**Service of the Word**



**Welcome**

*We* ***sit*** *for the* **NOTICES** *and the* **INTRODUCTION** *to the service.*

**THE GREETING**

 The Lord be with you.

***All* And also with you.**

O God, you summon the day to dawn,

 You teach the morning to waken the earth.

 **Great is your name.**

 **Great is your love.**

For you the valleys shall sing for joy,

the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

**Great is your name.**

**Great is your love.**

For you the kings of the earth shall bow,

the poor and persecuted shall shout for joy.

**Great is your name.**

**Great is your love.**

Your love and mercy shall last forever,

fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise.

**Great is your name.**

**Great is your love.**

*We stand to sing our* **OPENING HYMN.**

**CONFESSION**

*We* ***sit*** *for our***CONFESSION**

When we offer God our confession, we join the beautiful work of reconciliation, which begins with our reconciling with God. Trusting in our Partner in grace, let us make our confession, first in silent prayer.

*Silent confession*

***All* Gracious and loving God, open our hearts so that we are able to admit to you the fullness of our lives – that which is beautiful and good, and that which is hurtful and hateful.**

**We confess that we do not follow Jesus in all that we do. We love with condition.
We judge and condemn. We cast the first stone, and keep the logs in our own eyes.
We do not turn to You as the source of our healing.**

**Forgive us, we pray. Forgive our sin, and empower us to be imitators of Christ in love and service. Amen.**

*(We remain* ***seated*** *to pray)*

Because you made the world,

And intended it to be a good place,

And called it’s people your children;

Because, when things seemed at their worst,

You came in Christ to bring out the best in us;

So, gracious God, we gladly say:

***All* Goodness is stronger than evil.**

**Love is stronger than hate.**

 **Light is stronger than darkness.**

 **Truth is stronger than lies.**

Because confusion can reign inside us, despite our faith;

Because anger, tension, bitterness and envy distort our vision;

Because our minds sometimes worry small things out of all proportion;

Because we do not always get it right, we want to believe:

***All* Goodness is stronger than evil.**

**Love is stronger than hate.**

**Light is stronger than darkness.**

 **Truth is stronger than lies.**

Because you have promised to hear us, and are able to change us,

And are willing to make our hearts your home,

 We ask you to confront,

control, forgive and encourage us as you know best.

 *(Pause)*

Then let us cherish in our hearts

 That which we proclaim with our lips:

***All* Goodness is stronger than evil.**

**Love is stronger than hate.**

**Light is stronger than darkness.**

**Truth is stronger than lies.**

Lord, hear our prayer, and change our lives until we illustrate the grace of the God who makes all things new.

***All* Amen.**

**THE COLLECT**

*A special prayer for the day from the Welsh Celtic tradition.*

Almighty Creator, maker of all things,

The world could not express your glory

Even were the grass and the trees to sing.

You made such a multitude of wonders

That they cannot be equalled

No language can express them,

No letters can contain them.

Yet it is no hardship

To praise the Holy Trinity;

It is our delight

To praise the Son of God

*We* ***stand*** *to sing our next* **HYMN**

**The Word of God**

*We* ***sit*** *to hear our first* **BIBLE READING**

*At the end of the reading:*

This is the word of the Lord.

***All* Thanks be to God.**

*We* ***stand*** *for our* **GOSPEL READING**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to John.

***All* Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the end of the reading:*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

***All* Praise to you, O Christ.**

*We* ***sit*** *to hear the* **SERMON**

**THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

*We* ***stand*** *to declare our faith in God.*

***All* With all Christians everywhere,
we believe in one God,
who made everything.
The Father sent his Son Jesus
to die on the cross.
Jesus rose again as Lord of all,
that we might live forever with him.
God sent his Holy Spirit to live in us,
that we might grow more like Jesus. Amen.**

*We* ***stand*** *to sing our next* **HYMN**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*We* ***sit*** *or* ***kneel*** *for our* **PRAYERS**

*Our response may be:*

Lord in your mercy

***All*** **Hear our prayer.**

*At the conclusion of our prayers, we may pray:*

Merciful Father

**All Accept these prayers**

 **For the sake of your Son,**

 **Our Saviour Jesus Christ.**

 **Amen.**

 **THE LORD’S PRAYER**

As our Saviour taught us, so we prayer

***All* 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.**

 **Lead us not into temptation**

 **But deliver us from evil.**

 **For the kingdom, the power**

 **And the glory are yours, now and for ever.**

 **Amen.**

**The Sending Out**

**OUR CLOSING RESPONSES**

*We remain* **seated***for* **CLOSING RESPONSES**

This is the day the Lord has made.

***All* We will rejoice and be glad in it.**

 We will not offer to the Lord

***All* Offerings that cost us nothing.**

 Go in peace and serve the Lord.

***All* We will seek peace and pursue it.**

 Glory to the Creator, to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

***All* As it was in the beginning, is now and shall be forever. Amen.**

*We sill sing our final* **HYMN** *outside.*