

Call to worship:

**Jesus lead us to the Father  
by your Spirit, help us draw near.  
Jesus lead us to the Father  
by your Spirit, help us draw near.**

**As we come with awe and gladness,  
help us draw near.  
As we come with awe and gladness,  
help us draw near.**

**Alleluia, alleluia, help us draw near.  
Alleluia, alleluia, help us draw near.**

*Sam Hargreaves  
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Prayers of Praise, Adoration and Confession  
led by Rekha Cheriyan

Psalm 116

I love the Lord, because he has heard  
my voice and my supplications.  
Because he inclined his ear to me,  
therefore I will call on him as long as I live.  
The snares of death encompassed me;  
the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;  
I suffered distress and anguish.  
Then I called on the name of the Lord:  
'O Lord, I pray, save my life!'

What shall I return to the Lord  
for all his bounty to me?  
I will lift up the cup of salvation  
and call on the name of the Lord,  
I will pay my vows to the Lord  
in the presence of all his people.  
Precious in the sight of the Lord  
is the death of his faithful ones.  
O Lord, I am your servant;  
I am your servant, the child of your serving-  
maid.  
You have loosed my bonds.  
I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice  
and call on the name of the Lord.  
I will pay my vows to the Lord  
in the presence of all his people,  
in the courts of the house of the Lord,  
in your midst, O Jerusalem.  
Praise the Lord!

**Blessèd be your name  
in the land that is plentiful,  
where your streams of abundance flow,  
blessèd be your name.  
And blessèd be your name  
when I'm found in the desert place,  
though I walk through the wilderness,  
blessèd be your name.**

**Every blessing you pour out  
I'll turn back to praise.  
And when the darkness closes in, Lord,  
still I will say:  
Blessèd be the name of the Lord,  
blessèd be your name.  
Blessèd be the name of the Lord,  
blessèd be your glorious name.**

**Blessèd be your name  
when the sun's shining down on me,  
when the world's 'all as it should be,'  
blessèd be your name.  
And blessèd be your name  
on the road marked with suffering,  
though there's pain in the offering,  
blessèd be your name.**

**Every blessing you pour out  
I'll turn back to praise.  
And when the darkness closes in, Lord,  
still I will say:  
Blessèd be the name of the Lord,...**

**You give and take away,  
you give and take away.  
My heart will choose to say,  
Lord, blessèd be your name.**

*Matt Redman (b. 1974) and Beth Redman  
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Luke 24:13-35

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognising him. And he said to them, 'What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?' They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, 'Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?' He asked them, 'What things?' They replied, 'The things about Jesus of

Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.' Then he said to them, 'Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?' Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, 'Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.' So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognised him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?' That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!' Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Sermon          Rachel Bending

**Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.  
The cross stands empty to the sky.  
Let streets and homes with praises ring.  
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.**

**Christ is alive! No longer bound  
to distant years in Palestine,  
but saving, healing, here and now,  
and touching every place and time.**

**Not throned above remotely high  
Untouched, unmoved by human pains  
But daily in the midst of life  
our saviour in the Godhead reigns**

**Women and men, in age and youth,  
can feel the Spirit, hear the call,  
and find the way, the life, the truth,  
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.**

**Christ is alive and comes to bring  
good news to this and every age,  
till earth and sky and ocean ring  
with joy, with justice, love, and praise.**

*Brian Wren (b. 1936)*

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Prayers of Intercession led by Rekha Cheriyar  
The Lord's Prayer

**Love divine, all loves excelling,  
joy of heaven to earth come down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesu, thou art all compassion,  
pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation,  
enter every trembling heart.**

**Come, almighty to deliver,  
let us all thy life receive;  
suddenly return, and never,  
never more thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,  
glory in thy perfect love.**

**Finish then thy new creation,  
pure and spotless let us be;  
let us see thy great salvation,  
perfectly restored in thee:  
changed from glory into glory,  
till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love, and praise!**

*Charles Wesley (1707–1788)*

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The Blessing