

**CONGREGATIONAL
WORSHIPBOOK**

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CONGREGATIONAL WORSHIPBOOK Is Dedicated To

**The Gracious and Loving
PEOPLE OF GOD**

In

**Old South Congregational Church
Hartford, Connecticut**

**Oneonta Congregational Church
South Pasadena, California**

**First Congregational Church of South Hadley
Massachusetts**

**Hope Park and Buccleuch Congregational Church
Edinburgh, Scotland**

PREFACE

This Worshipbook is prepared for use in the Sunday and Special Services of the Churches. It is intended to encourage simplicity, orderliness, beauty and variety in Christian Services of Worship.

There are two chief formats for Services of public worship. One type is the festal Service which strikes a single note and holds it throughout from trumpet call to benediction. Such are the Services of Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter. The second type follows the universal pattern of 'mood progression' of which the first verses of Isaiah Six are a well known example. Such Services progress from a sense of awe in God's presence to adoration in music, to a prayer for forgiveness, to the hearing of God's Word in Scripture, to praise for the Word, to proclamation of the Word, and Prayer of Dedication, to the Hymn of Resolve, and then to the Benediction and Choral Response. A Service which follows the time-honored path of 'mood progression' may serve many and varied human needs by the several parts of the Service.

Herein there are alternate Orders of Worship, and an ample selection of aids to worship, such as Calls to Worship, Invocations, Calls to Giving, Prayers of Dedication, and Benedictions. Of great importance is 'The Hartford Lectionary,' a five-year calendar of readings for all Sundays, which insures the reading of all the connected passages of the New Testament and much of the Old Testament, and the Psalms.

The Sacraments and Holy Rites are provided with alternate forms, including carefully selected 'watchwords' for new members and a Service of Engagement.

The Christian Year is represented by Services for the Seasons. There is special care given to festal days and to the Great Week. This section is a book in itself.

A Compendium of Commemoration recognizes the need for a wide spectrum of alternate readings, from the New Testament, from the intertestamental books, from the Old Testament, and from the writings of poets and sages.

Prayers for all Seasons suggests ways of approach to God in public worship which touch the common needs of persons in language which is at once contemporary and enduring.

In the experience of every Church there are occasions which occur infrequently. Orders of Service are suggested for each epic day, such as Ground Breaking, Dedication of Deacons, Teachers, Officers, Musicians or a Christian Home.

The Music Section by Professor Ronald Huntington provides an interpretation of the vital role of music in Congregational worship. A wide selection of resources is organized by seasons and by the character of the music. Thus, there are hundreds of suggestions for preludes, postludes, offertories, anthems, solos, oratorios/cantatas, weddings and memorial services. The aim is to provide a varied diet of music which will nurture soul growth.

Congregational Usage includes both polity and procedures. These encompass a Church's Covenant Service; the call of a minister by a Church, licensing and ordaining procedures and services; installation, commissioning, and the preparations therefor. Finally, there is a brief section on what to do in time of trouble, including a "mutual council."

It has been found helpful to place copies of this Worshipbook in the pews alongside the Hymnal, thereby the repetitively duplicated Order of Morning Worship may be replaced. Ample opportunity for a wide variety of expression in worship is provided and individual creativity is encouraged.

The author/compiler bears testimony to the rich blessing of Congregational worship. It lightens dark days, makes glorious hours of sweet communion, and is an earthly foretaste of fellowship divine.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preface..... vi

SECTION ONE: SUNDAY WORSHIP

Orders of Worship..... 3

Calls to Worship and Invocations..... 20

Calls to Giving..... 57

Offertory Prayers..... 58

Unison or Responsive Readings from the New Testament..... 60

Prayers Before the Sermon..... 62

Prayers After the Sermon..... 63

Ascriptions and Benedictions..... 65

SECTION TWO: THE SACRAMENTS

Baptism of Children..... 69

Baptism of Adults..... 74

Reception of New Members..... 78

Covenant Affirmation..... 86

Watchwords for Those Uniting With the Church..... 90

Lord's Supper..... 93

SECTION THREE: THE HOLY RITES

Engagement or Betrothal..... 111

Christian Marriage..... 116

Civil Marriage..... 135

Couples' Re-Dedication..... 138

Music for Christian Marriage..... 140

SECTION FOUR: THE CHRISTIAN YEAR

Worship for the Christian Year..... 145

Table of Dates for Easter..... 150

Hartford Lectionary..... 151

**SECTION FIVE: ORDERS OF WORSHIP FOR FESTIVE DAYS
OF THE CHRISTIAN YEAR**

Creation Season..... 181

Providence Season..... 188

Incarnation Season..... 190

Proclamation Season..... 202

Presentation Season..... 208

Preparation Season..... 210

The Great Week..... 214

 The Great Week in Drama..... 218

 The Great Week in Living Pictures..... 256

 The Great Week in Poetry..... 258

 The Great Week in Music..... 264

 Roads of the Great Week..... 265

 Easter Worship..... 272

Fellowship Season..... 280

World Mission Season..... 282

Fulfillment Season..... 284

SECTION SIX: COMPENDIUM OF COMMEMORATION

Christian Burial..... 289

Child's Burial..... 300

For Use In Circumstances of Deep Distress..... 302

Prayer at the Death of a Minister..... 304

Readings for Numerous Occasions..... 305

 New Testament Readings..... 306

 Old Testament Readings..... 311

 Old Testament Apocrypha Readings..... 317

 Poets and Other Writers..... 318

SECTION SEVEN: PRAYERS FOR ALL SEASONS

Creation Season..... 377

Providence Season..... 387

Incarnation Season..... 399

Proclamation Season..... 410

Presentation Season..... 417

Preparation Season..... 425

The Great Week..... 443

Fellowship Season..... 465

Personal Witness Season..... 485

Section Seven: Prayers for All Seasons (continued)	
World Mission Season.....	490
Fulfillment Season.....	503
Morning Prayers.....	508
Evening Prayers.....	510
Ageless Prayers.....	512
Special Occasions.....	514

SECTION EIGHT: CELEBRATIONS OF THE CHURCHES

When Christians Dedicate.....	533
Groundbreaking.....	534
Laying Cornerstone.....	537
Church Building.....	540
Chapel.....	544
Memorial Dedication.....	548
Unveiling of the Window.....	552
Lectern and Holy Bible.....	554
Bible.....	556
Pulpit.....	557
Lectern or Reading Desk.....	558
Font.....	559
Communion Table or the Communion Vessels.....	560
Cross.....	562
Organ.....	566
Services of Recognition or Dedication.....	567
Musicians.....	567
Deacons.....	568
Teachers.....	572
Christian Home.....	575
Mortgage Burning.....	580

SECTION NINE: MUSIC IN CONGREGATIONAL WORSHIP

Church Music Repertory by Dr. Ronald M. Huntington	
Introduction.....	587
Organ Literature.....	588
Organ Preludes.....	589
Organ Music for General Use in Worship.....	592
Organ Music for Special Seasons.....	595
Organ Music for Weddings.....	599
Organ Music for Funerals and Memorial Services.....	600

Choral Literature.....	601
Anthems for General Use in Worship.....	603
Anthems for Special Seasons.....	608
Longer Choral Works.....	613
Solo Literature.....	614
Hymns for the Christian Year by Dr. Henry David Gray	
Introduction.....	620
Hymns for the Christian Year.....	621
Hymns for the Civil Year.....	629

SECTION TEN: CONGREGATIONAL USAGE

The Congregational Church Universal.....	634
Gathering A Congregational Church	
Why a Congregational Church?.....	636
First Steps.....	638
Second Steps.....	641
The Covenant.....	646
Rules of Procedure.....	651
The Role of the Officers.....	659
Ecclesiastical Councils.....	663
The Covenant Service.....	667
Summary.....	670
Guide for Congregational Churches and Ministers	
Historical Preface.....	672
The Search and Steering Committees.....	679
Open to a Call.....	683
Calling a Council.....	685
A Procedural Checklist.....	692
Minutes of Ecclesiastical Council.....	698
Order of Service for Ordination.....	705
Installation/Induction.....	713
Order of Service for Installation.....	715
Student Minister.....	719
Licensed Minister.....	722
Certificate Minister.....	726
Ordained Minister.....	728
Minister Emeritus.....	733
Congregational Service Agencies	
Preface.....	734
Historical Perspective.....	739
Associations.....	744

