



## Worship at Home *‘Our place in the communion of saints’*

*We believe that wherever we worship God ‘in Spirit and in truth’, He will be present.*

*To worship in your household, choose a specific place - perhaps somewhere you can light a candle, and where you and those joining you can sit together undisturbed. Choose a time when you can be unhurried. Then read slowly through the service sheet, praying the prayers as you go. If you are with others, then one of you can take the lead and say the words in normal type, with the other(s) reading the lines in bold, or you could take it in turns to lead. If it is just you, then read it all yourself. Some people find it helps to read the prayers and responses aloud, even on their own.*

*The Bible readings and the Reflection are provided separately, and there are prompts in this service for you to read, ponder and/or pray them. At any point, you could pause to look at the family activities, or do them later instead – whatever age you are! Hymns and songs are not included in the written version of this service but they usually are in the audio version of this service. You can find a new audio service each Sunday at [www.lordsbridge.org](http://www.lordsbridge.org). These words can be used alongside that service.*

*Find what works for you and, as you worship, pray and learn at home, may God bless you and those others doing the same.*

### **Gathering to worship God**

The Lord be with you  
**All: And also with you**

### ***Opening words***

We come to worship you, not alone,  
but united with our brothers and sisters in Christ  
across countries and continents,  
bound together by the same Lord  
and the same faith.

**All: I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever;  
I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.**

We come as part of the great company of your people  
in heaven and on earth,  
following in the footsteps of past generations,

those who have run the race before us  
and kept the faith.

**All: I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever;  
I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.**

We come as those called to build for the future,  
conscious of the generations that will follow  
and mindful of our responsibility to pass onto them  
the message we have received.

**All: I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever;  
I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.**

### ***Words of confession, forgiveness and praise***

*Pause for a moment here to reflect on the past week.*

We bow before the God who made us, who in Jesus calls us to follow, who by his  
Spirit is present to guide us and we ask for forgiveness:

We confess, God, that the way often seems hard  
and we are tired.

Lord have mercy

**All: Lord have mercy**  
Lord, speak into our tiredness with your story of grace

We confess that the way often seems unclear  
and we do not know the path

Christ have mercy

**All: Christ have mercy**  
Christ, speak into our wandering with your story of vision

We confess that we often feel tired of waiting  
and we just want to make it happen

Lord have mercy

**All: Lord have mercy**  
Lord, speak into our impatience with your story of wisdom

May God who loved the world so much  
that he sent his Son to be our Saviour  
forgive us our sins  
and make us holy to serve him in the world,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*We use these words of praise:*

Lord of all,  
God of space and time,  
ruler of history,  
sovereign over all that is and has been and shall be,

we acknowledge your greatness

**All: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good  
His steadfast love endures forever!**

We gather before you,  
the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob,  
the God who led your people through the wilderness,  
who spoke your word through the prophets,  
who lived and moved and breathed  
in the person of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good  
His steadfast love endures forever!**

In his name we come, knowing that  
as you have guided your people across the years  
so you will continue to guide us today,  
knowing that in life or in death,  
wherever we walk and whatever we experience,  
you will be there alongside us -  
a rock and a refuge,  
a source of strength, a giver of hope.

**All: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good  
His steadfast love endures forever!**

Lord of all,  
For all who have gone before us,  
and for calling us in turn,  
to be part of that great company of saints,  
we thank you and praise you.

**All: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good  
His steadfast love endures forever!  
Thanks be to God.**

### ***The Collect***

*This Sunday's prayer (collect) is included on the separate Bible Readings and Reflection pages.*

## **Listening and responding to the Word of God**

***Bible readings and Reflections** for this Sunday are provided separately. Please pause here, read and ponder them now. You might also like to use the Pic n Mix activities at this point.*

### ***Affirming our faith***

**All Christ died for our sins  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he was buried;  
he was raised to life on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
afterwards he appeared to his followers,  
and to all the apostles:  
this we have received,  
and this we believe.                      Amen.**

## **Prayers for others and ourselves**

Sovereign God,  
we recognise that we are part a the wider fellowship that we share in Christ,  
the great company of your people in heaven and on earth  
to which we are so privileged to belong  
and so now we prayer for those  
who seek, in turn, to follow you today.  
God of love

**All: hear our prayer**

We pray for those for whom commitment is costly -  
those who face hostility, discrimination,  
repression and persecution  
for the cause of the Gospel.  
give them strength and courage,  
so that they may keep their faith.  
God of love

**All: hear our prayer**

We pray for those who are finding the journey of discipleship difficult -  
troubled by doubts,  
plagued by temptation,  
or simply slipping back into old ways.  
Give them support and reassurance,  
so that they may walk with new confidence.  
God of love

**All: hear our prayer**

We pray for those expressing their faith in action -  
individuals through personal act of kindness,  
and agencies like Tearfund, Embrace, Christian Aid and Shelterbox  
together with so many others  
working, often against the odds,  
to give expression to the love of Christ.  
Give them love and compassion,  
so that they may make Christ real for others.  
God of love

**All: hear our prayer**

We pray for all seeking to communicate their faith -  
ministers, evangelists, missionaries, chaplains, but also ordinary, everyday believers -  
each telling in their own way what Jesus means to them.  
Give them wisdom and inspiration,  
so that they may speak your word with power.  
God of love

**All: hear our prayer**

Sovereign God,  
we pray for Christians everywhere striving to live out their faith  
in the world of today,  
with all the pressures, challenges and demands  
that confront them.  
Give them guidance and encouragement,  
so that they may grow in grace.  
Grant them humility to learn more of you each day  
and the ability to share their experience  
simply and effectively with others,  
making Christ known through word and deed.  
God of the Church

**All: Hear our prayer,  
and make us one in heart and mind  
to serve you with joy forever.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

### *The Lord's Prayer*

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;**

**but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

### **Going out to serve God**

Lord Jesus Christ,  
You built your church  
on the rock of redeemed humanity  
through the saints of every age,  
you extended, reformed and spread  
the household of faith.

**All: We, who inherit their work today  
thank you for what others have sown.  
Like them, may we so love and serve your kingdom  
that generations yet unborn  
may benefit from our witness;  
and, when the grace of life on earth shall end,  
find for us a place in the company of heaven,  
for your love's sake. Amen**

**And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ  
and the love of God  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
be with us all evermore. Amen**

Let us bless the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**