

Preparing for Worship @ Home:

We invite you to bring a piece of bread to your worship space and place it on the cloth in front of you.

"Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love,

*love one another
deeply from the heart.*

You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God."

1 Peter 1: 22-23

Acknowledgement to Country

We give thanks to God for the Land on which we meet. We gratefully acknowledge the First Peoples of this district. We work for healing and reconciliation in this Nation.

Opening prayer

Sit with us,
Jesus of the lonely cross
while we are apart
from each other.

Surprise us,
Jesus of the empty tomb,
whisper our names
as we keep our distance.

Break through to us
Jesus of the wounded side.
Through our locked doors
come with your peace.

Break bread with us
Jesus of the open road.
Make our hearts burn with love,
open our eyes to your life.

Light your candle



TiS 242 Lord of the Dance

I danced in the morning
when the world was begun,
and I danced in the moon
and the stars and the sun;
and I came down from heaven
and I Danced on the earth,
at Bethlehem I had my birth:

***Dance then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the dance, said he;
and I'll lead you all where ever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.***

I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,
but they would not dance
and they wouldn't follow me.
I danced for the fishermen,
for James and John,
they came with me and the dance went on:
Dance then, wherever you may be...

I danced on the Sabbath
and I cured the lame:
the holy people said it was a shame.
They whipped and they stripped
and they hung me high,
and they left me there on a cross to die:
Dance then, wherever you may be...

I danced on a Friday
when the sky turned black;
it's hard to dance
with the devil on your back.
They buried my body
and they thought I'd gone;
but I am the dance and I still go on:
Dance then, wherever you may be...

They cut me down and I leap up high,
I am the life that'll never, never die;
I'll live in you as you live in me:
I am the Lord of the dance, said he:
Dance then, wherever you may be...

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Sydney Carter 1915-2004

Psalm 116: 1-4, 12-19

I love the Lord, because he has heard my voice and my supplications. Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.
I love you, because you hear me. I know this: I'm not speaking or crying into an empty nothingness. Because you listen, I can speak to you, so I'll keep on praying while I have breath.

The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish. Then I called on the name of the Lord: "O Lord, I pray, save my life!"

I've had tough times. I've been out there on the edge in all sorts of pain. That's when I cried out to you for rescue. You saved me; I know you did because I'm still here to tell the story.

What shall I return to the Lord for all his bounty to me? I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord, I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people.

What can I give back to you for all your extravagant blessings? I'll honour you with gratitude in the quiet of my house, and I'll make sure others know that I belong to you.

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful ones.

As you look on us with love in this life, so you hold us gently through the passage of death; this I know.

O Lord, I am your servant; I am your servant, the child of your serving girl. You have loosed my bonds. I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice and call on the name of the Lord.

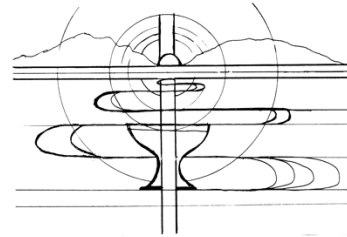
Just like my ancestors in the faith, I will do your work because you have set me free. I will keep on thanking and blessing you and calling on you by name.

I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people, in the courts of the house of the Lord, in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the Lord!

Let this affirmation ring out; We belong to the living God! Let it fill the places of emptiness, let it resonate through the halls of power, let it ring over cities and towns and echo through the heavens; Praise the living God!

Read: Luke 24:13-49

Prayer of confession.



Take your piece of bread and break a piece after each part of the prayer - *

God of all our lives,
Here from our familiar spaces
we can imagine being on the road to Emmaus.

We can imagine the disciple's pain
and confusion as they walked away from the city
after Jesus' death.

*When we have walked away from hard places
instead of staying in the struggle,
forgive us. - **

We can imagine Jesus walking with them
listening carefully to their stories,
acknowledging their grief.