Congregational Usage (continued)

Area Fellowship, Council or Association..... 752
Membership of Ministers in the Association,
Fellowship, or Council..... 755
Procedures Shared Through the Committee on Churches
And Ministers..... 756
The Church's Responsibility to the Area Fellowship... 758
The Area Church-Body as Counsellor..... 760

**SECTION ONE
SUNDAY WORSHIP**

SECTION ELEVEN: A CONGREGATIONAL CATECHISM

Questions and Answers on Christian Faith..... 767

SECTION TWELVE: ACKNOWLEDGMENTS..... 773

INDEX..... 777

ORDERS OF WORSHIP

FIRST ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP

ORGAN PRELUDE "Deck Thyself, My Soul, With Gladness" Brahms

CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us worship the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. O magnify the Lord with me; come, let us exalt His Name together. Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly. Teach and admonish one another in all wisdom. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs. Give thanks to God the Father, through our Lord Jesus Christ.

HYMN OF PRAISE "Come Thou Almighty King" Giardini

RECOGNITION OF SPIRITUAL NEED (Unison, people seated, bowed.)

Let us pray. Almighty God, Source of all strength, understanding and love, forgive the sins that keep us from You, illumine our minds by the light of Your truth; inspire our hearts by the presence of Your Spirit and teach our unruly wills to act under the guidance of Your love, that we may worthily worship You now, and sincerely serve You all the days of our lives, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

In the words of our Lord when He taught His disciples to pray, saying, Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your Name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And leave us not in temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

CHORAL RESPONSE "Let the Words of My Mouth" Baumbach

RESPONSIVE READING

(New Testament readings such as the Beatitudes; the Psalms; selections from the Prophets; and the Wisdom literature. See pages 60-61.)

ANTHEM "How Lovely Is Thy Dwelling Place" Brahms

SCRIPTURE LESSON

(Before the lesson, these words may be used:)

"Hear the Word of God in the ___ chapter, beginning at the ___ verse, of the Book of ____."

(At the close of the lesson, these words may be used:)

"May God bless to us the reading of His Holy Word, and to His Name be glory and praise."

CALL TO PRAYER

Minister:

The Lord be with you.

Response: (sung by the choir or spoken by the people)
And with your spirit.

Minister:

Let us pray:
O Lord, be merciful to us,

Response: (choir or people)
Grant us Your forgiveness and salvation.

Minister:

O God, make clean our hearts within us.

Response: (choir or people)
Let Your Holy Spirit be upon us.

PASTORAL PRAYER

Let us pray. Father God, teach us to look at the things we see through clean windows, so that we may be sure what we think we see is what is there to be seen.

When doubts smudge the windows of the soul, grant us renewal of trust through worship, prayer and study which reaches right down to renew the foundations of our faith.

When fears make a film of jaundiced yellow on the windows of life, put us in the midst of a circle of understanding friends, family life, and a church fellowship alive with blessed and infectious assurance, joy, peace.

When we just can't seem to accept the truth lest it hurt us too deeply, plunge us into the midst of work or give us opportunity for new perspective so that we may find a fresh view of all of life by coming to see and to share Your view of at least one little bit of life.

Most especially, take our eyes off ourselves and focus them on the work You have for us to do, and the life You would have us live.

Father God, whenever the truth is waiting to be seen clearly and to be applied freely, forgive us if we fail to look straight at it or bid it open-hearted welcome. At such times, give us grace to clean the windows of our house of life. Thus, grant us good sight, good sense, gracious living, capacity to overcome challenge, and the will to live at one with ourselves, others, our world, and You. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CHORAL RESPONSE "Hear Our Prayer, O Lord" Whelpton

HYMN OF DEVOTION "Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee" Dykes

ANNOUNCEMENT AND OFFERTORY

Freely you have received, freely give; the Lord loves a cheerful giver.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM "To God On High Be Glory" Bach

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS AND DOXOLOGY

(The people will stand until the Minister is seated, after a dedicatory prayer, such as:)

"Accept these gifts, our Father, as the outward and visible tokens of our dedication of ourselves to Your service in Christ's Name. Amen."

SERMON

HYMN OF PURPOSE "Lead On O King Eternal" Smart

BENEDICTION

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. Amen.

CHORAL RESPONSE "Lead Me, Lord" Wesley

ORGAN POSTLUDE "Pastorale in F" Bach

SECOND ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP

ORGAN PRELUDE "I Call To Thee Lord Jesus Christ" Bach

CALL TO WORSHIP

O come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord our maker, for He is our God and we are His people.

INVOCATION

Let us pray. O Lord our God, Who alone are worthy to be praised by Your whole Church on earth and in heaven, we glorify Your Name; for You have created us, You have redeemed us, and You love us with an everlasting love. Cleanse us, we pray, by Your grace, and guide us by Your Holy Spirit, that we may offer to You acceptable worship; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

"God of Our Fathers, Whose Almighty Hand" Warren

PEOPLE'S CONFESSION OF SINS

(The Minister may first say:)

Let us confess our sins to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Let us pray. Holy are You, Lord God; but we have sinned; and now in true repentance we seek Your forgiveness. We confess our faithlessness and our forgetfulness of You; our pride in ourselves and trust in our own righteousness; our unwillingness to forgive others. Grant that, renewed in faith and hope and love by the working of Your Holy Spirit in our lives, we may live as faithful followers of Your Christ, and come at last to Your eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Who taught His disciples to pray, saying, "Our Father...Amen."

CHORAL RESPONSE "Hear Our Prayer, O Lord" Whelpton

ANTHEM OF PRAISE "Jesus Joy of Man's Desiring" Bach

SCRIPTURE LESSON Isaiah 55:6-13
Mark 7:14-23
II Corinthians 7:14-21

PASTORAL PRAYER (Thanksgiving, Intercession, God's Guidance)

CHILDREN'S TALK

HYMN OF DEVOTION "Fairest Lord Jesus" Willis

CALL TO GIVING

Remember the words of the Lord Jesus; it is more blessed to give than to receive.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM "Awake Us, Lord" Bach

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS AND DOXOLOGY (All standing)

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Let us pray. O God, most holy and most loving, You are willing to receive the gifts of Your people. Accept these offerings which we present for Your service; and grant that we may give ourselves to Your work and witness, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SERMON

ASCRPTION OF PRAISE

Let the words of our mouths be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, our strength and our Redeemer. Amen.

HYMN OF PURPOSE "Jesus, Thou Divine Companion" Le Jeune

BENEDICTION

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and your minds in Jesus Christ and the blessings of God Almighty, the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

ORGAN POSTLUDE "Fantasia and Fugue in G Minor" Bach

THIRD ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP

PRELUDE "Choral Prelude" Brahms

CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us worship the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endures forever. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise.

HYMN OF PRAISE "Holy, Holy, Holy!" Dykes

ANTHEM OF PRAISE

"Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies" Candlyn

SCRIPTURE LESSON:

Old Testament: Jeremiah 31:31-34

New Testament: Matthew 25:1-13

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:

Let us pray. O God, the light of every heart that sees You, the life of every soul that loves You, the strength of every mind that seeks You, lead us ever to continue in Your holy love. Be the joy of our hearts. Enlarge our lives with ever keener insight, and ever wider vision. Amen.

