

Sunday 22 March 2020

Church Hill Anglican

CHURCH
17 HILL 88
ANGLICAN
SYDNEY

Hello Friends at Church Hill,

We think that what you have here is a form of Service that might be useful for worship in a home this Sunday. It is for this Sunday only. We will have a think about how we move forward. Things are changing so quickly.

You could also use this in a small group this week. It may be that some Community Groups meet at the same time you normally have Sunday Church – in a park or in a home. The time you normally went to church on Sundays will now be free.

Or why not invite someone from church over to your home? A single person? A family? Maybe even someone who has never been to church?

And remember, no shaking hands, wash hands beforehand, sit 1.5m apart, and consider carefully the preparation of any food. And if you are sick, stay away.

You could also do this on your own. There are suggestions in the box for those who do this with others.

This order of service was designed to be used in conjunction with the youtube video link included in the same email you received it through. Text Justin if you need a hand: 0403 569 502 or Emma Collett 0413 685 616

But we hope that the following is helpful for this Sunday.

FOR THOSE MEETING IN A GROUP SETTING, USE THESE SIDE BOXES TO GUIDE YOU

Choose someone at the table to read the following.

Introduction

Believers everywhere,
with or without buildings,
in isolation or in community,
come to God in the name of Christ.

They come to offer praise and thanksgiving,
to hear and receive God's holy word,
to pray for the needs of the world,
and to seek the forgiveness of sins,
that by the power of the Holy Spirit,
followers of our glorious Lord Jesus,
may give ourselves wholly to the service of God.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

TIME OF SHARING

You could ask 'what are you looking forward to in the next 30-40 minutes?' Everyone can share if they feel comfortable.

**IF YOU FEEL
COMFORTABLE, WHY NOT
SING THIS SONG?**

Go to bit.ly/churchhillsong1
for a recorded version to sing
along with.

Or just listen to it if you feel
less awkward about that. But
remember, the underground
churches have been singing
quietly and awkwardly for
centuries. We've chosen this
song because we think all
congregations would be able
to sing it.

And it's such a good song.

Before The Throne Of God Above

Before the throne of God above
I have a strong, a perfect plea
A great high priest, whose name is Love
Who ever lives and pleads for me
My name is graven on his hands
My name is written on his heart
I know that while in heaven he stands
No tongue can bid me thence depart
No tongue can bid me thence depart

When Satan tempts me to despair
And tells me of the guilt within
Upward I look, and see him there
Who made an end of all my sin
Because a sinless Saviour died
My sinful soul is counted free
For God, the Just, is satisfied
To look on him and pardon me
To look on him and pardon me

Behold him there, the risen Lamb
My perfect, spotless righteousness
The great unchangeable I am
The King of glory and of grace
One in himself, I cannot die
My soul is purchased by his blood
My life is hid with Christ on high
With Christ, my Saviour and my God
With Christ, my Saviour and my God

Vikki Cook, Charite Lees Bancroft
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Confession

James says: 'Humble yourselves under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up.' The Scripture reminds us that we still sin. We need to confess our failures, knowing that Jesus intercedes for us with the Father, who freely forgives us.

So let us draw near to God with sincerity and confidence, and pray this prayer:.

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
you are merciful and kind,
but we have gone our own way,
not loving you as we ought,
nor loving our neighbours as ourselves.
We have sinned against you in thought, word and deed
and in what we have failed to do.
We deserve your condemnation.
Father, forgive us.
Help us to love you and our neighbour,
and to live for your honour and glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Be lifted up by these words:

The Apostle John says: If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us for all unrighteousness.

~ 1 John 1:8-9

Jesus said: 'Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

~ Matthew 11:28

One person says:

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

Everyone replies:

His steadfast love endures for ever.

Perhaps someone in the group can read this, and you could invite response after reading it.

Bible

Psalm 46

- ¹ God is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble.
- ² Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,
- ³ though its waters roar and foam
and the mountains quake with their surging.
- ⁴ There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy place where the Most High dwells.
- ⁵ God is within her, she will not fall;
God will help her at break of day.
- ⁶ Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall;
he lifts his voice, the earth melts.
- ⁷ The Lord Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.
- ⁸ Come and see what the Lord has done,
the desolations he has brought on the earth.
- ⁹ He makes wars cease
to the ends of the earth.
He breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.
- ¹⁰ He says, 'Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth.'
- ¹¹ The Lord Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress

Perhaps someone in the group can read this, and you could invite response after reading it.

