

# “Come on In”

Resources for involving children  
in leading  
‘Call to Worship’

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Also to be found on:  
[www.conversations.net.nz](http://www.conversations.net.nz)

**We welcome each other  
and welcome the Spirit  
and Jesus welcomes us  
into the presence of God**

## **A wake-up call: Psalm 108**

Get up, wake up, come on everyone!

**Today has begun, don't miss a thing!**

The music rises in our hearts

**feel the beat, join the rhythm.**

Sing! dance the wonder, sing the rhyme

**We'll call the sun into the sky**

We'll raise the roof with our praise

**We'll shout our thanks for all to hear!**

Up, up, up, we lift you high, O God

**Up through the stars and out the other side!**

All of space and time sings your love

**Through clouds and cities your glory rings.**

Up, up, you lift us up,

**out of our troubles, out of our pain.**

We call for help and you answer,

**again and again:**

“I love you. I will never leave you.

**Where ever you go, I will lead you.**

All the earth is mine,

**everywhere you go, I'm there already.**

Everything you go through, I'm there at work

**Nothing stands against me.”**

O God, you are our help and our hope,

**our power and our victory!**

### **All our lives long: Psalm 71**

*(for a child and an old person to read. The child's voice in bold.)*

In you, O Lord, do I live

**In you, O Lord, I grow**

You are our God, our rock and refuge

**You are my rock, like a rock to dive off into the river**

You are my rock, like a home well fenced and protected

**Hear us when we call, O God, lift us in your arms.**

All my life long you have been with me

**When I was born and took my first breath, you held me**

All through the years I have leaned on you

**Through all the years ahead I will lean on you.**

When I was young you taught me

**When I grow old you will bless me**

I remember all you have done for me

**I will tell everyone how great you are!**

It hasn't always been easy. People have attacked me.

**It isn't always easy. Some problems seem really big.**

But I hope continually. I trust and keep on trusting.

**I sing and keep on singing**

My lips will shout for joy, my soul also, for you have rescued me

**I will play the guitar and the drums, to praise you loudly!**

I will put your love into words for anyone who will listen.

**Your power and glory reaches from high above  
to deep below**

Your saving grace reaches from before we were born  
to our last breath, and beyond.

**Holy One, wonderful God, we praise you!**

Holy One, marvelous Lord, we praise you!

### **Always Praising! Psalm 34**

I will bless the Lord all the time!

**We'll never stop praising our God!**

Magnify the Lord with me.

**Together we'll lift his name high.**

Taste and see - the Lord is good!

**Relax and rejoice - you are safe in him.**

When trouble comes, cry out to God.

**He is always around you, protecting you.**

The Lord is near to the broken,

**He saves those who are crushed.**

God sees us, God hears us, God knows us.

**He rescues us from all our fears.**

Listen everyone – this is the way to live:

**speak truth, speak kindness,**

walk away from what is wrong,

**choose to do what is right,**

seek peace and follow peace.

**We'll never stop praising our God!**

**Blessed are God's People: Psalm 144**  
*(feel free to read just part of this Psalm)*

Blessed are you, Father, Son and Spirit,  
our rock and our refuge,  
our home and our salvation.

**Come, Lord, shape us, your people.**

The mountains smoke at your touch,  
lightning flashes with your brilliance.  
What are we to you -  
we mere mortals, we weak and foolish people,  
here one minute, gone the next -  
What are we to you?

**Come, Lord, shape us, your people.**

You call us and set us free.  
You send us out to fight for what matters,  
well trained, well equipped,  
powered up with truth in a world of warped lies.

**Come, Lord, shape us, your people.**

Singers, sing new songs!  
Musicians, play your best!  
Our God goes ahead to claim the victory.  
Our God undermines violence,  
overcomes cruelty with mercy and truth.

**Come, Lord, shape us, your people.**

Boys, grow tall and strong,  
bearing fruit of goodness.  
Girls, grow tall and strong,  
holding up the house of God.  
Church, be blessed!

May your wallets and cupboards fill and overflow,  
may blessings shower on you  
and on others through you.  
Church, be confident!  
May your doors be open  
and your walls be strong.  
May everyone be welcome.