HYMN OF DEVOTION

"Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart" Atkinson

SERMON

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray. O great hearted Redeemer, hear our prayer for those who desperately need You: for the sick of body, mind and spirit; for the beaten down and broken; for the friendless and homeless. Let Your healing Presence be with them, we pray. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO GIVING

"They voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond their means...sharing in this ministry."
II Corinthians 8:3-4

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

Let us pray. Almighty God, we, Your unworthy servants, give humble and hearty thanks for all Your loving kindness to us, and to all people. We bless You for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of life. But above all, we thank You for Your limitless love so marvelously made clear in Jesus Christ; to Whom, with You and the Holy Spirit, be all glory, laud and honor. Amen.

HYMN OF FELLOWSHIP "O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee" Smith

BENEDICTION

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of His Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. Amen.

POSTLUDE "Postlude on Lowell Mason Hymns" Bingham

FOURTH ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP

PRELUDE

(Improvisation on Hymn Tunes)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Give to the Lord the glory due His Name.
Sing to the Lord a new song.
Bless His Name and show forth
His salvation from day to day.
Praise His Holy Name!

HYMN OF PRAISE "Christ for the World! We Sing!" Giardini

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION

Let us pray. We praise You, we adore You, we glorify
You for all Your wondrous love, of which we are unworthy.
Forgive our sins and imbue us with a kindly heart and
gracious spirit. Amen.

GLORY BE TO THE FATHER

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 10:1-14
Gospel: Matthew 11:25-30

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO GIVING

Let each person give as God inspires; not grudgingly,
but with joy.

OFFERTORY HYMN "Create in Me a Clean Heart"

Berger

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Let us pray. Accept these offerings, O God, in token
of our giving of our lives in Your service, here, in this
place, and wheresoever the arms of this Church reach out
to work with You. Amen.

SERMON

HYMN OF DEDICATION "Take My Life and Let it Be"

Dykes

FELLOWSHIP OF PRAYER

Thanksgiving

Intercession

Service

Lord's Prayer (debts and debtors)

CLOSING HYMN "Savior, Again To Thy Dear Name"

Hopkins

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you. Amen.

POSTLUDE

(Improvisation on Service Hymns)

FIFTH ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP

PRELUDE Franck

INTROIT "Send Out Thy Light and Thy Truth" Gounod

OPENING HYMN OR PROCESSIONAL

"Now Thank We All Our God" Cruger/Mendelssohn

INVOCATION

Let us pray. Our heavenly Father, You have promised to hear us when two or three gather together in Christ's Name. Depending on Your promise, we meet in Your Presence to seek forgiveness and to ask for strength to serve You as we ought to serve. Enable us to worship You in spirit and in truth, in sincerity and in trust, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray, Our Father... Amen."

GLORY BE TO THE FATHER

ANTHEM "God Be In My Head" Edmundson

PASTORAL PRAYER

Holy Father of all;
Hear us as we pray for others,
Especially for those in danger
In doubt, in trial, or temptation.

Where there is fearfulness
Grant the blessing of Your Presence.
Where there is weariness and doubt
Come in confidence and power.

Where there is temptation
Lend Your aid! Nerve men for life's fray!
Where there is impurity and greed,
Cleanse, reform, rectify and redeem.

We pray not only for others
But also for ourselves;
For we need You very much indeed
To help us to be the persons we ought to be.

Teach us to identify the causes
Of our willfulness and waywardness
And teach us how to deal with
Those springs of evil, permanently!

Yea, God and Father of us all,
Unite our hearts to worship in truth
And move our hands and our feet
To serve You and our fellowmen in
Simplicity and in sincerity. Amen.

CALL TO GIVING

Let all who give do so with liberality, cheerfulness,
and a thankful spirit.

DOXOLOGY AND DEDICATION OF OFFERING

These offerings, now dedicated to Your service, are but
symbols of the giving of our whole being to You. Amen.

HYMN "Not Alone for Mighty Empire" Haydn

SERMON

HYMN "Christian, Rise and Act Thy Creed" Handel/Monk

BENEDICTION

Go in peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be upon you, and remain with
you always. Amen.

POSTLUDE "Triptyque" Benoit

INFORMAL ORDER OF WORSHIP

HYMN SING

"Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus"
"Who is on the Lord's Side"
"Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory"
"Brightly Beams Our Father's Mercy"

INVOCATION

Let us pray. Our Father, we have praised You with our lips. Please send down Your Holy Spirit to strengthen our high resolve and nerve us for life's fray, that we may be faithful and devoted followers of Your beloved Son, our Lord, in Whose Name we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Old Testament: Daniel 2:17-23
The Gospel: Luke 14:7-14
The Epistle: Hebrews 11:1-6

EXPOSITION OF THE SCRIPTURE

"You Are My Witness"

SEASON OF PRAYER

Confession
Supplication
Intercession
The Lord's Prayer

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OFFERING

HYMN OF FELLOWSHIP

"Master, No Offering Costly and Sweet" Parker

BENEDICTION

Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope, and serve Him through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

FIRST ORDER OF EVENING WORSHIP

SERVICE PRELUDE (Bach, Handel, other great composers)

CALL TO WORSHIP

It is toward evening, and the day is far spent. Seek the Lord and His strength, seek His Presence continually. And the Lord will rule over all the earth!

EVENING HYMN "Now the Day is Over" Barnby

INVOCATION

Let us pray. Almighty God, from Whom comes every good and perfect gift, and Who gives to all who desire the spirit of goodwill and the knowledge of forgiveness. Deliver us, as we draw near You, from coldness of heart, and wandering of mind; so that with steadfast thoughts and kindled affections we may worship You in Spirit and in Truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Let us pray. Almighty and merciful God, You know the thoughts of our hearts. We confess that we have sinned against You and done evil in Your sight. Forgive us, O Lord, and cleanse us from the effects of all our sins. Give us grace and power to put away all hurtful things; so that, being delivered from the bondage of sin, we may bring forth fruits worthy of repentance. Grant that, with all our heart and mind, and strength, we may evermore seek Your Way; and finally bring us into Your Holy Presence; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF SUPPLICATION

Let us pray. Most loving Father, Who teaches us to give thanks for all things, to dread nothing but the loss of Your Presence, and to cast all our care on You because You care for us; keep us from faithless fears and needless anxieties; and grant that no clouds of this mortal life may hide us from the light of the love which is immortal, manifested to us in Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Psalm 139 (selected verses)

GLORY BE TO THE FATHER

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON 1 Corinthians 13

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

Let us pray. Most gracious God, hear the praise of our hearts, illumine our vision of truth, and use our hands to help wherever there is need. We pray for all who are hungry, downtrodden, or despairing. Send Your help, Your light, Your love with convincing power. Yea, help them to be made whole. Hear our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord, Who taught His disciples to pray, saying, "Our Father... Forgive our sins as we forgive those who sin against us...Amen."

HYMN OF DEVOTION "Spirit Divine, Attend Our Prayer" Heins

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO GIVING

"Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:16)

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Let us pray. Most gracious God, You have called Your Church to worship You. Receive our sacrifice of praise. Accept and bless this offering which we make; and give us grace to dedicate ourselves to Your service, in the Spirit of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SERMON

PRAYER

Let us pray. O God, our heavenly Father, with Whom there is no darkness, but the night shines as the day; we commit ourselves and all who are dear to us into Your care and protection. Grant us rest and peace; refresh us for the work we have to do; make us always willing and ready for Your service; and bring us finally to the eternal light of Your Presence; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

HYMN OF PURPOSE "Rise Up, O Men of God" Walter

BENEDICTION

The peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and your minds in Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

SERVICE POSTLUDE "Air a La Bourree" Handel

SECOND ORDER OF EVENING WORSHIP

SERVICE PRELUDE "Evening Song" Barstow

CALL TO WORSHIP

(Use one or more sentences of Holy Scriptures, such as:)

"The Lord is near to all who call on him...in truth."
(Psalm 145:18)

"Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you."
(Matthew 7:7)

"All who humble themselves will be exalted." (Matthew 23:12)