Bible

1 Corinthians 1:10-25

¹⁰ I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought.

¹¹ My brothers and sisters, some from Chloe's household have informed me that there are quarrels among you. ¹² What I mean is this: one of you says, 'I follow Paul'; another, 'I follow Apollos'; another, 'I follow Cephas'; still another, 'I follow Christ.'

¹³ Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptised in the name of Paul? ¹⁴ I thank God that I did not baptise any of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵ so no one can say that you were baptised in my name. ¹⁶ (Yes, I also baptised the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I don't remember if I baptised anyone else.) ¹⁷ For Christ did not send me to baptise, but to preach the gospel – not with wisdom and eloquence, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

¹⁸ For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written:

'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise;
the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.'

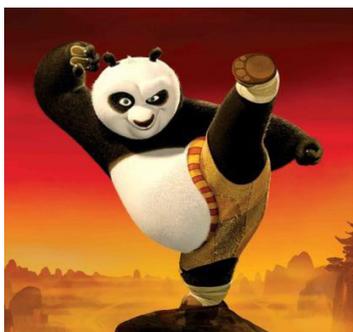
²⁰ Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

²¹ For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. ²² Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, ²³ but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Tell any kids present that this character will be mentioned:



Message

*You turn things upside down,
as if the potter were thought to be like the clay!
Shall what is formed say to the one who formed it,
'You did not make me'?
Can the pot say to the potter,
'You know nothing'?*
~ **Isaiah 29:16**

1. The Corinthians are 'turning things upside down'. (v10-17)

- Corinthians seek identities
- Jews demands power (strength, 'signs')
- Greeks demand wisdom (sophistry)
- Australians demand beauty

2. The 'message of the cross' turns things the right way up (v18-25)

- God chooses Paul
- God chooses weakness
- God chooses foolishness
- God chooses ugly

3. So that no one may boast (v31)

- This is leadership
- This is strength
- This is wisdom
- This is beautiful

Traditionally, we stand for the creed. Feel free to do so.

The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ,
God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
from there he will come to judge
the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,*
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*The 'catholic Church' denotes the totality of God's people throughout the ages who hold firm to the classic teaching of Christ's apostles.

You are free to pray as you perceive the needs of the room, or the world. I do think that we need to pray for an outpouring of his Spirit on this world, that people will call upon his name. We could take this season to pray for revival. But here are some prayers you could pray.

Prayer

Sovereign Lord, you are the hope and healer of your people, and have promised a world where there is no more sickness or crying or death. By Christ's death and resurrection, you have set your people free from the penalty of sin and death.

We pray your kingdom come; your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Please prosper the work of those who are seeking a vaccine for the coronavirus. We pray for those involved in essential services, for health professionals, for leaders of communities in education and business.

Please comfort those who are mourning the loss of loved ones, or living in fear of this disease, and those who have concerns about loneliness in the coming season.

Please give to governing authorities wisdom in their management of this crisis, and give to your people your peace beyond understanding, generous and wise hearts and a renewed trust in your sovereign goodness and glory.

Turn the hearts of many now experiencing fear and anxiety that they may find peace. The peace that comes as fruit from the Spirit; the peace wrought by the death and resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose name we pray, **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

**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.
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
now and forever. Amen.**

**IF YOU FEEL
COMFORTABLE, WHY NOT
SING THIS SONG?**

Go to bit.ly/churchhillsong2
for a recorded version to sing
along with.

Or just listen to it if you feel
less awkward about that.

Amazing Grace

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now I'm found
Was blind, but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed

Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come
'Twas grace has brought me safe thus far
And grace will lead me home

When we've been there ten thousand years
Bright shining as the sun
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we first begun

*Edwin Othello Excell, John Newton, John P. Rees
Public Domain*

Benediction

**Trust in the Lord with all your heart.
Be of good courage; hold fast that which is good;
render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted;
support the weak; help the afflicted; honour everyone;
love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;
and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. Amen.**