falseness, *smother it by your truth;*

where there is coldness, *kindle the flame of your love;*

where there is joy and hope, *free us to share it together;*

where there is anything we will not do for ourselves,

make us discontent until it is done.

And make us one, *as you are one.*

Before you, God who is near us,
we release anything we hold against you.
We regret all we have done to harm you.
We stand beside the wrong in our lives
and ask your gracious forgiveness.

The Lord Jesus Christ says to us, each one:
'Go and sin no more, come and follow me.'

As we follow you,
we pray for those in need of our prayers. Those known to us, and those who
have no-one to pray for them...

...raise the prayers of your heart before our God who hears...

We pray that your truth,
the flame of your love,
the freedom of your hope
and the oneness of your very being
will liberate, heal, restore, and transform.

We pray your kingdom come, your will be done...

...The Lord's Prayer...

Amen



Blessing

Have no fear, Christ is with you.
Have no doubt, Christ is in you.
Have no despair,
Christ is before you, around you and over you –
and will be for ever.

Amen.

Original material, formatting + editing by Dan Balsdon | Bible texts from NRSV, www.biblegateway.com

Gathering Words from 500 Prayers for all Occasions, David Clowes, p.25

Prayers of Adoration, Companion to the RCL, Vol 2: All Age Worship Yr A, Julie Hulme, p.100-1.

Prayers for others adapted from Prayers Encircling the World, SPCK 208.

Blessing from 500 More Prayers for all Occasions, David Clowes, p.312