INVOCATION

Let us pray. Most gracious God, Who seeks us before we ever turn to You, and Who is always with us, even when we know it not; grant to us now the assurance of Your nearness and Your love, and give us that peace of heart and mind and soul which You have promised through Your Son. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Let us pray. We confess that we have yielded to temptation and fallen into sin. We have tried to live without You in the world, and have refused to admit Your claim upon our lives. We have sought our own advantage and have closed our hearts against our fellowmen. Have mercy upon us, we most humbly beseech You; blot out all our sins; and grant that, reconciled to You and to one another, we may show forth all Your praise: through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

HYMN OF PRESENCE

"Sun of My Soul, Thou Saviour Dear" Vienna/Monk

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Psalm 29

HYMN OF THE WORD

"Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak" Arr. Schumann

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON John 1:1-14

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND SUPPLICATION

Let us pray. Abundant source of every good and perfect gift, we offer thanks to You out of grateful hearts. You know our faults, which are many: our hasty words that ought not to have been spoken, our dullness of understanding of others, and the waywardness of our affections. Forgive us, strengthen and sustain us in all our wanderings, and bring us safely to Your open arms. Hear our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord, Who taught His disciples to pray, saying, "Our Father...Amen." (debts and debtors)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO GIVING

Give as God has given unto you, freely and gladly.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Let us pray. O God our Father, who gave Your only Son for our life and salvation; give us such thankful hearts, we beseech You, that our offerings may be acceptable to You through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SERMON

HYMN OF ACTION

"Lead Us, O Father, in the Paths of Peace" Langran

BENEDICTION

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

SERVICE POSTLUDE

Variations on "The Lord Is My Shepherd" Wright

Eyes To The Hills

I lift up mine eyes to the hills. From whence does my help come? My help comes from the Lord, Who made heaven and earth. The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.

Let us pray. O God, our Lord, Lord of all creation, come near and bless us as we turn our hearts to You in praise and prayer. Let the needs of our souls find answer in the worship of this Sunday morn, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Who taught us to say together as we pray, "Our Father...Amen."

In His Light We See Light

O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His Name together! For with God is the foundation of life; and in His light do we see light.

Let us pray. O Lord, open our lips and purify our hearts, that we may worthily magnify Your Holy Name. Teach us to worship You now and always in the faith and Spirit of Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Enter His Presence With Praise

Let us worship the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endures forever. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving and into His presence with praise.

Let us pray. Lord, it seems a bit presumptuous for us to expect You to be concerned with us; we're a rather tiny speck in the whole of Your Creation. But, Lord, Jesus told us You **wanted** us to worship You. He even said we'd be welcome, like lost sons returning to their true home. Well, Father, God, that's what we want to do right now...return to our true home as spiritual persons. Welcome us home, we pray. Amen.

Let Us Exalt God

Bless the Lord at all times. Let His praise be continually in our mouths. O magnify the Lord with me and let us exalt His Name together! Praise ye the Lord!

Let us pray. We bless Your Holy Name this day, O God, our Creator. Come among us that our praise and our prayers may be acceptable in Your sight. Come with Your cleansing, for we need it. Come with Your healing Presence, for we are sore buffeted by life and need that most of all. Come, Lord, come, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Who taught us to say as we pray together, "Our Father...Amen."

The Way, The Truth, and The Light

Jesus said, 'I am the way, the Truth, and the Light. No one can come to the Father except through Me. If you know Me, you will know my Father also.' Praise ye the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Let us pray. Almighty God, Creator of all that is--including us, we seek to worship You in sincerity and in love. Grant that our devotion may be acceptable, and that our lives may reflect Your purity and power. In the Spirit of Jesus, Who taught His disciples to pray saying, "Our Father...Amen."

Magnify the Lord

Let us worship the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. O magnify the Lord with me; come, let us exalt His Name together. Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly. Teach and admonish one another in all wisdom. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs. Give thanks to God the Father, through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Let us pray. Father in heaven, grant us Your blessing, come down among us today, fill us with love and guide us in serving. Grant us Your blessing, we pray. Amen.

That We All May Be One

Let us join the Christian people of the world to worship and serve the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Those who worship the Father are called to worship Him in Spirit and in Truth.

Let us pray. Lord God, we seek Your holy Presence that we may be one with all who love You and seek to follow your Christ--everywhere. Amen.

Bow Before Our Maker

O come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord our Maker, for He is our God and we are His people.

Let us pray. O Lord our God, Who alone is worthy to be praised by Your whole Church on earth and in heaven, we glorify Your Name; for You have created us, You have redeemed us, and You love us with an everlasting love. Cleanse us, we pray, by Your grace, and guide us by Your Holy Spirit, that we may offer to You acceptable worship; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Be Glad and Rejoice

God made this day! And us. We will be glad and rejoice in it. Come, let us worship the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Let us pray. Almighty God, Who are we to ask Your blessing? We are Your children! As Your creatures we ask You to fulfill for each of us what is best for each; to forgive us our thoughtless sins; and to unite us where uniting counts--in our worship of You, God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ Who taught us to pray together, saying, "Our Father... Amen."

The God Who Works Wonders

I will call to mind the deeds of the Lord. I will meditate on Your works, and muse on Your mighty deeds. Your way, O God, is holy. You are the God who works wonders, Who has manifested Your might among the peoples. With Your Son You redeemed Your people.

Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God, we beseech You to inspire Your universal Church with the Spirit of truth, unity, concord and godly love. To all Your people give Your heavenly grace, and especially bless this Church, that with due reverence all who are present may hear and receive Your Word throughout this earthly life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Who taught us to pray, saying, "Our Father...Amen."

The Whole Earth Full of God's Glory

God be in my head; and in my understanding.
God be in my eyes; and in my looking.
God be in my mouth; and in my speaking.
God be in my heart; and in my thinking.
God be in my end; and in my departing.

Peace be within your walls. Peace be to all who enter here! May the Lord God hasten the time when the whole earth shall be full of His glory, when all of life shall be pure, all work, all worship, and all His children everywhere shall live in the Spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Let us pray. O Lord God, Who is the Author of peace and Lover of concord, grant that we, who meet in this house of prayer, may have in mind the goodly company of Christ's people throughout the world. Keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Amid diversities of thought may we be delivered from blindness, prejudice, and lack of sympathy; and by the charity of our thought and life may we manifest the power and grace of our faith, glorifying Him Who is the Master of us all, the Prince of Peace, even Jesus Christ our Lord, Who taught us to pray, saying, "Our Father...Amen."

On Wings of Song

Sing to the Lord a new song. Sing to the Lord all the earth. Sing to the Lord, bless His holy Name. Praise ye the Lord.

Let us pray. On wings of song come and make Yourself known to us, here in this place of praise and prayer. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught His disciples to pray together, saying, "Our Father...Amen."

Give Thanks to God

Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise! Give thanks to Him; bless His Name. Praise ye the Lord!

Let us pray. God, Father of our souls, so unite us with You in our worship that Your Presence may be manifest in our daily lives, and Your will become our will, that men seeing Your grace and power in us on earth may glorify You, our Father, which art in Heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prepare The Way

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed. Get you up on a high mountain. Say to the cities, "Behold your God."

Let us pray. O Lord of all goodness and compassion, we ask Thy blessing upon ourselves and our households, that Thou wouldst preserve us from those things which harm the body and defile the soul; help us to acknowledge Thee in all things; and guide us by Thy Spirit into those ways of righteousness and service which lead unto eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Thanksgiving

Hear ye!

Hear ye!

All ye descendants of the Pilgrims.

This is the time appointed

To assemble in our Meeting House

That we may praise God

In the remembrance of

Our spiritual ancestors.

Praise ye the Lord.

It is He that hath made us

We are His people.

Praise ye the Lord.

Let us pray.

Let Thy holy Presence be amongst us

On this day of remembrance,

That we, being made aware of the

Character and conviction

Which made this land free

May enter into our inheritance

And, when comes our departure from this earth,

Grant that we may leave the world not only not less,

But more beautiful than it was

When passed on to us,

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught His disciples to

Pray, saying, "Our Father...Amen."

Made For God

Behold the dwelling of God is with men. He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be with them!

