

3 Who art

We reflect on the living presence of God,
whose name is 'I AM'

Singing

Keeping Stillness

Settle comfortably so that you can be completely still. Notice the stillness of those around you, and of the building. Notice the steady burning of the candles, and your own breathing. Be still and know that God, whose name is 'I AM', is here with us now.

Leader Hear this account of the way God reveals his name to Moses, a name which is related to the verb 'to be'. God is describing himself as total Being.

Reading Exodus 3:13-15

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Leader In the beginning . . .

All God . . .

Leader In this moment now as we pray . . .

All God . . .

Leader In all time and out of time . . .

All God . . .

Leader Time-locked as we are, we struggle to understand God's ever-present and eternal nature, without beginning or ending.

All Father, open our eyes that we may see.

Leader The mystery of God's Being invites us to lay down our anxieties about past and future, and rest in his constancy and peace.

All Father, open our eyes that we may see.

Leader The knowledge of God's eternal Presence allows us access to a fresh and liberating way of living.

All Father, open our eyes that we may see.

Glory be to the Father
and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit
as it was in the beginning,
is now and shall be for ever.
Amen.

Leader Hear these words spoken by the risen ascended Christ – heard by John in his vision of heaven's eternity, and recorded by him in the book of Revelation.

Reading Revelation 21:5-7

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Keeping Stillness

Eternity is not 'a long time' but God's 'presence' – like our 'now', but always that fresh, present moment. In this time of stillness, think over the 'new thing' which God has done in Christ. He gives us the gift of this immortal 'now' to live in here on earth, even while we live in human, mortal time. Wrap yourself in God's timelessness and worship him.

Singing

Leader	It is God's nature to be faithful:
All	in time and in eternity, God is.
Leader	From before our creation to the end of all things:
All	in time and eternity, God is.
Leader	All knowing, all seeing, all loving:
All	in time and eternity, God is.

Praying

Have an open time of prayer, voicing your concerns in the presence of God, either in pairs and threes or in the whole group. Or you may prefer to have music playing quietly and candles available for people to light as individual prayer concerns are brought into the Eternal Presence of God.

Leader	Safe in the everlasting arms of God, may we live our lives set free from the fear of death.
All	May we walk through this time on earth in the knowledge that we walk also in the courts of heaven, through the saving love and power of Christ.
Leader	Let us bless the Lord.
All	Lord, we bless you, and thank you, and praise you, both with our lips and in our lives. Amen.