*When we have chosen not to walk beside others
and acknowledge the reality of their pain,
forgive us - **

We can imagine Jesus's gentle teaching
filling their ears and firing up their hearts
with truth and life.

*When we have not listened for your Word
and paid no attention to the way your work
in our hearts,
forgive us - **

At the end of the day Jesus sat at the table with them and broke the bread. It was in the breaking that they finally knew who he was.

In our own brokenness Jesus comes to us with healing and forgiveness, and the power to make us whole.

In gratitude for the healing presence of God with you now, you are invited to eat a piece of the broken bread and be thankful.

Reflection

Today Wendy Jennie and Ian have all contributed to the reflection;

Wendy – The Empty Tomb

Jennie - On the Emmaus Road

Ian - At the table with Jesus

Hymn: One More Step Along the Road I Go

One more step along the world I go
One more step along the world I go
From the old things to the new
Keep me travelling along with you
And it's from the old I travel to the new.
Keep me travelling along with you.

Round the corners of the world I turn,
More and more about the world I learn.
All the new things that I see
You'll be looking at along with me
And it's from the old I travel to the new.
Keep me travelling along with you.

As I travel through the bad and good
Keep me travelling the way I should.
Where I see no way to go
You'll be telling me the way, I know
And it's from the old I travel to the new.
Keep me travelling along with you.

Give me courage when the world is rough
Keep me loving though the world is tough.
Leap and sing in all I do
Keep me travelling along with you
And it's from the old I travel to the new.
Keep me travelling along with you.

You are older than the world can be,
You are younger than the life in me.
Ever old and ever new,
Keep me travelling along with you
And it's from the old I travel to the new.
Keep me travelling along with you.

Sydney Carter, 1971 Stainer and Bell Ltd: London,
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Prayers of the People

In prayer, we bring to you, God who hears us,
people who are hurting, lost and alone,
whose names we know, and many we don't;

Let your Spirit be a constant companion
to those who are making their last journey of life,
in hospitals or at home.
Strengthen and comfort those who care for them.

Sit at the table with those who occupy this
isolation time alone,
let them know the delight of your company,
and the embrace of your world-wide family in
Christ.

Be a guide to those who find themselves
meandering,
taking paths of trouble and danger,
falling into wells of deep doubt and despair,
wearing layers of anxiety too heavy to bear.

Give hope to those who are away from home,
or who long to travel to be with family far away.
Bless them with connection that fills the aching
spaces,
bless them with courage to see this time through,
bless them with coping and kindness for
themselves.

God of love, Spirit of truth, Christ on the road,
Be our companion; in the breaking of the bread,
in the waking from our sleep,
in the living through this time, Amen.

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.

Offering

God, who meets us on every journey,
May the gifts we put aside today bring hearts
afire with hope.

(Talk with your congregation Treasurer this week how you
might arrange for your offering to be collected)

Notices

How might you open your heart on the phone, in
a letter, via email this week?

Blessing

Sit with us,
Jesus of the lonely cross
while we are apart
from each other.

Surprise us,
Jesus of the empty tomb,
whisper our names
as we keep our distance.

Break through to us
Jesus of the wounded side.
Through our locked doors
come with your peace.

Break bread with us
Jesus of the open road.
Make our hearts burn with love,
open our eyes to your life.

And may God fill us all

with love unbounded
so that we might love each other
deeply, from the heart,
as we are loved.

Peace be with you, and yours.
Now and always. May it be so.



TiS 530 Now let us from this table rise

Now let us from this table rise
renewed in body, mind and soul;
with Christ we die and live again,
his selfless love has made us whole.

With minds alert, upheld by grace
to spread the Word
in speech and deed,
we follow in the steps of Christ,
at one with all in hope and need.

To fill each human house with love,
it is the sacrament of care;
the work that Christ began to do
we humbly pledge ourselves to share.

Then give us grace, Companion God
to choose again the pilgrim way,
and help us to accept with joy
the challenge of tomorrow's day.

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Frederik Herman Kaan 1929-