God is not far from each of us, for in Him we live and move and have our being.

Lord, You have made us for Yourself, and our hearts are restless till they rest in You.

Let us pray. Almighty God, in our need we turn to You, the Fountain of our life. Forgive us if we have forgotten to pray and have been careless in living, and blind to the things which should have been our chief concern, so that Your beauty has gone from our lives and Your rest from our hearts. Bring us back to Yourself; keep us quick and sensitive to Your Will; help us to cherish that which is true and abiding; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Steadfast Love

O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever! Let us thank the Lord for His steadfast love, for His wonderful works to the sons of men! For He satisfies him who is thirsty, and fills the hungry with good things.

He brought them out of darkness and gloom; He broke their bonds asunder. He sent forth His word and healed them, and delivered them from destruction. He made the storm to be still, and the waves of the sea were hushed. Whoever is wise, let him give heed to these things, let us consider the steadfast love of the Lord.

Let us pray. Our dear heavenly Father, we have been un-mindful of all Your gracious gifts; in this quiet hour give us grace to meditate thereon. Lead us by the quiet waters and there renew our strength so that we may mount, as on eagle's wings, toward You. Amen.

In the Shelter of God

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High, who abides in the shadow of the Almighty, will say to the Lord, "My refuge, my fortress; my God in Whom I trust."

O come let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker. Know that the Lord is our God. It is He that made us, as we are His; we are His people and the sheep of His pastures.

Let us pray. Our Father God, we pray for Your Presence with us in this hour of worship. Grant that the praise of our lips, the prayer of our hearts, and the preaching of Your Word may be acceptable in Your sight, our strength and our Redeemer. In Christ's Name. Amen.

Give Thanks to God

Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into His Presence with singing! Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise! Give thanks to Him, bless His Name! For the Lord is good; His steadfast love endures forever, and His faithfulness to all generations.

Let us pray. Eternal Father of our spirits, Whose mighty Providence governs all the earth and its peoples, we humbly beseech Thee to be present in our midst this day, that we may sincerely repent from our sins, that we may worthily worship Thee in Thy Church, and that we may show forth Thy marvelous love and power in all that we think and say and do. Hear our prayer in the Name of Christ, Who taught us to say, "Our Father... Amen."

Christmas

Beloved in Christ, this Christmas Sunday morn we come together as a Church to hear again the words of Holy Scripture which tell of God's loving purposes for all men. Mark then, the words of Holy Writ. Hear them and understand. God spoke to Abraham saying, 'Since you have not spared your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you. I will make your descendants as stars in the sky and all nations on earth shall seek bliss like theirs--because you have kept My Word.' In many and various ways God spoke of old to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days He has spoken to us by a Son, Whom He appointed the heir of all things, through Whom He created the world. That Son reflects the glory of God and bears the very stamp of His nature, upholding the universe by His Word of power. God also bore witness by signs and wonders and by gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Let us pray. Almighty God, Creator and Ruler of all worlds, Who in the beginning created light to dispel darkness, we bless You for the light of Your love seen in the face of Jesus Christ. We worship and adore You with heartfelt thanks for the fulfillment in Him of the promise of the ages. Blessed are You, Lord God most Holy, for You have visited and redeemed Your people; and Holy is Your Name. Amen.

Put On the Garments of Light

It is high time to wake up; for our salvation is nearer than we thought. The night is almost over, the day is at hand. Let us therefore put aside the works of darkness, and let us put on the garments of light.

Let us pray. Most loving Father, Who teaches us to give thanks for all things, to dread nothing but the loss of Your Presence, and to cast all our care on You because You care for us, keep us from faithless fears and needless anxieties, and grant that no clouds of this mortal life may hide us from the light of the love which is immortal, manifested to us in Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Additional Christmas
Calls to Worship**

Come to the manger to worship the King.
Come with the shepherds and join as they sing.
Come to the crib and blessings receive;
Come unto Bethlehem, come and believe.

Joy to the world, the Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing.

Come worship Him within the shrine. Lift up your voice and sing. May He Who came to Bethlehem reign in our hearts as King.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Those who dwell in a land of deep darkness on them has light shined. For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His Name shall be called, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

He Was Proclaimed

Come let us worship
God our Father
With Whom we have fellowship
Through our Lord Jesus Christ
By Whom also He was proclaimed
To all men.

Let us pray. Almighty Father, Who has revealed Yourself supremely in Jesus Christ, we ask Your Presence with us as we seek to worship You in Spirit and in Truth. Make clean our hearts within us. Open our eyes to see, and our ears to hear Your living Word. Then, Lord, as we go forth from this hour of worship, grant us that our lives may more truly serve You. Hear our prayer, through Jesus the Christ, Who taught His disciples to say, when they pray, "Our Father...Amen." (debts and debtors)

At the New Year

O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His Name together! Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.

Let us pray. Our heavenly Father, we invoke Your blessing upon our worship on this New Year's Day. Let the year which opens before us be rich in godly living and goodly service. Let this very hour bring to us release from the bonds of sin and frustration and failure through Your forgiveness and by Your indwelling power in our lives, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Help From the Lord

I lift up my eyes unto the hills. From whence comes my help? My help comes from the Lord Who made heaven and earth. Behold, He who keeps Israel will not slumber nor sleep. God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Let us pray. God of all grace, pour forth Your Holy Spirit in this, our time of worship, and also in our daily lives, that we may have strength of which the world knows not; that we may be led into all truth, and that in the midst of our earthly trials and uncertainties we may have the peace that passes understanding, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Make Known His Deeds Among The Nations

Come, let us give thanks to You, O Lord. Behold, O God of our salvation, we will trust and will not be afraid, for the Lord is our strength and our song. Give thanks to the Lord; call upon His Name; make known His deeds among the nations. Come, let us exalt His Name together, for great is our God.

Let us pray. Father of light, in Whom there is no shadow, shed Your light unto every dark corner of our souls, that we may know our need of You, and knowing it, find a new and nobler life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Worship In Spirit and In Truth

This is the time for those who are true worshipers to worship the Father in Spirit and in truth. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship Him in Spirit and in Truth. Let us worship the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ with praise and prayer.

Let us pray. Lord, here we are gathered in church meeting to worship You in sincerity. That's good. But it's not good enough; unless You, Yourself, bless us by Your own Presence. This we ask in the Spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Inspire and Persuade

O send out Your Light and Your Truth. Let them lead us. Let them inspire and persuade us in this hour of worship. Praise ye the Lord.

Let us pray. Father God, You've shown Yourself to us, and to our fathers, in many and varied ways. Above all, You've revealed Yourself in Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant, then, that we may be willing to see the vision You place before us, and that we may gladly seek to serve You all the days of our lives. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Who taught His disciples to pray, saying, "Our Father...Amen."

Find Rest For Your Souls

Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

Let us pray. Gracious God Who desires only that which is good for us, but often we can't see it that way, add to Your many mercies, the insight to understand You better, and the will to serve You more fully. To that end, be present with us in the worship of this hour; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Who taught us to say as we pray, "Our Father... Amen."

Church Anniversary

Let us worship the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who has made us no more strangers but fellow members of the household of God with Jesus Christ Himself as the chief cornerstone. Praise God for His most precious gift.

Let us pray. Lord, surround us with the Christian witness of Your people in this Church, as we meet to worship You in Spirit and in Truth, following their example, and renewing our covenant with You, with them, and with each other.

First Sunday in Lent

Come, people of God,
And all who seek Light
For living and dying.
Let this first Preparation Sunday
Be to you as God's eager invitation
To meet Jesus and His people
In the midst of a cosmos
Yet being created.

Let us pray.

Not one of us claims
To have earned the right
To be called a son of God,
Fulfilling
All our potential as persons.
But, Lord, all of us
Can become more like Your Christ
If You help us,
That's what we ask You to do.
Beginning now.
Hear and answer our prayer
Asked in the Spirit of Him who
Taught us to pray, saying, "Our Father...Amen."

