

Belonging



Introduction

Jesus said: Whoever welcomes in my name one of these children, welcomes me ... and the One who sent me. The Kingdom of God belongs to such as these.
[Mark 9.37; 10,14]

Hymn

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.

Prayer

Lord our God, may our worship today be a meeting with you in Jesus;
a time of listening to his words;
of measuring ourselves against his life-example;
of opening our lives to his Spirit;
receiving him in tokens of bread and wine;
re-affirming our commitment to him
and to the service of his Kingdom.
May our lives be totally enriched
ready to be used for your glory.
We ask this through the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Hymn

Belonging

[words from the Scriptures]

The world and all that is in it belongs to the Lord;
We acknowledge that the Lord is God.
He made us, and we belong to him;
We are his people. He is like a shepherd to us.
Let us be glad that we belong to him;
We worship him with joy: we go to him for help.

Lord God almighty, we belong to you;
We listen to all the words you speak
and we are filled with happiness.
We belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.
Whether we live or die we belong to the Lord;
**For Christ died and rose to life in order to be
the Lord of the living and of the dead.**
Those who belong to Christ Jesus
have put to death their human nature;
The Spirit has given us life and he must control our lives.

We are called to be the Church,
God's holy people who belong to him
in union with Christ Jesus and his people everywhere.
**May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ
give us grace and peace.**

[Psalm 24.1, 100.3, 105.3 Jeremiah 15.16, Romans 14.8, 1 Corinthians 1.2]

Prayers of Thanks

Gracious God from whom all love, truth and justice permeates our life.
we give thanks for your saving, healing love for us.
You are the truest parent of all and we are your children.
We belong to you and are part of your whole family on earth and in heaven.

Appropriate items may be included for thanksgiving

Prayers of Intercession

Prayers for the World, the Church and the local community

Response:

Through our lives and by our prayers / **Your kingdom come**

Offering

*Father, our gifts remind us that we, - all we have and are - belong to you.
Use us and our gifts for your Kingdom and your glory.
In the name of Jesus.*

Hymn

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

Sermon

Hymn

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 that we belong to him and are at peace with God our Father. In the everyday tokens of bread and wine 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
We belong to Christ our Saviour
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 belong to Christ!
And in Christ we belong to God.
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 eternal life..
We belong to you for ever!
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.**

Invitation

In the name of Jesus, to whom we belong, come and share life with him.

Sharing the Bread and Wine

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. Deepen our sense of belonging.

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

Hymn

Blessing

May the Lord Jesus continually renew us
with the joy of his presence,
and the power of his word.
We belong to Jesus! We go with him.