

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

- 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.

Invitation into deep prayer: Psalm 91

Come, my love, come in,
into my shadow, under my shelter,
for I AM
How will you name Me today?
MostHigh, AllMighty?
Refuge, Protector?

Come, my love, come in
rest here ... if you dare to trust Me
hide here ... if you seek a safe place
as bullets fly, bombs blast and viruses spread.
*You need not fear the terror of night
the pestilence that stalks the dark
or the destruction that wastes the day!*

Come, my love, come fly with Me
held in my claws as my great wings spread
and together we rise
above the land, above the battle
look down on wild animals and deadly threats
trust in me, hide in my soft under-wing.

Come, my love, be still.
You have made the MostHigh your home.
I am your refuge.
Now be still, be with me, just with Me.
Here in this moment, let the sounds of the world fade,
ignore the tasks that await you,
know only Me.
I hold you. I deliver you. I protect you.
I am with you always, in everything.
I rescue and save you. I will satisfy you with Myself.

Here, you will find a welcome

(for St Davids Presbyterian Church, Palmerston North)

Here, you will find a welcome,
Here, you will find a family.
Here, you will find a harbour,
Here, you will find a home.

There is food for hungry hearts,
There is rest for weary feet.
There is shelter from the storm,
When it's Jesus Christ we meet.

**Here, Jesus bids us welcome,
Here, God makes us one family.
Here, the Spirit is our harbour,
Here, we will be a home.**

Holy, holy

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord! –
so the angels sing and we will join them.
Heaven come to earth,
grace has come to birth.
Everything within me, praise the Lord!

Lift the roof with song and shouts of joy!
We are here to honour Christ our saviour.
Holy One, come near
Spirit, meet us here.
Everlasting God, we worship you.

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.

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)*

Lift up the ancient doors! Psalm 24

Lift up your heads, ye gates!

Lift up the ancient doors!

- that the King of Glory may come in -

Who is the King of Glory?

The universe is his, and all that is in it
The whole earth is his, and all that lives on it
He formed the foundations of everything
Creator King, come in, come in!

Lift up your heads, ye gates!

Lift up the ancient doors!

- that the King of Glory may come in -

Who is the King of Glory?

Who desires to see this King?
Who dares to come close to this glory?
You could stand on the street outside
and snap photos as he passes
Or you could come in and stand in his presence!
But be warned – you cannot enter his gates
in your own power or goodness.
Lift up your heart to the Servant King!

Lift up your heads, ye gates!

Lift up the ancient doors!

- that the King of Glory may come in -

Who is the King of Glory?

The LORD – Father, Spirit, Jesus -
magnificent in power, Lord of all,
He is the King of Glory!

Harvest of Joy: Psalm 126

Remember feeling amazing!

Remember a time of celebration –

that was the Lord God at work!

Laughter rang out,

everyone was happy,

everyone laughed till they shook with joy!

**The Lord has done great things for us
and we reply with shouts of joy!**

Remember feeling sad?

Remember tears running down your face –

God was with you then.

Your pain planted seeds

and your tears watered them.

The seeds grew in the tender mercy of God
growing fruit of wisdom

fruit of kindness.

Gather the fruit, and celebrate

that all things work for good in God's ways.

Those who go out weeping

shall come home rejoicing.

**The Lord has done great things for us
and we reply with shouts of joy!**

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.

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.

Now in this moment

Now in this moment we gather into stillness
Here in this place we rest in everlasting arms.
(time of silence)
Breath of God, breathe in us
Word of God, speak to us
Love of God, surround and bless
till we find ourselves in unity,
reaching the full stature of Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit to the glory of the Father. Amen.

My grace is sufficient for you

2 Corinthians 12:8-10

It's enough, it is always more than enough;

God's grace is enough for every moment.

**Christ says: "My grace is sufficient for you,
for my power is made perfect in your weakness"**

So we can boast in our weakness,
celebrate our flaws and imperfections.

**Christ says: "My grace is sufficient for you,
for my power is made perfect in your weakness"**

So we can be OK when trouble comes,
insults and abuses, hardship and calamity.

**Christ says: "My grace is sufficient for you,
for my power is made perfect in your weakness"**

When we are weak, then we are strong.

God's grace is enough for every moment!

God makes us stronger!

2 Corinthians 12:8-9 (for children & all-age worship)

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!