Hope In God

O send out Your Light and Your Truth; let them lead me, let them bring me to Your holy hill. Why are you cast down, O my soul and why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God, for I shall again praise Him, my help and my God.

Let us pray. Infinite Father, come near to us this morning; for we need You. Grant us forgiveness of sins, extend Your goodness to us, that we, being governed by Your Spirit, may walk uprightly--without any wavering--through Jesus Christ our Lord, Who taught us to pray together saying, "Our Father...Amen."

In The Beauty of Holiness

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. Honor and majesty are before Him, strength and joy are in His place.

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord."

One thing that I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple.

Let us pray. O God who hears prayer! To You shall all flesh come on account of sins. When our transgressions prevail over us, forgive them. Blessed is he whom You choose and bring near to dwell in Your courts! We shall be satisfied with the goodness of Your house, Your holy temple. Amen.

Turning To God

"Seek the Lord, while he may be found,
call upon him, while he is near;
let the wicked forsake their way,
and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the Lord,
that he may have mercy on them...
for he will abundantly pardon." (Isaiah 55:6-7)

Let us pray.

We seek Your Presence with us, O God,
That we might lay down our burdens
Get rid of our sins
Clear our minds
And find courage to be
The persons we ought to be.
Grant us wisdom
Grant us courage
For the living of our days,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Who taught His disciples
To pray together, saying, "Our Father...Amen."

Expecting An Answer

Come, let us worship the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Seek the Lord in sincerity, expecting that He will answer when you call.

Let us pray. Father God, to You the innermost secrets of our hearts are known! Forgive us for everything that is false. By the worship of this hour, renew our spiritual strength, illumine our thinking and reconstruct our ways into more Christ-like living. Hear our prayer, O God, in the Spirit of Him who taught His followers to pray, saying, "Our Father...Amen."

Bless The Lord

Come, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord. Lift up your voices in this holy place, and bless the Lord.

Let us pray. Almighty God, the Helper and Deliverer of all who love and trust You; extend Your mercy and goodness to us this day, that our sorrows may be turned to joys, our afflictions into triumphs, and our gladness into praise of You. Direct our feet into ways of service, our minds into the light of truth, and our hearts into a true and lasting faith, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Clean Hands and Pure Heart

Who shall ascend to the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands, and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false, and does not swear deceitfully. He will receive blessing from the Lord, and vindication from the God of his salvation.

Let us pray. As You have dealt with us in mercy and grace, so, our Father, teach us to deal with our neighbors. Let love be the charmed word in the dialect of our conversation. Come among us, and teach, in Christ's Name. Amen.

Praise God

Bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His Name together.

Let us pray. O God, who knowest our frailty, the perils of our pilgrimage, and the sorrows of our human lot, support us in our trials. Comfort us in our afflictions, calm us in our anguish, succor us in our danger, and in the midst of tribulation grant us peace of mind and firmness of soul, patience of faith and knowledge of Your love. Amen.

God Heals

Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. Great is the Lord and abundant in power; His understanding is beyond measure. The Lord lifts up the downtrodden.

Let us pray. Source of all strength, understanding and love, forgive us for everything which breaks communication between You and us. Enlighten our minds with Your Truth, and inspire our wills to act as children of God ought to act. Grant that we may worthily worship You now, and sincerely serve You day after day throughout our lives. Amen.

Sing for Joy

My soul longs, yea, faints for the courts of the Lord; my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God. Blessed are those who dwell in Your house, ever singing Your praise!

Let us pray. O God, You reveal Yourself to those who seek You in Spirit and Truth. Create in us clean hearts and renew in us a right spirit; that we may be numbered with the pure in heart and with those who offer their whole lives in spiritual worship and service, to the establishing of Your everlasting kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Clean Heart and Right Spirit

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Hosts. The whole earth is full of His glory.

Let us pray. Merciful Father, forgive our sins and guard us by Your goodness that we may amend our ways, discarding all that is evil and holding fast to all that is good. Confirm in us the good purposes of Your heart by the worship of this Sunday morn. In the Name of Him who taught us to say as we pray, "Our Father...Amen."

Look To God and Be Radiant

Look to God and be radiant. O taste and see that the Lord is good! Happy is the man who takes refuge in Him!

Let us pray. Almighty God, before You our hearts are as an open book. You know our needs better than we know them ourselves. Grant Your forgiveness for everything false that in us lies. Restore unto us the joy of goodly living, and by the worship of this hour, renew our strength, illumine our minds and reconsecrate our lives in Your service, in Christ's Name, who taught us to say as we pray, "Our Father...Amen."

Bow and Worship

In the morning we prepare to worship God with prayer and praise. Unto You, O God, shall vows be offered, for to You shall all people bow and worship.

Let us pray. O Lord, our heavenly Father, Almighty and Everlasting God, who has safely brought us to the beginning of this day; defend us in the same with Your mighty power; and grant this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger; but that we may do always that which is righteous in Your sight, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Dead to Sin, Alive to God

Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. He died to sin, once for all, but the life He lives He lives to God. So consider yourself dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Let us pray. Our dear heavenly Father, enlighten the minds and inspire the hearts of Your people everywhere this day. May the Light of the world shine round about us, and may the joy of Your salvation be within our souls. In the Name of Christ. Amen.

God's Day

This is the day which the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Christ has been raised from the dead. O death, where is thy victory? O grave, where is thy sting? Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Let us pray. Into Your house we come this Easter morn' with hearts eager to sing Your praise. Lord, lift us up--up till we feel ourselves closer to You than we have ever felt before. Lord, lift us up this Easter morn. Through Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray, "Our Father...Amen."

Give God Glory

Give to the Lord the glory due His Name.
Sing to the Lord a new song,
Bless His Name and show forth His salvation from day to day.
Praise His holy Name!

Let us pray. All hearts are thine, O Lord! Gather us in this Easter Day that the praise of our lips and the practices of our lives may be acceptable in Your eyes. Amen.

The Glory Of The Lord

Come, let us worship and adore
The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
"The Star and glory of the Lord
Hath now begun to shine;
The morning that shall gild the globe
Breaks on these eyes of mine." Michael Bruce (1746-1767)

Let us pray. Eternal Father, enlighten the minds and inspire the hearts of Your people everywhere this Easter morn. Let the Light of the world shine around us, and may our hearts be gladdened by Your Spirit within our souls.

Easter

The Lord is my strength and my might,
And He has become my salvation;
The Lord will reign forever and ever.

Blessed are they that hear
The words of this prophecy--
Behold, I am Alpha and Omega,
The beginning and the ending; saith the Lord.
I am He who was dead and am alive;
And behold, I am alive forever more.
Praise ye the Lord.

Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God,
We give thanks to You
For the spiritual triumph of Jesus
In life and in death.
Grant that our praises may be joined
With those of all people everywhere
Who worship You in Spirit and in Truth,
In prayer and in praise,
Through Jesus Christ our Risen Lord.

My Light and My Salvation

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? One thing have I asked of the Lord and that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His Temple. Wait for the Lord; be strong and let your heart take courage; yea, wait for the Lord.

Let us pray. Our dear heavenly Father, those who put their trust in You find their lives renewed like that of the eagle, and mounting up on revitalized wings, know the beauty of Your Presence within their hearts and souls. Be with us as we pray together in the words that Jesus taught, saying, "Our Father...Amen."

My Brother, Sister, Mother

Jesus answered, "Whoever does the will of God is my brother, and sister, and mother. Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

Let us pray. O God, Who alone is all good, teach us to choose that which is according to Your will. We would be, only and forever, that which You will. Guide us, we beseech You, in Your way of peace and love. Grant that those who seek You now may find You, and love you with an everlasting love, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sing To The Lord

Sing to the Lord a new song. Sing to the Lord all people. For He will judge the world with righteousness and the people with His Truth.

Let us pray. Be with us in our service, Lord. Be here and everywhere adored. Hear our prayer and answer in Your Way, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gathered in Christ's Name

Jesus said, "For where two or three are gathered in my Name, there am I in the midst of them." Therefore, we are meeting together at this hour of worship, seeking to adore God and to be at one with Him Who is our common Father. Let us offer to Him praise and service which shall be acceptable in His sight.