**Come, Lord, shape us, your people.**

Blessed are you, our God!  
Blessed are we, as you pour your blessings on us.  
Happy are the people who know you, Lord.

**Come, Lord, shape us, your people.**

**Can you measure the love of God?**  
*(Ephesians 3:18-19)*

Can you measure the love of God?  
No matter how long your tape measure, God's love would be longer!  
No matter how deep you drill, God's love would be deeper!  
It's tougher than titanium and softer than a feather,  
more electric than lightning, more vast than the universe.  
It's way more than we can possibly get our heads around,  
but it fills our hearts – we can feel it!  
It fills our lives – we can enjoy it!  
The love of God is the most amazing, the most powerful,  
the most abundant, the most intimate, the most lovely thing  
and it is a gift to you.

### **Calm and Quiet: Psalm 131**

Shush, my heart –  
rest in the Lord.  
Close, my eyes –  
rest in the Lord.  
Thoughts – stop rushing.  
Body – relax!  
Oh my soul – be calm and quiet.  
Breathe in and out  
and be still.

Big ideas and important jobs  
can wait.  
Yesterday's hurts and tomorrow's worries  
can drift off,  
for here and now  
I am held  
in the arms of God  
like a little child  
half asleep in her mother's arms.

Trust in the Lord  
in this moment  
and for ever more.  
Amen.

### **Come to be filled** *(Ephesians 5: 18-20)*

Come to be filled,  
**filled with the Spirit!**  
Let song fill this house  
**and praise fill our hearts!**  
Thanks for the music -  
**together we sing,**  
giving thanks to our Father,  
**now and at every time,**  
in every place and every moment -  
**thanks for everything**  
in the name of Jesus  
**our Lord, Amen!**

### **Come in, come in: Psalm 47**

Come in, come in,  
come one, come all!  
Lift your heart,  
clap your hands.  
Shout praise,  
sing joy,  
to our God, the Highest One,  
to the Majesty of Majesties!

Come, see the world  
from God's point of view –  
In him the victory has already been won,  
all that troubles us is overcome,  
under our feet.  
In him we are at home –  
come, claim your inheritance.  
Come home to his love.

So lift God higher!  
Let thanks and praise  
lift the roof of your soul!  
All that has been, is, or shall be  
belongs to our God  
and is restored by our God.  
Come, give honour!  
Come, give praise,  
here and everywhere, amen!

### **Far Reaching Love: Psalm 36**

Your love, O God, reaches up, up beyond the sky,  
**Your goodness goes higher than the clouds,**  
Your power is bigger than the tallest mountains,  
**Your truth goes deeper than the ocean.**

O God, we treasure your infinite love.  
**All people can hide in the shadow of your wings.**  
O God, we celebrate your mighty river of joy.  
**All people can feast together in your house.**  
O God, you are the fountain of life.  
**All people can find light in your light.**

So why do people turn away from you?  
**Some people choose to be bullies,**  
they don't care about anyone except themselves.  
**They think they can get away with anything.**  
They don't give a stuff about what helps others.  
**We turn away from what is wrong,**  
**We choose you, O God.**  
Protect us from anything which tries to harm us.  
**You have the victory over evil,**  
**it is crushed under your feet.**

Your love, O God, reaches up, up beyond the sky,  
**Your goodness goes higher than the clouds,**  
Your power is bigger than the tallest mountains,  
**Your truth goes deeper than the ocean.**  
Hold us in your amazing love, now and forever.  
**With loving hearts we will live in you. Amen.**

### **Find joy here: Psalm 149**

Praise to the Lord!  
Sing to the Lord a new song!  
Sing his praise in the company of friends.

Find joy here, celebrating the one who made us.  
Find joy here, praising God!  
Praise with your body, move and dance.  
Praise with your voice, your drums and guitars.

Find a place here,  
for God is delighted with you.  
Be you broken or lost,  
be you fragile or sad,  
God delights in you.  
Glory grows as we praise God  
and God lifts up our heads.  
Praise the Lord with joy!

### **God at Work: Psalm 146**

I praise you, my God  
I praise you, Lord Jesus  
I praise you, great Spirit  
today and every day  
in this moment and with every breath.

