

Come, Now Is the Time to Worship

Come, now is the time to worship.
Come, now is the time to give your heart.
Come, just as you are, to worship.
Come, just as you are, before your God.
Come.

One day every tongue will confess
You are God.
One day every knee will bow.
Still the greatest treasure remains for those
Who gladly choose you now.

Come, now is the time to worship.
Come, now is the time to give your heart.
Oh, come. Just as you are to worship.
Come just as you are before your God.
Come.

One day every tongue will confess
You are God.
One day every knee will bow.
Still the greatest treasure remains for those
who gladly choose you now.

Community Sharing

Calls to Worship

Leader: Like a whisper that lures us to safety,

People: Strong as a shout that bids us to come,

Leader: Gentle as a prayer that eases our worry,

People: Like a clear bell that rings out our name,

Leader: Your Word comes to us, Loving God.

**People: It calls us, comforts us and urges us to depart
from evil and do good, to seek peace and pursue it.**

Leader: Talking God, open our hearts to hear you

People: And free our voices to praise you.

Open the Eyes of My Heart Lord

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord

Open the eyes of my heart

I want to see You

I want to see You

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord

Open the eyes of my heart

I want to see You

I want to see You

To see You high and lifted up

Shining in the light of Your glory

Pour out Your power and love

As we sing holy, holy, holy

Holy, holy, holy

Holy, holy, holy

Holy, holy, holy

We want to see You

Thy Word Is a Lamp Unto My Feet

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path
When I feel afraid
Think I've lost my way
Still you're there right beside me
And nothing will I fear
As long as you are near
Please be near me to the end

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path
I will not forget
Your love for me and yet
My heart forever is wandering
Jesus be my guide
And hold me to your side
I will love you to the end
Nothing will I fear as long as you are near
Please be near me to the end

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path
And a light unto my path
You're the light unto my path

Prayer

You give us life;
we must offer commitment.
You give us Scripture;
we must study.
You give us children;
we must serve as good parents.
You give us talents;
we must minister accordingly.
You give us the church;
we must extend fellowship.
You give us the gospel;
we must share the Good News.
You give us each other;
we must live in love.
You give us money;
we must invest in the eternal.

O Giver of all that we call good and perfect, transform our gratitude for what you have placed within our hands into significant means of serving others as well as you. Amen.

Sermon - Do you understand?

Acts 8

Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch

26 Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south[g] to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) 27 So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship 28 and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah.

Isaiah 53.

Who has believed what we have heard?

And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

2

**For he grew up before him like a young plant,
and like a root out of dry ground;
he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,
nothing in his appearance that we should desire
him.**

3

**He was despised and rejected by others;
a man of suffering[a] and acquainted with
infirmity;
and as one from whom others hide their faces[b]
he was despised, and we held him of no account.**

4

Surely he has borne our infirmities

and carried our diseases;
yet we accounted him stricken,
struck down by God, and afflicted.

5

But he was wounded for our transgressions,
crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the punishment that made us whole,
and by his bruises we are healed.

6

All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have all turned to our own way,
and the Lord has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

7

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
yet he did not open his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.

8

By a perversion of justice he was taken away.
Who could have imagined his future?
For he was cut off from the land of the living,
stricken for the transgression of my people.

9

They made his grave with the wicked
and his tomb[c] with the rich,[d]
although he had done no violence,

and there was no deceit in his mouth.

10

Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him with pain.

[e]

When you make his life an offering for sin,[f]

he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days;

through him the will of the Lord shall prosper.

11

Out of his anguish he shall see light;[g]
he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge.

The righteous one,[h] my servant, shall make many righteous,

and he shall bear their iniquities.

12

Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great,
and he shall divide the spoil with the strong;
because he poured out himself to death,
and was numbered with the transgressors;
yet he bore the sin of many,

and made intercession for the transgressors.