Let us pray. O Lord most high, unite us in faith with all Your people everywhere. Grant that we may present ourselves a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to You, which is our spiritual worship, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Strength and Joy in God

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. Honor and majesty are before Him; strength and joy are in His place. The Lord God is a sun and shield. He bestows favor and honor. No good thing does the Lord withhold from those who seek Him.

Let us pray. We bow in prayer before You, O God. Help us to worship You in Spirit and in Truth. Help us to pray, to praise and to hear Your Word. Look down, O Lord, in mercy upon us, and forgive all our sins. Hear our prayer, accept our praise; and bless us for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Renewal of Strength

They who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings like eagles. They shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

Let us pray. O Lord, Who has taught us that where two or three are gathered together in Your Name, there You are in the midst of them, help us to realize Your Presence. Calm our anxious, troubled minds. Restore our fading vision. Release us from the bondage of our lower nature. Heal our sickness of mind and soul. Hear our prayer through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Acceptable Words and Thoughts

O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His Name together. Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.

Let us pray. Most loving and merciful Father, deliver us from the deceits of our own minds, and from the temptations held out to us by our fellow men. Strengthen us in the midst of afflictions. Forgive our sins and grant that we may never cease to serve and honor You, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Holy, Holy, Holy

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Wait for the Lord. Be strong, and let your heart take courage. Yea, wait on the Lord!

Let us pray. O God most holy, You never desert anyone who trusts in You. Forgive our sins, which are many. Strengthen the good purposes of our hearts, which are too weak to triumph over evil, and help us to walk in the ways of Jesus Christ this week more than we have last week. Hear us as we raise our voices together in the prayer, "Our Father...Amen."

Our Saving Refuge

The Lord is my strength and my shield; in Him my heart trusts. The Lord is the strength of His people. He is our saving refuge, for ever and ever. O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our maker!

Let us pray. We ask that You will be very near us this day, Father God, for this is a day in which many of us need Your strength and comfort in our souls. Help us to know that You are by our sides, eager to bless us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Bless the Lord

Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy Name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

Let us pray. Almighty God, unto Whom our hearts are as an open book, forgive the sins which keep us from radiant fellowship with You and with our fellow men; draw us near to Yourself this morning that we may be imbued with Your Spirit, and share Your purposes for this Your Church, through Jesus Christ our Lord, we pray, "Our Father...Amen."

In Spirit and In Truth

The hour is coming and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and in truth, for such the Father seeks to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship Him in Spirit and Truth.

Let us pray. Most gracious Father, since we fall short of Your glory, grant that we may not lose our faith in You or in Your purposes concerning us. Even in our bumbling ways, keep our faces toward the light and goodness, and set our feet afresh upon the paths which lead to righteousness and to life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Eyes to the Hills

I will lift up my eyes to the hills. From whence does my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Let us pray. Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, so aid us by Your Spirit that we may worship You with devout and obedient hearts. By our prayer, meditation and praise may we make our whole lives an offering pure and acceptable in Your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Grace and Mercy

Out of the depths we cry to You, O Lord! Hear our voices! Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of our supplications! If You, O Lord, shouldst mark iniquities, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You, that You may be revered. We wait for the Lord; our souls wait and in His word we hope. For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with Him is plenteous redemption.

Let us pray. Almighty God, to Whom prayer is never made without hope of mercy, speak Your Word of consolation; give us grace to worship You. Through the assurance of Your love, deliver us from all our distresses; through Christ. Amen.

Love the Lord

Love the Lord, all you His saints! Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the Lord.

Let us pray. Merciful Father, draw us together to worship You with pure hearts and clean hands. Grant that all our outward forms and ceremonies may be simple enough to serve you aright, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sing to the Lord

O come, let us sing unto the Lord; let us make a joyful noise unto the Rock of our salvation! Let us come into His Presence with thanksgiving. For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods. O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

Let us pray. O Lord our God, You are able to put in order things that are out of order and confused. Come among the people of Your world, we pray, to right the wrongs, to bring low the proud and to protect the weak against the overbearing. Grant Your Presence here, O Lord, that we may be ready to serve You in whatever way You wish us to serve. Amen.

Pentecost

Hear these words: When the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. Suddenly there came a sound as of a rushing, mighty wind, and it filled the house. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and spoke as the Spirit prompted them.

Let us pray. Almighty Father, Who has revealed Yourself supremely in Jesus Christ, we ask Your Presence with us as we seek to worship You in Spirit and in Truth. Make clean our hearts within us. Open our eyes to see, and our ears to hear Your living Word. Then, Lord, as we go forth from this hour of worship, grant that our lives may more truly serve You. Hear our prayer, through Jesus Christ Who taught His disciples to say, when they pray: "Our Father...Amen." (debts and debtors)

Draw Near with Confidence

Thus says the high and lofty One who inhabits eternity, Whose Name is Holy: I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to renew the heart of the contrite. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Let us pray. Our heavenly Father, lead us to lay aside the fret and care of life that we may find comfort and peace in Your sanctuary. Draw us together in kindly thought and sympathy and graciously refresh our weariness. Ease the pressure of our heavy burdens and still our anxious and unquiet minds. Answer our plea for Your Presence, and make Yourself known as we seek to worship You. Amen.

Do Justly, Love Mercy, Walk Humbly

In what spirit shall we come before the Lord and bow ourselves before the high and holy God? He has shown you the beautiful way of life! Do justly, love mercy, walk humbly with your God; love your neighbors as yourself.

Let us pray. God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, be present with us in this hour of worship. Let there be simplicity and sincerity in all that we think, say, and do. May our praise, our prayer, and our meditation be worthy, by the influence of Your Presence. This we ask in the Name and Spirit of Jesus Christ our Lord Who taught His disciples to pray, saying, "Our Father...Amen."

Earnest Seeking

We are met together to worship God, to commune with Him Who is not far away from any one of us, for in Him we live and have our being. Let us therefore direct our hearts to Him with earnest seeking; and if there should be anything amiss in our desires and affections which would hinder the indwelling of His Holy Spirit, let us acknowledge it to Him Who searches the heart, for He knows us altogether.

Let us pray. Almighty God, deliver us, when we draw nigh to You, from coldness of heart and wandering of mind, that with steadfast thought and kindled desire we may worship You in the faith and spirit of our Master. Purify our hearts and quicken our minds to receive the light of Your truth and love. And when on the morrow we return to our daily lives and labor, give us grace to be faithful to the vision which we have seen in our common worship; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

What Does the Lord Require of You?

Wherewithal shall we come before the Lord and bow ourselves before the Most High God? He has showed you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?

Let us pray. Almighty Father, Who has called us by Your Spirit to show forth Your praise in our lives, help us, we beseech You, to be honest, kindly, and merciful in all our dealings; to love truth, to judge wisely and to bear one another's burdens; to labor diligently and cheerfully in our several callings until the night comes when no man can work. And grant, O heavenly Father, that at the last we may come home to You with quietness and confidence, having glorified You upon the earth and accomplished the work You would have us to do; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mindful of God's Mercy

Be mindful of Your mercy, O Lord, and of Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. Remember not the sins of my youth, or my transgressions; according to Your steadfast love remember me, for Your goodness' sake, O Lord! Good and upright is the Lord; therefore He instructs sinners in the Way. He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches them His Way. All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness for those who keep His covenant and His testimonies. Redeem us, O God, out of all our troubles.

Let us pray. O Lord, our God, grant us grace to desire You with our whole heart; that so desiring we may seek and find You; and so finding You, may hate those sins from which You have redeemed us. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Who taught His disciples to pray, saying, "Our Father...Amen."