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 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 resound with you
May your praise whisper through every word and act
I will not trust in my own competence
I will not trust in the praise or criticism of others
I will not play the games of power and control
Our petty human obsessions
fall away to nothing in the face of you -
You who made all things
 spirit and matter
 earth and sea and sky
 and all that lives -
You who keeps faith with us forever
You who is at work in the world -
 justice for the abused
 food for the hungry
 sight for the blind
 welcome for the stranger
 care for the widow and orphan
 judgment for evil
These great refrains of our faith -
may they 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!

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!

Outrageous love

(for Clevedon Presbyterian Church)

Outrageous love, generous grace!
There is no place too far, no need to fear,
in freedom's open space.
The Father's arms are open wide
to catch us when we fall,
and turn to him, with nowhere left to hide.

Spirit, good Spirit
Hold us in your love
Jesus, Lord Jesus
Hold us in your love

So come on in, come on home.
Here is your family who long for you,
where you are safe and known.
There's nothing less and nothing more
than knowing you are welcome, you are whole.
What are you waiting for?

Spirit, good Spirit
Hold us in your love
Jesus, Lord Jesus
Hold us in your love

Fullness of Joy: Psalm 16 verses 1-3

Keep us safe, loving God, for in you we take refuge.
Thank you for your love and power.
Thank you for your arms of grace, drawing us in, leading us
on
from a deep place of safety and confidence.

I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord;
apart from you I have no good thing."
Lord Jesus, all that we have comes from you.
All that we own, all we take for granted,
all that is worth anything in our lives,
all is gift, from you, from your infinite goodness.

We celebrate godly people, here and everywhere.
They are the noble ones in whom is all my delight.
We praise you for your church, especially this church,
for warm fellowship in which we know you, loving Lord.
With your people around the world,
those gone before and those who come after us,
we praise you.

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!

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! Psalm 150

Us poor old Kiwis aren't that good at praise.
"Good on ya mate" is as good as it gets.
"That was not too shabby."
We're not that good at praising our kids or our partners
so how can we praise God?

*Praise the Lord! Praise God in his holiness!
Praise God with the vastness of the universe!
Praise him for his mighty deeds!
Praise him for his surpassing greatness!*

It certainly surpasses our ability to find words
or to fill the words with passion.
What will help us to release our gratitude
to let fly our awe?

Instruments might help – let rip on the drums,
let the crashing shout our praise!
We need the organ to sound,
violins and trumpets to play at full blast!
Turn the music up loud
to drown out our doubts
and self-conscious efforts
to honour the maker and savior of all.

Holy Spirit, be kind to us
wedge open our hearts
crumble our culture of complaint
draw us out of ourselves
that we might stand in the light of infinite glory
and bask in the goodness of God
until all we can do is **Praise the Lord!**

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.

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 perspective –
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!

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.

Song of the Stars: Psalm 19

The universe shouts your Word!
What language do stars speak?
Words of vast emptiness and infinite distance,
words of brilliant light and constant explosion,
whirling words, ancient words, alien words.

Around one Word we spin -
the Sun, light of our world,
cruising in glory across the sky;
colours all things, warms all things.

Around God's Word we gather -
the Son, light of the world.
His way finds the lost
his truth opens blind eyes
his life conquers death
his bread feeds our hunger
his Spirit fills hearts with joy
his desire burns away greed
his touch is sweeter than honey.

May our lives shout your Word
in all we say, in all we do,
out in the open or hidden in the dark.
May our lives sing your Word
in the secrets of our soul,
in trouble, in shame, in confidence.
Shine brightly, Lord
and hold us in your orbit.
Amen.

Come, Holy Spirit, come.
Burn, holy fire, burn.
Breathe, holy breath of God, breathe.
Make us your people,
reshape us your family.
Take us into all your ways.

Humbly we stand in your presence
knowing only need of you.
All our pride, our plans, our riches
fall in pieces round our feet.
You alone, our heart's desire,
You alone can make us whole,
You alone are worthy of all
honour, glory, thanks and praise.

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!

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.

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!**

Call me loyal: Psalm 101

(A statement of commitment as a community)

Call me loyal, I'll hold you loyal too.

Call me faithful, I'll hold you faithful too.

Let's sing in our worship and our work,

sing of God's love and justice.

Let's study God's truth and holiness,

**so that in all our ways, through all our days,
we'll hold true and do right.**

Here in this family we'll uphold integrity

and ignore the petty and irrelevant.

We will build each other up and know nothing of evil.

We won't tear each other down

with casual lies or bitter complaints.

