



A short morning service for all ages

## Welcome

We meet in the name of God  
God the Father  
God the Son  
God the Holy Spirit  
God is one

## Response

Come let us sing to the Lord our God  
*All* **Raise the roof to the rock of rescue**

Come into the presence of the Lord with thanks  
*All* **Raise the rafters with songs of praise**

The Lord is great over all  
*All* **Greater than every other power**

He holds the depths of the earth in his hands  
*All* **And the mountain peaks belong to him**

The ocean is the Lord's, it was made by God  
*All* **The land was formed by his own hands**

Come let us bow before the Lord our maker  
*All* **With humble hearts we worship God**

The Lord is God our Father and we are his  
*All* **We are the shepherd's very own flock**

## Hymn

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven,  
to his feet your tribute bring;  
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
who like you his praise should sing?  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
praise the everlasting King.

Praise him for his grace and favour  
to our fathers in distress;  
praise him, still the same as ever,  
slow to blame and swift to bless;  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
glorious in his faithfulness.

Father-like, he tends and spares us,  
All our hopes and fears he knows;  
in his hands he gently bears us,  
rescues us from all our foes:  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
widely as his mercy flows.

Angels, help us to adore him;  
you behold him face to face;  
sun and moon, bow down before him,  
praise him all in time and space.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
praise with us the God of grace.

## Song

God's love is deeper than the deepest ocean  
God's love is wider than the widest sea  
God's love is higher than the highest mountain  
Deeper, wider, higher  
Deeper, wider, higher  
Deeper, wider, higher  
Is God's love to me

God's care is deeper than the deepest ocean  
God's care is wider than the widest sea  
God's care is higher than the highest mountain  
Deeper, wider, higher  
Deeper, wider, higher  
Deeper, wider, higher  
Is God's care to me

God's peace is deeper than the deepest ocean  
God's peace is wider than the widest sea  
God's peace is higher than the highest mountain  
Deeper, wider, higher  
Deeper, wider, higher  
Deeper, wider, higher  
Is God's peace to me

## Wondering

*One of the 11 at St James team says:*

"I wonder what place makes you feel most at home..."

*Members of the congregation are invited to give their thoughts*

## 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**

## Activity

*One of the 11 at St James team says:*

What else did Jesus say about his Father?

*Each of the following verses are said by different congregation members.*

"Your Father God knows what you need, even before you ask."  
(Matthew 6, verse 8)

"Look at the birds; they do not have to buy food.  
God your heavenly Father feeds them.  
And you are even more precious than they are."  
(Matthew 6, verse 26)

“Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.”

(John 14, verse 8)

“Just as God the Father loves me, so I loved you. Now remain in my love.”

(John 15, verse 9)

And Jesus’ follower John said: “See how much God the Father loves us.

We can be called his children!”

(1 John 3, verse 1)

## Reading

### Luke 15: 11-24 (Good News Bible)

<sup>11</sup> Jesus went on to say, “There was once a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup> The younger one said to him, ‘Father, give me my share of the property now.’ So the man divided his property between his two sons. <sup>13</sup> After a few days the younger son sold his part of the property and left home with the money. He went to a country far away, where he wasted his money in reckless living. <sup>14</sup> He spent everything he had. Then a severe famine spread over that country, and he was left without a thing. <sup>15</sup> So he went to work for one of the citizens of that country, who sent him out to his farm to take care of the pigs. <sup>16</sup> He wished he could fill himself with the bean pods the pigs ate, but no one gave him anything to eat. <sup>17</sup> At last he came to his senses and said, ‘All my father’s hired workers have more than they can eat, and here I am about to starve! <sup>18</sup> I will get up and go to my father and say, ‘Father, I have sinned against God and against you. <sup>19</sup> I am no longer fit to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired workers.’” <sup>20</sup> So he got up and started back to his father.

“He was still a long way from home when his father saw him; his heart was filled with pity, and he ran, threw his arms around his son, and kissed him. <sup>21</sup> ‘Father,’ the son said, ‘I have sinned against God and against you. I am no longer fit to be called your son.’ <sup>22</sup> But the father called to his servants. ‘Hurry!’ he said. ‘Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and shoes on his feet. <sup>23</sup> Then go and get the prize calf and kill it, and let us celebrate with a feast! <sup>24</sup> For this son of mine was dead, but now he is alive; he was lost, but now he has been found.’ And so the feasting began.

## Activity

*Led by one of the 11 at St James team*

## Drama

*Led by one of the 11 at St James team*

## Talk

*Given by three of the 11 at St James team*

## Song

Your love is amazing  
Steady and unchanging  
Your love is a mountain  
Firm beneath my feet

Your love is a mystery  
How you gently lift me  
When I am surrounded  
Your love carries me

*Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah  
Your love makes me sing  
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah  
Your love makes me sing*

Your love is surprising  
I can feel it rising  
Oh the joy that's growing  
Deep inside of me

Every time I see you  
All your goodness shines through  
I can feel this God song  
Rising up in me

*Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah  
Your love makes me sing  
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah  
Your love makes me sing*

## Prayers

*Led by one of the 11 at St James team*

## Talk

*Given by the person leading the service*

## Song

*One of the following two songs will be chosen – choice will be made on the day*

*Either:*

Give thanks to the Lord our God and King  
His love endures forever  
For He is good, He is above all things  
His love endures forever  
Sing praise, sing praise

With a mighty hand and outstretched arm  
His love endures forever  
For the life that's been reborn  
His love endures forever  
Sing praise, sing praise, sing praise, sing praise

*Forever God is faithful  
Forever God is strong  
Forever God is with us  
Forever, forever*

From the rising to the setting sun  
His love endures forever  
By the grace of God we will carry on  
His love endures forever  
Sing praise, sing praise, sing praise, sing praise

*Forever God is faithful  
Forever God is strong  
Forever God is with us  
Forever, forever*

Or:

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want;  
He makes me lie in pastures green.  
He leads me by the still, still waters,  
His goodness restores my soul.

*And I will trust in You alone,  
And I will trust in You alone,  
For Your endless mercy follows me,  
Your goodness will lead me home.*

He guides my ways in righteousness,  
And He anoints my head with oil,  
And my cup, it overflows with joy,  
I feast on His pure delights.

And though I walk the darkest path,  
I will not fear the evil one,  
For You are with me,  
and Your rod and staff  
Are the comfort I need to know.

## **Blessing and Farewell**

See what love God the Father has given us  
**All That we should be called children of God**

You are my sons and daughters, this day I have begotten you  
**All See what love the Father has given us**

As many as received him, to them he gave power  
to become the children of God  
**All See what love the Father has given us**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit  
**All See what love the Father has give us  
that we should be called the children of God**

**Notices**