

Worship on the Reign of Christ Sunday

10:00 am November 23, 2025

Minister: The Rev. Brad Childs Music Director: Binu Kapadia

Welcoming Elder & Vocalist: Lynn Vaughan

Children's time: Fionna McCrostie Reader: Wesley Childs

We gather to worship God

Music prelude

Greeting

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you

P: and also with you

Lighting of the Christ candle

Welcome and announcements

Preparation for worship

Call to worship:

L: Say among the nations, The Lord reigns.

P: Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice!

L: God comes to judge the earth.

P: God will judge the world with righteousness and the people with truth.

L: Come, let us worship God in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

P: Blessing and honour, glory and power be to our God now and always.

Opening praise: *How great is our God*

Prayers of approach and confession

Eternal God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

majestic in glory, boundless in mercy,

Three in One, forever One in Three—

we stand in awe of you today.

You spoke galaxies into being and still bend low to number the hairs on our heads.

In Jesus you flipped the script of the world:

the King became a servant,

the Lion became the Lamb,

the immortal God tasted death

so that death would lose its sting forever.

On the cross you rewrote the story of power, turning shame into glory,

weakness into the very strength that holds the universe together.

Nothing is too broken for you, no night too dark, no heart too far gone.

You are the Love that will not let us go,

the Hope that outruns our despair,

the Power who does immeasurably more than all we ask or even dream of.

So here, now, we pour out our worship, our wonder, our wholehearted yes—

receive it all, our Sovereign, our Savior, our Friend.

Yet, God of truth and tender mercy, we have to be honest before you.
We confess that far too often we choose the easy road when you call us to the costly one.
We scroll past the pain of the world and tell ourselves someone else will handle it.
We cling to comfort while you keep nudging us toward courage.
We say we trust you, but panic the moment the path disappears from sight.
We love the idea of following Jesus until obedience actually asks something of us—our time, our reputation, our plans, our security.
Forgive us for the half-hearted prayers, the selective obedience, the way we hoard grace for ourselves and ration it out to everyone else.
Forgive us for treating your mission like an optional extra instead of the very air we were saved to breathe.
We are weary of our own excuses, tired of settling for a smaller story when you keep inviting us into the wild, beautiful adventure of your kingdom coming on earth as it is in heaven.
So come, Holy Spirit—
the same Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead—
come and breathe new life into these tired bones.
Set our hearts on fire again with the reckless love of Jesus, our Shepherd who laid down his life for the sheep and still calls us, by name, to follow.
Where we are afraid, give us faith.
Where we are apathetic, awaken us.
Where we have wounded others, heal us and make us healers.
Lead us, even when the way is steep, even when the cost is high, because we know the One who goes ahead of us has already conquered sin and death and will never leave us on the road alone.
This is our prayer, our confession, our surrender—
have mercy on us, renew us, and send us. Amen.

Response: *We come to ask your forgiveness*

Assurance of God's grace

Hear the good news:

While nails were still piercing his hands, Jesus looked at the ones who put him there and said, "Father, forgive them."

That same voice speaks over you right now— not with condemnation, but with astonishing, undeserved love.

In Christ, every sin is nailed to the cross and left there.

In Christ, you are forgiven, fully, freely, forever.

So stand up in that freedom. Breathe it in. Live it out.

And because you have been forgiven so much, go and forgive your neighbours as well. Thanks be to God! and Amen.

Musical offering: *Kyrie eleison* (Dayspring Singers)

We listen for the voice of God

Song: *Open our eyes, Lord* (445)

Children's time

Today, we celebrate Christ the King Sunday! It is a special day in the church calendar year, as it is the FINAL Sunday before we start the beginning of a brand new church year with onset of the Advent season.

Christ the King Sunday ... or ... Reign of Christ Sunday. So, today let's talk about kings.

Tell me what you know about kings. What do they wear?

That's right, they wear a crown and they wear royal robes. *(pic #1)*



They also carry something that represents their power and authority -- do you know what that is called? It's called a sceptre!

Kings also have LOTS of treasure and jewels and gold. *(pic #2)*



Where do they get it from? You're right – from the people!

If these pictures show what a king looks like, then we have a serious problem in church today, because this morning we are supposed to remember Jesus as Christ the King, and He certainly didn't look or act like the kind of kings we're used to.

