

## 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**

*The COLLECT, the church's special prayer for the day,  
is prayed.*

God of truth,  
Help us to keep your law of love,  
And to walk in ways of wisdom,  
That we may find true life,  
In Jesus Christ your Son,

Amen.

*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.**

*We stand to sing our final HYMN.*

## **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.**