I give this day to you  
May it sing with you  
May you whisper through everything I say and do.

You made all things  
everything we can see  
everything we can't see -  
earth and sea and sky  
and all that lives -  
You keep faith with us forever.

You are at work in the world –  
you set things right -  
food for the hungry  
sight for the blind  
welcome for the stranger  
care for the poor.  
Make these be true for me today  
as I live in you and you in me.  
Be Lord of this day and every day.  
Yes! Be praised!

## **God bless you! Psalm 20**

**May God bless you and keep you.**

When you cry for help

**God will answer.**

When you are in trouble

**God will be there.**

When you are lost

**God will find you.**

When you are afraid

**God will support you.**

**May God bless you and keep you.**

In the plans you make,

**in all that you hope for,**

in the deep desires of your heart,

**God is alive and at work.**

When you ask for help for other people

**God works through you.**

When you do great things

**God cheers you on**

and all God's people

**shout for joy!**

**May God bless you and keep you.**

Some people rely on guns and fast cars

**but we trust in God.**

Everything else will crash to the ground

**but we will stand tall.**

Be strong in the Lord,

**Be proud of our God.**

God is proud of you!

**May God bless you and keep you.**

## **God makes us stronger!**

*(2 Corinthians 12:8-9)*

What are you proud of?

Don't bother being proud of how clever you are

how good you are at running or writing

how awesome or pretty you are!

I'll tell you what I'm proud of –

I'm proud that no matter how small I feel,

God always shines through.

When we feel weak, God makes us stronger!

When we're tired, God gives us energy.

When we're scared, God makes us brave.

This is what I'm proud of: my friend the Lord Jesus Christ!

### **Grace to you also**

(Ephesians 6:23-24)

Peace to you, my sisters,  
peace to you, my brothers -

**and peace to you also.**

Love to you, my church,  
love that grows with faith -

**and love to you also.**

Faith to you, from God the Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ -

**and faith to you also.**

Grace to you, and grace to all  
who love our Lord Jesus with undying love –

**and grace to you also.**

### **Great to see you**

Great to see you! Haere mai!

In the name of Jesus,  
in the Spirit's power,  
in the grace of God,  
I welcome you here.

Bring your joys and problems,  
bring your hopes and fears,  
bring them all to Jesus.  
Welcome him here.

We have come together  
to worship, praise and sing.  
to learn more about Jesus,  
so be welcome, warmly welcome here.

### **Help me now as you've helped me before: Psalm 54**

You've done it before  
and you'll do it again -

**Answer my prayer, O God!**

You've helped me before  
and you'll help me again –

**Save me, O God!**

This has happened before  
and will happen again –

**I'm trapped, I'm attacked,  
I'm sorry for myself.**

Many are those who don't know you -  
they twist the truth

**and work against your ways.**

But then I remember  
who I am to you.

**I remember how you work  
in me and through me.**

And so I praise you now  
as I have praised you before,

**and will praise you again,**

for you are Lord,

**and you are good,**

and I am yours.



### **Hide and Seek: Psalm 63**

O God, my God, my friend,  
I am looking for you, I need to find you!  
I need you like I get desperate for a drink on a hot day.

I need you when I am hiding  
from people who are trying to hurt me.  
Save me from lies, rescue me from danger!

I have seen you sometimes out of the corner of my eye -  
you are light and kindness and glory.  
I have felt you sometimes in church as love fills the air,  
it's great to sing and praise and celebrate!  
All my life I will love you,  
O God, my God, my friend.

And now you are here, you found me!  
You lead me to a party, all my friends waiting for me,  
plenty to drink and eat, a feast of my favourite food -  
I am full of joy!

And when it is time for bed  
I snuggle up with you, like you were soft as soft,  
gentle wings over me through the night.

And tomorrow, and every day, I will hold on to you  
and you will hold on to me,  
O God, my God, my friend.