We know Jesus didn't wear a gold and jeweled crown. He wore a different kind of crown. What was it? A crown of thorns. *(pic #3)*



And Jesus didn't wear royal robes with white fur down the front, did He? He wore a simple shepherd's robe and sandals.

And Jesus didn't carry a sceptre to show His power, what did He carry? You're right again! He carried a Cross ... (pic #4)



... symbolized here with this special new addition to our sanctuary. And do you know what? He carried all our sins to the cross with him, too!

And finally, does Jesus want boxes of jewels and diamonds and gold coins? No, what Jesus wants to gather to Himself is our hearts and our love. (pic #5)



Jesus is a king, but a different kind of king than we're used to.

He wants to be the King of our hearts and our lives. He is the most wonderful King, who wants to give us forgiveness, love, heaven, and eternal life with Him! He wants us to show the same kind of love and forgiveness that He gives to us to all those around us, and to help make the world a better place.

Let's thank God for sending Christ the King to us!

Dear God, thank you for being the kind of King who doesn't want gold and power and treasure, but a King who wants our hearts and love. Thank you for being a King who wants to give everything that is good to his people, and to us, his children. Thank you for having Christ the King go to the cross for each one of us, to wash away our sins. And thank you for the home He is preparing for us in heaven.

And now, we pray together,

The Lord's Prayer (535)



Song: *Rejoice, the Lord is King* (267:vss 1,2,5)

Scripture: Jeremiah 23:1-6;; Psalm 46; Colossians 1:11-20; Luke 23:33-43

Response: *Thy word is a lamp unto my feet*

Message: Presentation of Dayspring's new Advent Wreath



Introduction: This morning, it is my honour as part of the Worship Committee to introduce Dayspring's new Advent wreath prior to Advent starting next Sunday. It is a handmade wooden cross discovered by the Worship Committee and finished to complement our sanctuary by Linda Farrah-Basford's son, Dirk. It is a contemporary

wreath that anticipates Christ's birth and also foreshadows his Crucifixion on the cross. A wreath which calls up the Holy Spirit to comfort, inspire and guide us as we contemplate and anticipate Christ's second coming.

While the Worship Committee was working on creating our new Advent wreath, I found myself reflecting on what Advent meant to me as a social worker on a pediatric multi-disciplinary team in AHS working with families in the process of understanding a new diagnosis about their child's complex development. As a social worker, I heard the Holy Spirit whispering, "Come into the Advent circle, beloved, for Christ is returning through you." As though the Holy Spirit was inviting me to be part of a fellowship of "little Christs," sharing the news there is no pain, worry, fear or situation that Christ cannot understand. That we do not carry our worries alone because God has written Himself into our stories. That Pain and Death are not the end of our relationship with God.

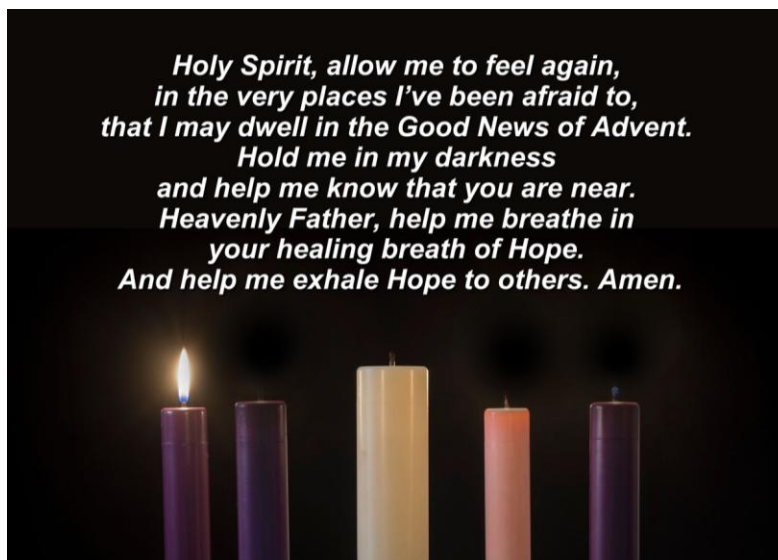
During Advent, we will meditate, pray and praise God. And we will wait. We will do God's work in our own small and large, private and public ways. For those who feel lost and lonely, for those who think they have been forgotten, marginalized and ignored. For those who are anxious in their present circumstances and unsure about their future. And we will wait.