Lead a Worthy Life

Lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all lowliness and meekness, with patience, forbearing one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Let us pray. O God of all power and wisdom who shows Yourself to those who seek to live and work in Your Spirit, we beseech You so to direct our aims and actions that we may find Your Presence in our daily work, even as we do in our worship, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Perfect, Sure, Wise, and Simple

The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul. The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart. The Commandments of the Lord are pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever. The ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, sweeter also than honey.

Let us pray. O God of truth and right, we thank You for the schoolmaster of law to bring us to the love of Christ, and therein make us free. In Christ's Name. Amen.

Merciful and Gracious

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in love. He heals the broken hearted and binds up their wounds. His understanding is beyond measure.

Let us pray. Most merciful God, the strength of the weak, the rest of the weary, the comfort of the sorrowful, the Savior of the sinful, and the refuge of Your people in all times of need, be present with Your children and answer each of us according to Your knowledge of our necessities. Amen.

Clean Hands and Pure Heart

Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in His holy place? He that has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false, and does not swear deceitfully. He will receive blessing.

Let us pray. O God, who knows the frailty, selfishness and vanity in the heart of man, preserve us from mean motives in our labor, from seeking the praise of men rather than Your approval, from cowardice and weakness, from disloyalty to our vision and from any compromise that hurts the soul. Grant us grace to serve our day and generation as faithful servants, doing our work as in Your sight; through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Thou Knowest Us Altogether

Salvation is at hand for those who fear God. Yes, the Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase. Righteousness will go before Him, and make our footsteps a way of blessedness.

Let us pray. O God, Thou knowest us altogether: our secret sins are known to Thee; our longing for goodness lies open to Thee; our frets and failures and disappointments are known to thee, the Father of our souls. Thou knowest our frame and rememberst who we are. Grant that in our folly, in our ignorance, in our bewilderment and in our fear, we may find gracious refuge in the certitude that all souls are Thine and that the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind. Take our unfinished lives, and perfect them according to Thine own fatherly purpose; through Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Friendship of the Lord

Agree with God, and be at peace. Commune with your own heart and be silent. The friendship of the Lord is for those who fear Him, and He makes known to them His covenant. Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for Him; and He will give you the desire of your heart.

Let us pray. Our heavenly Father, You have promised to hear us when two or three gather together in Christ's Name. Depending on Your promise, we meet in Your Presence to seek forgiveness and to ask for strength to serve You as we ought to serve and to worship you in sincerity and trust. Amen.

God, My Shield and Stronghold

The Lord is my rock and my fortress, and my deliverer, my God in Whom I take refuge, my shield, and my stronghold. I call upon the Lord Who is worthy to be praised.

Let us pray. Father God, we who call on You are not very able to say all that is in our hearts. Grant us this boon, we pray, that You will hear and answer the prayers of the hearts of this people, each according to the needs of each, all according to Your holy purposes; through Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Way of Blessing

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked nor stands in the way of sinners nor sits in the seat of scoffers, but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on His law he meditates day and night. For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the ungodly will perish.

Let us pray. Heavenly Father, for the manifold promises of Your grace we are deeply thankful. In this house of prayer and praise we would meditate on Your purposes and plans, and open our minds to Your truth. Cleanse our spirits from impurity and lead our wills to move in harmony with Yours. Amen.

The Great Commission

Jesus said to his disciples: Go into all the world and preach the gospel to everyone; for I have other children. Them, too, I must call.

Let us pray. Great God! Father of all peoples of Your earth, teach us to remember the needs of all Your children everywhere--in the north and in the south, in the east and in the west. Lift us up out of our narrowness until we share Your plan for peace on earth, goodwill to all. Amen.

Teach Me Your Way

Teach me Your Way, O Lord, that I may walk in Your truth; unite my heart to revere Your Name. I give thanks to You with my whole heart, and I will glorify Your Name forever.

Let us pray. O God, when we know You, we love You. When we love You, we serve You. When we serve You, we help others. When we help any others, we help our whole society. And when we help our whole society even a little bit, our worship becomes real, and life becomes an adventure in godly living. Point us in the right way as we worship You now. Amen.

Lord of all

The Lord is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth. He fulfills the desire of all who revere Him; He will also hear their cry and will save them.

Let us pray. Father, if it be Your will, shorten this chastening of mankind with the rod of war brought on by human greed, ill will and unconcern. Forgive the unfortunate and ill-timed acts which again and again have created distrust and antagonism among cities, states, nations. Teach us to be one community, loving, serving, helping. Teach us to build the peace and good will for which we yearn among the nations of the world. Amen.

Families of the World

Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the world, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength! Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His Name. Bring an offering and come into His courts! Worship Him in holy array; tremble before Him all the earth!

Let us pray. All-merciful God, our Father in heaven, grant that we may desire and will, both now in our prayers and at all times in our lives, that which is pleasing to You. Give us grace that we may harbor no wish which we cannot bring to You, nor seek that for which we cannot ask Your help. So may our spirits be at one with You and our petitions be such as You will hear and answer according to Your loving kindness, declared unto us through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Blessed by Love

Reverence to God is the beginning of wisdom. Greatly blessed are those who learn to love God, and their fellowmen. Praise ye the Lord!

Let us pray. There's turmoil beyond these walls. There's conflict within these hearts. There's triumph wherever Your Spirit brings that peace which has no misunderstanding, without or within. Let that peace be present in each of us, and among all of us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Courage and Confidence

Love the Lord, all you His saints. The Lord preserves the faithful. Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the Lord. Praise ye the Lord!

Let us pray. Most gracious God, we pray that You will give us the confidence in You, in our world, in our fellow Christians and in ourselves which we need to live creatively, constructively, and joyously. Hear us, as we pray together as Jesus taught us to pray, saying, "Our Father...Amen."

For the Faithful

Let us praise God for all who have faithfully served Him throughout the centuries, in every part of this whole earth.

Let us pray. We are mindful of all great souls who have gone from us, especially of those whose membership in this Church has made it a place of sacred memories. Forgive our sins, illumine our minds, quicken our spirits that we may be worthy to follow them and Your Son Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray, saying, "Our Father...Amen."

Thanks for Great Souls

Thanks be to You, O God, for the great souls who have been faithful unto death. Let us praise You for their mission to us and to all men.

Let us pray. O You, who are the strength of all souls, guide us through the darkness of this world; guard us from its perils; uphold and strengthen us when we grow weary; and lead us by Your chosen paths through time and through death, to our eternal home; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

In This Life and Beyond

For where two or three are gathered in My Name, there am I in the midst of them.

Let us pray. Almighty God, who has given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications unto You, and promises that when two or three are gathered together in Your Name, You will grant their requests. Fulfill now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of Your servants, as may be most expedient for them; granting us in this world knowledge of Your truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. Amen.

EVENING WORSHIP

Seek the Lord and His Strength

Let us worship God. It is toward evening, and the day is far spent. Seek the Lord and His strength, seek His Presence continually. And the Lord will rule over all the earth!

Let us pray. Almighty God, from Whom comes every good and perfect gift, and Who gives to all who desire it the spirit of good will, and the knowledge of forgiveness. Deliver us, as we draw near You, from coldness of heart and wandering of mind, so that with steadfast thoughts and kindled affections we may worship You in Spirit and in Truth; through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Light in the Evening

The day declines, for the evening lengthens! With God there shall be continuous day, not day and not night; for at evening time there shall be light. God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. From the rising of the sun to its setting, the Name of the Lord is to be praised. Give praise, servants of the Lord, you that meet in the House of the Lord.

Let us pray. O God, from Whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works proceed; give to Thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that our hearts may obey Thy Commandments, and also that we may know rest and quietness; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

CALLS TO GIVING

Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Give, and it shall be given to you; good measure, pressed down, running over. For the measure you give will be the measure you get.

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up treasures for yourself in heaven.

Remember the words of Jesus, how He said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

All things come of Thee, O Lord, and of thine own do we give Thee.

In all your gifts show a cheerful countenance. Give unto the Most High according as He has enriched you.

I will not offer to the Lord my God that which has cost me nothing.

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His Name; bring an offering, and come into His courts.

Freely ye have received; freely give.