



Hospitality: The gift of God to us and our gift to others.

As we gather let us pause for a moment and remember the call God has placed on our lives.

Let us remember that the work we do is God's work not our own.

Whether we recognise God or not, God is in our midst. The fact that we are still breathing is a sign of God's ongoing creation of us.

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Even though we are unworthy:

Through the death of Christ He has made us worthy.

Each of us brothers and sisters:

Joint heirs with Christ.

Loving God

Help us to recognize you in those around us.

E te whanau, let us love one another, because love is from God.

We love because God loves us first, and everyone who loves is a child of God and knows God.

If we do not love the people we have seen, it cannot be that we love God, whom we have not seen.

God is love; those who dwell in love are dwelling in God and God in them.

Confession

Let us be thankful for our sin as it reminds us of our humanity and our need for God's forgiveness and grace.

There are many things that separate us from the worship of God, from loving our neighbours and seeing ourselves as you see us.

Silent reflection.

It is not easy, O God. So many things distract us. In the face of the realities of our life, we often feel the need to secure our future in ways which do not depend upon faith in you, but upon more and more material securities. Sometimes our neighbour is hard to love and we are tired of being loving. Sometimes we struggle to love ourselves as we focus on us instead of on you. Sometimes life itself makes it hard to love you because we feel you are unjust and life doesn't go according to our plans.

Silent reflection.

Assurance of pardon

Hear the word of God for us:

"I the Lord, have created you and formed you.

Do not fear for I have redeemed you.

I have called you by name you are mine

You are precious in my sight and I love you

I am the Lord your God, your Saviour."

Thanks be to God.

As we listen to the Scripture reading, let us notice the words or phrase that touches our heart:

Readings:

Sermon:

**We are the people who heal each other,
who grow strong together, who name the truth,
who know what it means to live in community,
moving towards a common dream
for a new heaven and a new earth
in the power of the love of God,
the company of Jesus Christ
and the leading of the Holy Spirit.**

Intercessory Prayer:

There are moments, O God, when we long to reach out and touch the world with your love, when our souls burn with the fire of your passion for your whole creation.

We look upon all people as made in your image, due for honour and deep respect as they struggle on in the toil and rewards of human life. We pray for those affected by war, poverty, abuse and starvation. Help us to discern how to become your hands and voice for those who struggle most today.

Silent reflection

In faith we pray for those known to us who need to recognise your love. Because you have been faithful to us, we know that you will be present with them too. These are the ones who are closest to our concern today.

People name those for whom they are concerned today

Take each one in your hand today, O God, and do not let them fall. Care for them as you do each small sparrow and each lily of the field, cherishing them on their way and watching over them.

Come close to us too, O God. Come into our hearts and search out our deepest unsaid prayers, for sometimes we dare not even ask for what we need, or we do not know what it is that will help us.

Be present with us this day, O God. Those we pray for and those we struggle to pray for. In the name of Christ, Amen.

As Christ teaches us we pray
Eternal Spirit
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom in heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope
and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever.
Amen.

The Peace

The peace of God be with you all.
In God's hospitality is our peace.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord is here.
God's Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts
We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to God.
It is right to offer thanks and praise.

It is the joy of our salvation, God of the universe,
to give you thanks through Jesus Christ.

You said, 'Let there be light';
there was light.
Your light shines on in our darkness.
For you the earth has brought forth life
in all its forms.
You have created us
to hear your Word,
to do your will
and to be fulfilled in your love.
It is right to thank you.

You sent your Son to be for us
the way we need to follow
and the truth we need to know.

You sent your Son to give his life
to release us from our sin.
His cross has taken our guilt away.

You send your Holy Spirit
to strengthen and to guide,
to warn and to revive your Church.

Therefore, with all your witnesses
who surround us on every side,
countless as heaven's stars,
we praise you for our creation
and our calling,
with loving and with joyful hearts:

**Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and just,
glory and goodness come from you.
Glory to you most high and gracious God.**

Blessed are you, most holy, in your Son,
who washed his disciples' feet.
'I am among you,' he said, 'as one who serves.'

On that night before he died
he took bread and gave you thanks.
He broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said:
Take, eat, this is my body
which is given for you;
do this to remember me.

After supper, he took the cup,
and gave you thanks.
He gave it to them and said:
Drink this. It is my blood of the new covenant,
shed for you, shed for all,
to forgive sin;
do this to remember me.

Therefore with this bread and wine
we recall your goodness to us.

**God of the past and present,
we your people remember your Son.
We thank you for his cross and rising again,
we take courage from his ascension;
we look for his coming in glory
and in him we give ourselves to you.**

Send your Holy Spirit,
that we who receive Christ's body
may indeed be the body of Christ,
and we who share his cup
draw strength from the one true vine.

**Called to follow Christ,
help us to reconcile and unite.
Called to suffer,
give us hope in our calling.**

For you, the heavenly one,
make all things new;
you are the beginning and the end,
the last and the first.

**Praise, glory and love be yours,
this and every day,
from us and all people,
here and everywhere. Amen.**

Christ's body was broken for us on the cross.
Christ is the bread of life.

His blood was shed for our forgiveness.
Christ is risen from the dead.

As God's people let us share
Christ's heavenly food.

Prayer after Communion

We are the body of Christ.

It is towards us that people come for hope and healing.

As we partner with God in our time together

may we be open to God's healing

so that we continue to become who God is creating us to be.

Blessing:

Let us serve the Lord, be at peace.

We serve in the name of Christ.

Reflection:

As Letty Russell says “If we insist they dress as we do and follow the same manners, we are not exercising hospitality but reforming others to match our expectations”

Are we really interested in accepting and getting to know those who are different to us? Or are we just trying to conform others to our way of thinking?

“Hospitality is also subject to deformation when it is practiced as a way of caring for so called ‘inferior people’ by those who are more advantaged and able to prove their superiority by being ‘generous,’ rather than using a model of partnership.” Letty Russell

How much of the hospitality / the social services we offer is about making us feel better?

How would your church’s thinking change if it saw itself as a guest in its community?

How would it change the way you interact with members of your community?