So, this morning, in preparation for Advent let us reflect on the Holy Spirit's gifts of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. On the Christ candle's promise that God is with us. And how these can offer solace, encouragement and excitement for the days and weeks ahead.

Unison prayer

Holy Spirit, in this Advent of expectation, draw us together in unity, that our praise and worship might echo in these walls and also through our lives. In this Advent of expectation, draw us together in service, that the path we follow might lead us from a stable to a glimpse of eternity. Amen.

HOPE



Advent is a journey toward the horizon of Hope. It begins with an awakening and a shift in our thinking. It may start with our sense of the absence of God during a difficult time. Or our inability to love him like we long to or the loss of our spiritual “sparkle.”

Hope and healing starts in our pain, in our darkness. When the moment seems bleak, when it looks as though life is unchangeable or on a path toward greater pain, grief, or loss. And we do not understand, Why me? Why now? Will this pain ever end?

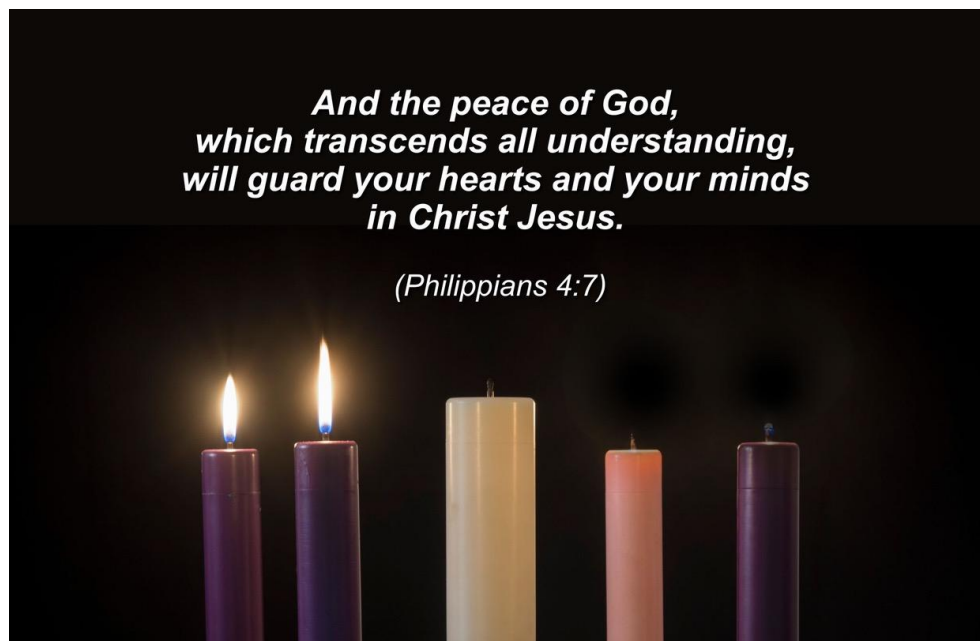
To live in the Holy Spirit’s Advent Hope is to anticipate God in the midst of this unknowing. It is an awareness of what isn’t and what can’t be. Hopelessness beckons the miracle that our lives have meaning in the midst of pain. That each day we live matters, and indeed, that we matter. It is to understand that neither we, nor this world, can fix ourselves and that God’s plan puts us here and now for reasons known only to him.

This kind of hope does not disappoint because it is founded on the Word of God. Knowing this gives us freedom to live for what really matters. To be open to God’s plan for us. Those who live like this can at the same time acknowledge pain and yet nurture hope. The one who has hope lives differently.

Unison prayer

Holy Spirit, allow me to feel again, in the very places I’ve been afraid to, that I may dwell in the Good News of Advent. Hold me in my darkness and help me know that you are near. Heavenly Father, help me breathe in your healing breath of Hope. And help me exhale Hope to others. Amen.

PEACE



During the second week of Advent, our hearts will turn toward the profound concept of Peace. Our world is filled with noise, chaos, and uncertainty. The narrative of Bethlehem beckons us to find peace. Not in the absence of turmoil but in the presence of the One who calms the storm. Advent peace is an enduring, transforming peace that recognizes and responds to worldly circumstances but is neither distracted nor consumed by them. It does not mean to be in a place where there is no noise, trouble or hard work. It means to be in the midst of those things and be still. Where the silent night becomes a sanctuary to contemplate our place in God's plan.

