

Hope

A Service of Holy Communion

Introduction

Faith and Love are the seeds of Hope

Hope returns when I remember this one thing; the Lord's unfailing love and mercy still continue, fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise. The Lord is all I have and so I put my hope in him. [Lamentations 3.21]

Approach to Worship *[from Psalm 24]*

The world and everything in it belongs to the Lord, our God:

He laid the earth's foundations.

He gives life to all living things.

The Lord our God is holy: Who is worthy to enter his presence?

Those who are pure in heart and mind.

Those who put God first in everything and keep their promises to him.

God will show his love to them.

He will forgive them and declare them innocent of all wrong.

Let us open wide our hearts and minds:

to let the Lord, our glorious King enter in.

Humbly, we make him welcome;

Trusting, we claim his gracious presence.

We open our lives

To welcome him, our God and King.

Hymn

Hope - a reading from the Psalms

We put our hope in the Lord ...

We trust in his holy name.

Lord, may your constant love be with us

As we put our hope in you

When I consider how short you have made our lives

What can we hope for?

We put our hope in you, Lord.

When I ask why I am sad, why troubled?

I put my hope in God and once again I will praise him

My Saviour and my God.

Lord, I will always put my hope in you,

I will praise you more and more.

All day long I will speak of your goodness and salvation,

even though it is more than I can understand.

Lord, remember your promise to me .. it has given me hope. Even in my suffering I was comforted because your promise gave me life.

I place my hope in your promise.

All living things look hopefully to you. You give them food when they need it.

You give them enough and you satisfy the needs of all.

Praise God, **he is our eternal hope**

Praise God, **In Christ Jesus he is our hope.**

Praise God, **his Spirit gives us living hope.**

[Psalms 33,39,42,71,119, 145]

Collect

Lord our God, may our worship today be a meeting with you in Jesus;
a time of listening to his words; measuring ourselves against his life-example;
opening our lives to his Spirit; receiving him in tokens of bread and wine; and a
commitment to serving him with generous love for all.

We ask this through the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Word

The Commandments

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:

The first commandment is, 'The Lord our God is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.'

The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these.

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you.

Bible Readings

1 Corinthians 13: 1 - 13

Mark 4: 30 - 32

Address

Prayers

[Contemporary issues may be suggested]

Let us pray for the Church
to be a sign of hope to all the world by its varied ministries of compassion and
its confidence in God's parental grace

Lord of all hopefulness

May we sow seeds of hope

Let us pray for the world:
For all who live without hope; who long for justice and for an end to poverty;
who are exploited and marginalised that they shall know fulfilment in their lives,
and find hope through faith and love expressed in daily life.

Lord of all hopefulness

May we sow seeds of hope

Let us pray for those we know in personal difficulties;
For those who live in depression's gloom and find it hard to be hopeful, that they
may be encouraged to hope through our love as we trust in God for them.

Lord of all hopefulness

May we sow seeds of hope

Lord Jesus, our living Saviour, help us to trust you with our prayers, confident that we shall see the renewing power of your love bringing hope into every part of life.

At the Lord's Table

Christ is present at our table. He invites us to remember him as we share bread and wine. We remember how he lived in our world; how he taught us God's truth; how on the Cross he showed us the Father's reconciling love; how he was raised from death and is alive for ever. He has done everything necessary to assure us of God's peace, and now he invites us to share his life and to let him share ours.

The Lord Jesus gives us peace

The peace of the Lord is our peace

The Lord Jesus gives us life

The life of the Lord is our life

The Lord Jesus gives us hope

As we share love and faith in him

The Lord Jesus Christ, at his last supper with his friends, took a piece of bread, gave thanks to God, broke the bread and said, *This is my body which is for you. Do this to remember me.* In the same way, after the supper, he took the cup and said, *This cup is God's new covenant, sealed with my blood. Whenever you drink it, remember me*

Rejoice!

We rejoice in the Lord

Let us give thanks

With grateful hearts we praise our God

Our trust is in Christ Jesus

In love we share bread and wine with him

God, our Father, we thank you for your gift of life;
for your generous provision for all our needs;
for your forgiving, caring, renewing love at work in us.
We thank you for the blessings of life in the Church family
with Jesus as our head.

Above all things, we thank you for Jesus, your Son
whom you raised from death to be our living Lord
and who has given us sure hope of eternal life..

Praise to our Living Lord Jesus!

The Lord's Prayer

**Our father in heaven, may your holy name be honoured;
May your kingdom come;
May your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today the food we need.
Forgive us the wrong we have done,
just as we forgive the wrongs others have done to us.
Do not bring us to hard testing without keeping us safe from evil.
The kingdom, with all power and glory, belongs to you alone.**

Sharing the Bread and Wine

[according to local custom]

Prayer

Lord Jesus, united with you and with each other in the grace and power of your Spirit, make us strong to act, speak and think in ways which will bring glory to the Father. Renew our faith and love, out of which hope may grow.

Christ has died; Christ is risen. In Christ we are born again to eternal life. This fills us with living hope. Blessing and honour, glory and power belong to our God for ever

Hymn

Blessing

May the Lord Jesus continually renew our love for him, our faith in his word and make us people of hope

We will go with Christ. We will live in hope.