

1 Our

We reflect on our calling to be community,
bound together in the love of God

Singing

Keeping Stillness

During this time we will be calling to mind the routes we have travelled to be here now. Thank God for the opportunity to spend this time together as sons and daughters in the company of our heavenly Father. Now retrace your journey which has brought you to this moment. Start with the geographical route, and then move on to the spiritual route.

Leader Our heavenly Father,
as members of the Body of Christ together,
All we have come to worship you.

Leader As members one of another through your love,
All we have come to worship you.

Leader As sisters and brothers – family members,
All we have come to worship you.

Leader As your adopted sons and daughters,
All we have come to worship you.

Leader As we worship, increase our love for you.
All As we worship, increase our love for one another,
so that as your Church,
we may reflect your likeness more brightly,
and our lives may touch the world
with the love we learn at your feet.
Amen.

Singing

Leader How good it is to sing praises to our God.
All How pleasant and fitting to praise him.
Leader Great is our Lord and mighty in power;
All his understanding has no limit.
Leader The Lord delights in those who fear him,
All who put their hope in his unfailing love.
(From Psalm 147)

Leader Hear the prayer Jesus made for all his followers, just before he was arrested and killed. He is praying that they may all be one in God's love.

Reading John 17:13-26

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Keeping Stillness

In your own time read over the passage you have just heard, letting it sink in that you are one of those Jesus was praying for here. So often in church we are challenged to give out, but not now. When you finish reading, know that Jesus is still praying personally for you, as for each of us, by name. You are on the receiving end of his concern and love.

Leader As God loves us, so let us love one another
A with compassion and affection;
B with understanding and acceptance;
A with encouragement in all that is Godly;
B with honesty and respect.

Leader As God loves, so let us love one another.
From selfish motives and desire to take the best
and highest places,
All Good Lord, set us free.

Leader From subtle discouraging and offence born of arrogance,
All Good Lord, set us free.

Leader From a critical spirit in our self-righteous conversations,
All Good Lord, set us free.

Leader From unfaithfulness in our relationships,
All Good Lord, set us free.
As God loves us, so may we love one another.
Amen.

Leader Hear this account from Luke's Gospel of the company Jesus chose.

Reading Luke 5:27-32

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Keeping Stillness

Think over the way Jesus chose, and still chooses, the company of sinners and outcasts, so we need never feel we have sinned beyond hope of his friendship and forgiveness. Neither do we ever need to pretend we are better than we are. All our unloving, dishonest and unfaithful behaviour grieves the heart of God, but it does not make him love us less or stop longing for us to turn ourselves towards him. Let God see you now as you know you really are.

Singing

Have a time to pray for one another as you continue to worship.

At the end of this time of prayer, pray together:

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
and 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
for ever and ever.
Amen.

Leader The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ
be with your spirit and build you up in his love.
Amen.