### **How lovely is your house: Psalm 84**

*(written for two people to lead)*

- A     How lovely is your house, amazing God!  
         I want nothing more than to live close to you.
- B     Just like the sparrow builds a nest for her chicks,  
         you make your home in our hearts.
- A     We love to know that you are with us -  
         we will sing your praise!
- B     We get stronger because you are in us -  
         we will know your ways by heart.
- A     You see us every day and you hear us when we pray -  
         we will go from strength to strength.
- B     Just one day knowing you are near  
         is better than a thousand days without you.
- A     Like the warm sunshine  
         you pour your love into our lives.
- B     You bless us with all good things  
         when we turn to you and trust you.
- A     How lovely is your house, amazing God!  
         I want nothing more than to live close to you.

### **In the name of Christ**

In the name of Christ I bless you  
with this family around.  
May your soul connect with heaven  
and your feet find solid ground.  
For the Lord our God is faithful,  
worthy of our love and praise,  
so together we will celebrate  
and serve him all our days.

### **Let all creation sing**

*(especially for a Communion Sunday)*

Let all creation sing your glory true.

**Let every heart confess our need of you.**

Praises to your name,

**age to age the same.**

Thank you that you came to make all things new.

As bread is broken, come, Lord Jesus, here.

**As wine again is poured, we know you near.**

Make our spirits still,

**emptiness you fill,**

brokenness you will in your mercy, heal.

### **Malo e lelei**

*(for the Methodist Youth @ Conference 2010.)*

Malo! Malo e lelei. *(Tongan. said "marlaw", slowly)*

Bula! Bula vinaka. *(Fijian)*

Talofa! Talofa lava. *(Samoan. said "tarlawfar", fast)*

Kia ora! Haere mai *(Maori)*

Welcome! Welcome everyone!

Come if you dare – from anywhere -

Come if you share in God's great freedom!

Will you be one? Live for the Son?

Stand on the love that lasts forever!

Malo! ... *(repeat as above)*

### **Living in Unity: Psalm 133**

It's good, it's great, it's wonderful

when friends are friends

and family is family.

It's good, it's great, it's wonderful

when people get on well

and everyone belongs.

Living in unity,

enjoying each person,

sharing common ground –

this is God's precious gift,

like sweet rain after a hot day,

like laughter bubbling up,

like coming home.

God's life is life together.

God's blessing is love,

now and forever.

### **Out of the mouths of babes: Psalm 8**

God, our living God,

**you are amazing!**

You are higher than I can look,

**You are wider than I can see.**

But I can hear you – Listen!

We can hear you in the laughter of a little child,

**We can hear you in the babbling of a baby.**

You don't need words to tell us of your power.

**Why do you need us at all?**

We are so small, and the world is so big,

**the stars are so many and space is so enormous.**

God, our living God,

**you are amazing!**

You made everything.

**Why do I matter?**

But we do matter!

**God cares for us most of all,**

and through us God cares for all the world.

**You put everything into our care,**

all the animals, all the birds, all the fish,

**everything that creeps or flies or runs or swims,**

even the land and the air and the sea.

**It is all ours to look after.**

God, our living God,

**you are amazing!**

### **Power is at work!**

*Ephesians 3:20-21*

*(Say it with rhythm, so it is almost a chant or a slow rap)*

Power is at work,

at work within us!

Power of the love,

the love of God!

**God can do more -**

**WAY more -**

**more than we can ask or**

**even imagine!**

Glory be to God,

from the church, from the people!

Glory for all time,

every generation!

**God can do more -**

**WAY more -**

**more than we can ask or**

**even imagine!**

### **Praise the Lord, now and forever! Psalm 111**

Praise the Lord

**now and forever!**

I will say to God with all my heart – THANK YOU!

**Together with all God's people we say – THANK YOU!**

Everything God has done is great

**Everyone who learns about God delights in him.**

God is full to overflowing with grace and mercy

**God is generous to his people and never forgets us.**

Everything God does is good and true

**Everything God teaches is good and true.**

We can put our trust completely in our God

**Standing tall on his everlasting word.**

His covenant of salvation lasts forever

**Holy and awesome is his name!**

Wisdom begins here, by honouring God

**Praise the Lord, now and forever!**

### **Real life happens here**

Watch out as you come in,

for real life happens here!