And while we all desire inner peace, calm and tranquility, perhaps we need first to accept the Holy Spirit's invitation to live as peacemakers. By examining our own hearts and reflecting on where we need reconciliation and forgiveness in our own lives. By embracing a spirit of forgiveness for ourselves as well as others. By creating space for the Holy Spirit to enter us, we can move from inner turmoil to a sense of lasting peace through prayer and efforts to promote justice and compassion. By surrendering our worries and allowing Christ's peace to mend and transform us, we can be a source of peace for others.

Unison prayer

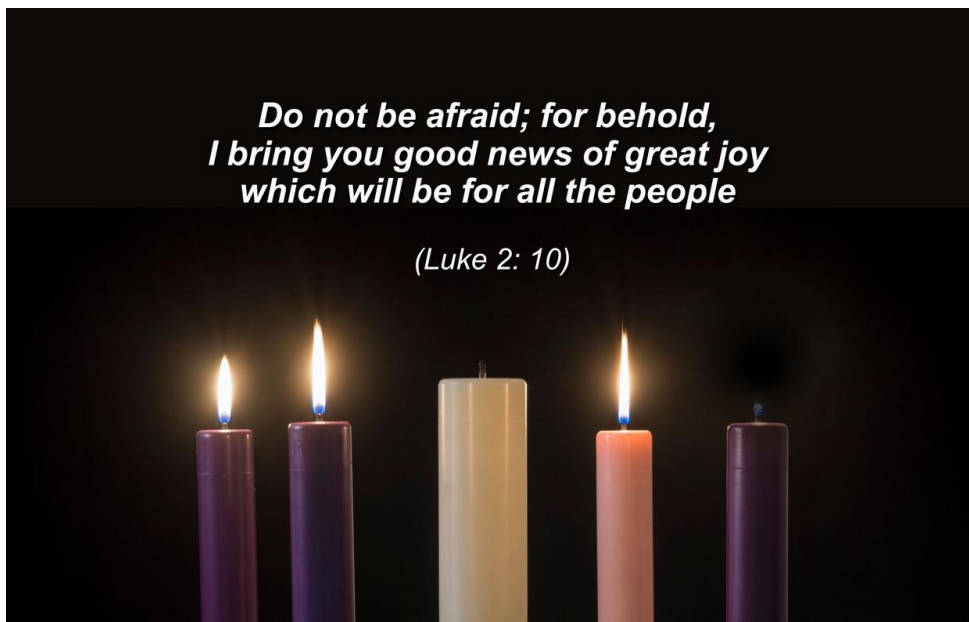
Please join me as we pray together.

Holy Spirit of Peace, help us create spaces where we can be still - spaces where we can catch our breath; spaces where we can reconnect with you. In a tumultuous and noisy world, we seek the quiet refuge of your presence. When we light this candle, may its flame kindle within us a deep and abiding peace that emanates from the manger in Bethlehem. May your peace reign in our hearts, calming the storms within and around us. Jesus, Prince of Peace, in a world full of noise, help us draw our hearts closer to you and help us live lives of love, kindness, and reconciliation. Amen.

JOY

***Do not be afraid; for behold,
I bring you good news of great joy
which will be for all the people***

(Luke 2: 10)



The candle of Joy celebrates the impending birth of Jesus and the angels' message to the shepherds: "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a saviour, who is Christ the Lord."

Good news. Great joy. A saviour. *For you.* The angels' proclamation tells us to rejoice and their announcement is personal. No matter your life story, no matter where you stand in history, Jesus Christ was born... for you. You had a need that only He could fulfill. He was born for your sake. Those words contain wonders for our minds to puzzle over and our hearts to treasure.

But perhaps your Joy is being squeezed or silenced. You might be struggling to rejoice because of trying circumstances or sorrows. But what if we could acknowledge the challenging things and then decide in the midst of all that to choose joy? During Advent, the Holy Spirit acknowledges that Pain and Joy can co-exist. Joy is possible in moments of Pain. Joy isn't out of reach. It just needs to be uncovered so it can be recovered.

The Holy Spirit is a wind blowing around us, exciting us, urging us forward or gently re-directing us when joy seems out of reach or impossible to find. To remind us that our worries do not empty tomorrow of its sorrows, but only empties today of its strengths. Remember: Good news. Great joy. A Saviour. *For you.*

Unison prayer

Please join me in prayer together.