29 Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." 30 So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" 31 He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. 32 Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

**“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.**

33

In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

34 The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” 35 Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus.

Romans 10

14 But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? 15 And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!” 16 But not all have obeyed the good news;[c] for Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed our message?” 17 So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.[d] 18 But I ask, have they not heard? Indeed they have; for

“Their voice has gone out to all the earth,

and their words to the ends of the world.”

19 Again I ask, did Israel not understand? First Moses says,

**“I will make you jealous of those who are not a nation;
with a foolish nation I will make you angry.”**

20 Then Isaiah is so bold as to say,

**“I have been found by those who did not seek me;
I have shown myself to those who did not ask for
me.”**

**21 But of Israel he says, “All day long I have held out
my hands to a disobedient and contrary people.”**

Points to remember:

- 1) Read the Bible for yourself**
- 2) Get a good study bible and read that**
- 3) Join a solid Bible study that starts with the Bible.**

**“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely
on your own insight. ... Do not be wise in your own
eyes” (Proverbs 3:5,7).**

- 1) Scripture, tradition, experience, reason**
- 2) Use the Bible to understand the Bible**
- 3) Trust good resources**
- 4) Be open to new lessons from old words**

- 5) Don't cherry pick...read verses in context and look up other verses who speak to the same issues or thoughts**
- 6) Just because it's what you want to hear doesn't make it true**
- 7) Truth does exist in the person of Jesus...read and study his life and words...Matthew, Mark, Luke**

Many of these practices work for discerning truth in other situations...

- 1) consider the source, primary sources are best**
- 2) Recognize facts when you hear them**
Opinions and questions aren't facts

Jesus is the way, the truth and the life, no one comes unto the Father but by him.

We are the communicators of this truth and we need to know how to read and understand scripture if we are going to reveal the love of Jesus to the world.

Let Us Break Bread Together

plays while you set the table

HOLY COMMUNION
A SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE I

INVITATION

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him,
who earnestly repent of their sin
and seek to live in peace with one another.
Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one
another.

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Merciful God,

**we confess that we have not loved you with our
whole heart.**

We have failed to be an obedient church.

We have not done your will,

we have broken your law,

we have rebelled against your love,

we have not loved our neighbors,

and we have not heard the cry of the needy.

Forgive us, we pray.

Free us for joyful obedience,

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

All pray in silence.

Leader to people:

Hear the good news:

Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;
that proves God's love toward us.
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

People to leader:

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

Leader and people:

Glory to God. Amen.

Offering

Doxology

Prayer

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.

You have made from one every nation and people
to live on all the face of the earth

And so,

with your people on earth
and all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.
By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection
you gave birth to your church,
delivered us from slavery to sin and death,
and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.
He commissioned us to be his witnesses to the ends of
the earth and to make disciples of all nations,
and today his family in all the world is joining at his holy
table.

Lifting the bread

On the night in which he gave himself up for us,
he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread,
gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."

Lifting the cup

When the supper was over, he took the cup,

gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Drink from this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me."

And so,
in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
that we may be for the world the body of Christ,
redeemed by his blood.

Renew our communion with your Church throughout the
world,
to witness faithfully in your name.
By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other,
and one in ministry to all the world,

until Christ comes in final victory
and we feast at his heavenly banquet.
Through your Son Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father,
now and forever. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is
in heaven.**

Give us this day our daily bread.

**Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who
trespass against us.**

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever. Amen.**

BREAKING THE BREAD

Because there is one loaf,
we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the
one loaf.

The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of
Christ.

The cup over which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

Form circle to receive the elements

Amazing Grace plays while everyone receives

Let us pray:

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery
in which you have given yourself to us.**

**Grant that we may go into the world
in the strength of your Spirit,
to give ourselves for others,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

How Can I Keep From Singing

Benediction

Leader: Go now. It's your call.

People: We go to proclaim God's word.

Leader: You are the heralds of Christ.

People: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,

Leader: and the love of God,

People: and fellowship in the Holy Spirit,

Leader: be with you all.