We will think others better than ourselves.

We will revel in God's favour, and delight in our differences.

We will minister to each other, from the youngest to the
eldest.

We will welcome all God brings us,

no matter who they are or what they have done,

for all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God

but in Christ we are set right by his grace,

so I need you and you need me, and together we belong.

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.

The Hurricane Psalm: Psalm 29

Batten down the hatches, secure the sails!
Bring in the picnic chairs and shut all the windows!
A storm is coming!!

**The Lord our God is strong and mighty!
All glory belongs to our God!
His name is magnificent,
His voice resounds with power!**

Dark clouds gather.
The wind picks up and tosses the waves.
Lightning flash, thunder rolls, rain blasts,
air whips, trees strain, branches crack,
flying rubbish, bursting streams ...

**The Lord our God is strong and mighty!
All glory belongs to our God!
His name is magnificent,
His voice resounds with power!**

Even in our terror we marvel.
Even as the windows whistle we cry "Glory!"
Ours is not a tame God.
Our world gets tossed and tumbled,
blowing away our illusion of security.
Lord, give us strength.
Lord, bless us with peace.

**The Lord our God is strong and mighty!
All glory belongs to our God!
His name is magnificent,
His voice resounds with power!**

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.

Blessed are God's People: Psalm 144

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,

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!

True Worship: Psalm 50 (Part A)

In the beginning was God

and God spoke!

All worship starts here.

Then God called together a people
from every corner of the globe.

Our God comes near

and he is not silent.

Glimpse his glory,

feel his fire -

This is worship!

Ah, but then it gets harder.

Will you stay to hear God's judgment?

Will you stick around to be criticised?

The problem is, we keep reducing worship
to a transaction.

We bring to God our time and offerings

but just enough -

'That will do, God'.

That is not true worship.

"Mine are the cattle on a thousand hills" says the Lord

"What I desire is simply you" says the Lord,

"all of you, your gratitude and your need,
all your heart."

That is true worship.

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.

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!

Introduction: Call to Worship

The chatter fades. The people stop looking around to see who's coming in late; eyes forward. Breath slows, a sigh or two. Ah...

a moment of peace, a moment of expectation.
How will we begin, this Sunday morning?

This moment is when we call the congregation to worship. Often we sing, but we need words too. We gather ourselves together away from our rush and lists or our pain and loneliness. We gather ourselves into the presence of God, in the company of each other.

The words in this collection are written to help you with that. Most of them are based on specific Biblical texts (mainly Psalms and Ephesians). They are written in open, every-day language which people of all ages and abilities can connect with, while also honouring and remembering old familiar texts. They tend to be up-beat, focused on praise, focused on God, without denying life's struggles.

Most of them are in the form of 'call and response', with one person leading and the congregation saying the lines in bold (easy enough to do on Powerpoint). Because everyone can both read and hear the words it's a great opportunity to invite less experienced Readers to lead, including the young and the old and the shy. Or two readers could alternate sections, or just one reader can say it all. If the suggested format doesn't suit you, change it. If it's too long, just read part of it.

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

Will you stand with me?

*(for Bishop Justin Duckworth
Especially suitable for a Communion Sunday)*

Today is a wonderful day,
Though storms they are heading our way.
Whatever the weather
God brings us together.
Just listen, you'll hear Jesus say ...

**Will you stand with me, be a family?
In the bonds of affection,
The arms of connection,
In love we are held and free.**

There's plenty of work to be done.
There's always more races to run.
There's seed to be sowing,
The challenges growing,
We just cannot do it alone.

Crack open the wine to be shared
And bring out the baskets of bread.
In Christ we are known,
Our hearts overflowing,
As into the world we are led.

**Will you stand with me, be a family?
In the bonds of affection,
The arms of connection,
In love we are held and free.**

So you've come to church today, I see.
Something made you get out of bed,
get dressed and out the door on a Sunday morning.
Did you come out of duty, with jobs to do?
Did you come out of habit, just what you do?
Did you come for a greeting, the warmth of a hug?
Did you come for a moment of stillness?
When you walk through that door, whatever the reason,
you step into a space created by God,
planned through the ages, planted in time –
now in this moment you come, and are welcome.
Thank you, I thank you, for coming today!

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!



Welcome In

**A collection of resources
for the opening of worship**

written by Silvia Purdie

2015

Also to be found on: www.conversations.net.nz

Dedicated to the Milson Combined Church