We thank you, Holy Spirit, for the Joy that is ours in Advent. Like the shepherds who heard the angel chorus so many years ago, help us remember the angels continue to sing the good news for us today. Help us hear their astounding message of a Saviour born just for us. And during moments when we feel overwhelmed by what is happening in our lives and around the world, help us remember that Joy can exist despite and within all circumstances. Jesus, our Saviour and Wonderful Counsellor, help us in those difficult times to choose Joy. Amen.

LOVE



The Holy Spirit's definition of Love stands in opposition to our culture's version: a fleeting, clutching, roller coaster of emotions with the tagline, "there's always more fish in the sea." Advent love is nothing like that. Advent love is Mary's story: a young woman who willingly accepted the complexity, beauty and pain her particular form of motherhood would hold. Fully hers and yet somehow, fully beyond her. An Advent kind of love that ultimately asked her to let go and trust God when everything seemed uncertain and out of control. When Gabriel came, her response was one of the most emphatic "yesses" in scripture. How can we love like that?

At Dayspring, we can belong to one another in an Advent love that transcends genetics. We can step in and fill the gaps that exist in our families of origin. We can encourage health and healing where it can exist. We can be mothers, fathers, siblings, grandparents, grandchildren, aunts, uncles and cousins to each other. A love that binds us together in both celebrations and squabbles. Loving deeply and letting go, as Mary did. But how do we take up Mary's courage and walk in that kind of love? How do we honour and care for each other both inside and outside our church walls? And how do we know when to let go?

If we want to love as Mary loved, perhaps we start with seeing love as a gift from the Holy Spirit. Maybe Mary's example of love invites us to remember that all we have and all that we are belongs to God. We can hold people tightly in our hearts but with loose hands, just as Mary did, because we can trust God knows the beginning and ending. Perhaps Mary's kind of love looks like finding the ones among us in need of the love we have to offer. We can provide a temporary soft place to land, a makeshift bed of straw and cloth, and we can celebrate when that bed becomes too small for the ones in our care.

Please join me as we pray together.

Help us, Holy Spirit, to embrace the tension inherent in how Mary loves and echo her willingness. Help us to love and let go. May we seek a deeper existence for our churches and communities, more fully trusting the Holy Spirit to tend to the ones we have been given the honour to love. May we build and keep spaces for people who need a soft place to rest. Amen.

CHRIST CANDLE



The Christ Candle brings us back to the beginning. To the reasons why Jesus was born and died on the cross for us. It reminds us that our past, present and future with God comes together through the mystery of our faith: Christ has come, Christ has died, Christ will come again.

Hope. Peace. Joy. Love. Those words are both our mantra and our directive: Be a light in someone's darkness. Seek reconciliation. Celebrate the truth that you are loved, lovable and loving. Include and care for all. The candles of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love encircle the Christ Candle. They are, at the same time, turned inward to Christ and outward to the world. So it is to be for us.

In the context of nations with animosity and distrust and division, we can be a light of Hope. In the context of a world with starving children and poverty and mental illness and disease and war and despair, we can be a light for Peace. In the context of communities with overdose deaths and disrupted family systems and addictions and domestic violence, we can be a light for Joy. In the context of families who are disconnected and distracted. When others are tempted to ignore the pain in the world and the pain in their own souls, we can be a light for Love.

Aware of the groanings in our world, the Holy Spirit consoles us with the knowledge that the Advent circle is not just a circle of single candles. The Advent circle is infinite and eternal. It includes those who walk with us: past, present and future. Those known to us and those unknown. In this circle, we are never here alone. In difficult times, we can call up others in the circle, past and present, to help us remember and share the old and yet eternal message of Hope. Peace. Joy. Love. Good news. A Saviour. *For you.*

So come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant.
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.
Come, and behold him, born the King of angels.
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Friends, look at this wreath again — really look. It is not a circle pretending everything is tidy and round. It is a cross. Hand-cut wood, shaped by human hands, finished with love by Dirk at his mother's request, and now placed here in the heart of Dayspring. A cross that holds five small flames.

That is the whole gospel in one glance.

The four candles do not stand alone. They lean into the centre because Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love only make sense when they are leaning toward Christ. And the Christ Candle does not stand alone either — it is held by the very instrument of suffering and death. The manger and the cross are already kissing each other in this wood.