Be careful as you say hello

for real love happens here.

Find a seat, catch your breath

for rest is here, and peace.

We'll sing some songs and read a book,

we'll listen and we'll pray,

and as we do I hope you hear

the ring of truth you need today.

And then it will be time for tea

for real family happens here.

### **Shine, Shine**

*This gorgeous prayer was written by Sara Wilson, aged 7*

You make turtles that paddle

You make penguins that waddle

**Shine your love – shine shine!**

You make sheep so wooly

You make us wonderfully!

**Shine your love – shine shine!**

And I will pray upon a star,

for you love us as we are.

I will shine my life for you,

for you died to show the way.

Love is in your heart

We will play our part

**Shine your love – shine shine!**

All the birds in the trees

You set all the world free

**Shine your love – shine shine!**

### **Take courage, my heart! Psalm 27**

My God is my light  
My God is my savior  
Why be afraid?  
My God is my safety  
My God is my home  
I won't be afraid!

Sure, I might get teased,  
I might get hurt,  
but I don't need to be scared.  
OK, people will call me names  
and will try to bully me,  
but I will stand tall!

Some days are bad days - that's OK.  
Some people say nasty things - that's OK,  
because I am hidden with Jesus  
in the safest place,  
in the arms of God,  
like sleeping in a tent,  
like standing high on a tall rock  
where nothing can get me.

With God's care around me  
I will sing and dance  
and shout for joy!  
With God's face shining on me  
I will be patient though bad days.  
I will be strong.  
Take courage, my heart,  
lean on God.

### **Thank you for your love! Psalm 138**

I give you thanks, O Lord,  
with all my heart.  
**I sing you praise, O Lord,  
with all my soul.**

Thank you for your love,  
your amazing love that lasts forever.  
**Thank you for your love,  
your solid love that cannot fail.**

You speak and your word is power!  
**You call and your name is glory!**

When we cry out in our trouble  
you answer us.  
**When we stumble and fall  
you lift us up.**

Your mercy cares for the weak.  
**Your touch pours out strength.**

Thank you for your purpose  
for each you have a plan.  
**Thank you for your promise  
to hold us in your hands.**

**Your steadfast love, O Lord,  
endures forever!**

### **The praise of his glorious grace**

*(Ephesians 1: 3-9)*

Blessed be God! Praise to the Father of Lord Jesus Christ!  
In Christ we are blessed, in Christ we are chosen  
**to live in the praise of his glorious grace!**  
In Christ we belong in the family, adopted  
**to live in the praise of his glorious grace!**  
In Christ the great mystery of God is revealed;  
**to live in the praise of his glorious grace!**  
In Christ we are called to be blameless and free,  
**to live in the praise of his glorious grace!**  
Blessed be God! Praise to the Father of Lord Jesus Christ!

### **The unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace**

*(Ephesians 4:1-6)*

Here with these people you are called into a calling.  
Come, friends, you are welcome -  
**in the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.**  
Here we choose to like each other, lift each other up,  
humbly, gently, patiently -  
**in the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.**  
Here we are a small part of one body in one Spirit,  
with one Lord, one faith, one baptism -  
**in the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.**  
Here we share hope in one God and Father of all,  
who is above all and through all and in all -  
**in the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.**

### **Wake up, Sleepy heads!**

*(Ephesians 5:8-14)*

Wake up, sleepy heads!  
Rise from the dead and Christ will shine on you!  
Once we lived in the dark,  
but now we're in the light.  
Once our lives were pointless,  
wasted time and full of shame,  
but now we are children of light!  
Our work bears fruit that makes a difference.  
Our lives ring true, God delights in us  
as we shine the light of goodness in the dark.  
Wake up, sleepy heads!  
Rise from the dead and Christ will shine on you!

### **We belong**

*(Ephesians 2:11-16)*

We were once strangers to each other and strangers to God,  
**kept apart by rules and fear**  
suspicious of anyone who didn't look like us.  
**We were once short on hope and mean with our love.**  
But Christ broke down the walls between us.  
**He made us a new people, in one Spirit,**  
children of God, citizens of the Kingdom.  
**We belong in Christ, forever at home in God.**