Every diagnosis you have ever sat beside in a hospital room, every parent who has heard words they never wanted to hear about their child, every night you have lain awake wondering how the story can possibly end well — this cross-wreath says: I

have room for that. I was made for that. Because the One we wait for was not born into a world that had its act together. He was born into splinters and occupation and poverty and scandal and fear — born under the shadow of a cross that was already waiting for Him.

And still the angels sang. Still the sky broke open with glory. Still Love refused to stay safe in heaven and came down to lie in straw.

So when we light these candles week by week, we are not pretending the darkness isn't real. We are proving it has already lost.

- Hope lights first — because even when we cannot see the road, we know the One who is the Road.
- Peace follows — because the Prince of Peace has already disarmed every power by the weakness of a baby and the weakness of a cross.
- Joy sneaks in — the stubborn, heavenly laughter that says death does not get the last word.
- Love crowns it all — the love that will not let us go, even when we are unlovely, even when we are afraid to be loved.

And in the centre, Christ — yesterday in the manger, today in this bread and cup and in our wounded hearts, and tomorrow when He comes again with nail prints still visible, because Love keeps its scars forever.

This is our wreath. This is our story. This is our commission.

So Dayspring, take this cross-wreath into your bones this Advent: Carry the splinters and carry the light. When you visit someone in pain, bring the whole circle with you. When you feel your own heart cracking, remember the circle is larger than your pain — it stretches back to Mary, forward to the City without night, and it holds you now.

We do not light pretty candles. We light a rebellion of mercy. We light a promise that the story is not over. We light the defiant, gentle news that Love wins, Love has won, and Love is coming again — on a day we do not know, to a world that will not expect Him, in a way that only the wounded will recognize.

Until that day, the cross holds the flame, and the flame holds us.

Come, Lord Jesus. We are watching. We are waiting. We are ready — by Your grace — to burn.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, we wait in anticipation for your greatest gift of love, your Son, Jesus Christ.

Holy Spirit, take us to where we are needed, even if we are uncertain of the task ahead.

Give us listening ears,

Noticing eyes,

Compassionate hearts,

Open hands,

That we might use these gifts in joyful and loving service with others in our ordinary

days until Christ comes again.

Amen

***Song:** *Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love* (229)

We respond to serve God

Our time of giving



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- 1. Place a donation in the Offering Plate as you leave the Sanctuary via the centre door. Use the Yellow envelopes (add Name & Address) or your numerically identified personal Offering Envelope if you want a tax receipt.**
- 2. Use Pre-authorized remittance or e-transfer (call the Church Office on Wed or Thurs for info).**
- 3. Click the Donate button on our website (bottom right at www.DayspringChurch.ca).**

Prayers for ourselves and others

Lord Jesus Christ,

we give you thanks that you reign through love
as the power that embraces the world with mercy and hope.

Thank you for revealing that to trust is wisdom,
to forgive is the best way to deal with enemies,
and to serve is the best way to lead.

We pray that, through the grace of your kingdom,
each beloved creature and citizen will know safety and satisfaction in their homes.
Let the vision of your peaceable kingdom take root in our hearts,
bringing healing to families and communities,
and in every place wounded by violence or destruction.

Lord Jesus Christ,

We give you thanks for reaching out to those on the margins
and those others shunned,
so that each one knew they belonged in your kingdom.

We pray for those who face discrimination or insecurity in our communities,
longing for respect and a chance to thrive.

Teach us how to live differently as neighbours,
to acknowledge and work with others we've never worked with before.

Lead us by your Spirit
to share in your work of mending the world.

Lord Jesus Christ,

Thank you for enduring the pain of the cross and the darkness of the tomb to show us there is life beyond death through your resurrecting love.

We pray for those who are grieving a loss this day,
the loss of someone beloved,
the loss of love or hope or trust,
the loss of opportunity or security or future plans.

(Keep silence for 15-20 seconds.)

Be present with all who experience the sadness and disruption of a loss, and bring each one comfort and courage.

Lord Jesus Christ,

This day we pray for your church at work in the world,
confronting the challenges and changes of these times.

Unite us in witness and service,

and encourage us when difficulties arise,

for we are your people, committed to the unfolding of your reign among us. Amen.

Song: *Lord the light of your love is shining* (376)

Sending out with God's blessing

Go in love and loyalty, knowing that Christ goes before you, Christ goes behind you, Christ walks beside you, and Christ lives within you. And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and communion in the Holy Spirit be yours, now and evermore. Amen.

Response: *Benediction (as you go)*

Music postlude

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