

WORSHIP WITH A DIFFERENCE JANUARY 31 2021



SHAKING FREE FROM OUR CAGES

GATHERING WITH GOD

You may like to light a candle in your home

We light this candle to remind us of the presence of Jesus Christ, the Light of the World, among us as we gather to worship in our homes.

We come to God, remembering we are the church, the Body of Christ, gathered in faith, despite not being physically present with one another. God is present with us and through us, to one another.

SONG: HEAR OUR PRAISES

May our homes be filled with dancing
May our streets be filled with joy
May injustice bow to Jesus
As the people turn to pray
From the mountains to the valleys Hear our praises rise to You
From the heavens to the nations Hear our singing fill the air

May Your light shine in the darkness
As we walk before the cross
May Your glory fill the whole earth
As the water o'er seas
From the mountains to the valleys Hear our praises rise to You
From the heavens to the nations Hear our singing fill the air
Hallelujah, hallelujah
Hallelujah, hallelujah...

Songwriters: Reuben Timothy Morgan
Hear Our Praises lyrics © Hillsong Music Publishing Australia

PRAYERS

From the mountains to the valleys hear our praise, O God.
In our streets and our homes
and now as we worship we bring our thanks and praise.
We look at the beauty and design
variety of your creation with wonder,
even in the heat we savour the coolness of a drink
the pick-me -up of a cuppa.

We wait to hear the stories of Jesus
stories of grace and healing in a world where so many people are suffering
stories of authority in teaching and the power of transforming lives
for a world that needs direction and hope
stories that fill us with wondering

We stop to simply drink in your Spirit:
Cleanse our thoughts as we confess that we have said and done things
which make God sad and which have hurt others and we are sorry.
Spirit of God,
open our hearts and fill our very beings with your life and love and peace.

And now in a week of many new beginnings
as the children and youth go to school
as little children are baptized in our church
and as we prepare to regather there in a week's time
we come with anticipation to be blessed on our way. Amen.

A PRAYER AS A NEW SCHOOL YEAR BEGINS

We give you praise, O God,
for everything that is new and beautiful,
for everything which holds promise and brings us joy.

Bless the students as they start this new year
with their friends and teachers.
Bless those starting school for the first time
or in a new school.

Help them to make the most of every chance they have to start afresh.
Help them to learn and to work together.
Help them to listen when they should
Help them to listen when they should,
to know the best words when they speak
and when it is better not to speak.
Help them to be good friends looking out for each other.
Bless the teachers, the parents and the school community and keep them all safe.
Amen.

adapted from a prayer [Back to School: Prayers for the Start of the School Year \(scsba.ca\)](http://scsba.ca)

SONG: Be Strong and Courageous

Be strong and courageous
The Lord of the Ages
Holds all His little ones safe by His side
Be strong and courageous
The Lord of the Ages
Holds all His little ones safe

Do not fear the fire Do not fear the waters
Do not fear the thunder Jesus has conquered them all

Be strong and courageous
The Lord of the Ages
Holds all His little ones safe by His side
Be strong and courageous
The Lord of the Ages
Holds all His little ones safe

Do not fear the darkness Do not fear the sadness
Do not fear the sickness Jesus has conquered them all

Songwriters: Colin Keith Robert Buchanan
Be Strong and Courageous lyrics © Universal Music Publishing Pty. Ltd.

PRAYER AS WE LISTEN TO THE BIBLE READING

Dear God, open our ears to hear what you are saying to us today.
Open our eyes, to see where Jesus' healing love is needed in our world.
Open our hands, to do your work and help where help is needed.
Open our lips, to bring comfort, joy, and laughter to your people.
Open our minds, to hear new truths about how you work in our world.
Open our hearts, to love you, our neighbours, and ourselves as you love us. Amen.*

BIBLE READING: MARK 1:21-28

They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

SERMON: Shaking Free from our Cages

SONG: TiS No. 685 THE POWER OF YOUR LOVE

Lord I come to You Let my heart be changed, renewed
Flowing from the grace That I've found in You
Lord I've come to know The weaknesses I see in me
Will be stripped away By the power of Your love

*Hold me close Let Your love surround me
Bring me near Draw me to Your side
And as I wait I'll rise up like the eagle
And I will soar with You Your Spirit leads me on
In the power of Your love*

Lord unveil my eyes
Let me see You face to face
The knowledge of Your love
As You live in me
Lord renew my mind
As Your will unfolds in my life
In living every day
By the power of Your love

Hold me close Let Your love surround me

Songwriter: Geoff Bullock

The Power of Your Love Lyrics © Warner Chappell Music, Universal Music Publishing Group, Music Services, Inc



PRAYERS FOR OTHERS

Merciful God, your love is unfailing
and so we bring our prayers for ourselves and for others to you:
We pray for those who long for a message of hope;
may we be the hopeful Body of Christ.
We pray for those who long for a healing touch:
may we be the healing Body of Christ.
We pray for those who yearn for freedom:
May we be the liberating Body of Christ.
We pray for those left on the outer
or struggling in deeply divided societies
and who seek a return to community
may we be the reconciling Body of Christ.

We pray for those grieving loved ones
may we be the comforting Body of Christ.
We pray with those who would like to know you more, O God.
May we be the Body of Christ bearing witness to your loving presence in the world.
Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

OFFERING

*Please take your weekly offering or a symbol of your offering
in your cupped hands as we dedicate it and ourselves,
giving thanks for all God's blessings and mercy.*

We are Christ's hands and feet and lips. We are Christ's body.
We dedicate the gifts we have offered this day
and the offerings of ourselves in service of Christ's body,
Christ's healing and Christ's message of love and freedom to the world. Amen.

SENDING OUT & BLESSING

When our spirits are troubled, Jesus brings us peace.
When our spirits are hurting, Jesus is our source of healing.
When our Spirits falter, Jesus gives us strength to carry on.
When our spirits alienate us from others, Jesus reconciles us to community.
May we who have celebrated the gift of Jesus Christ's teaching and healing go from
this time of worship to be a people who live God's liberating love in the world.*

And may the grace of Christ attend you,
the love of God surround you
and the Holy Spirit empower you today and forever. Amen.

SONG: FOR YOU DEEP STILLNESS

For you, deep stillness of the silent inland
For you, deep blue of the desert skies
For you, flame red of the rocks and stones
For you, sweet water from hidden springs.
From the edges seek the heartlands and when you're burnt by the journey
may the cool winds of the hovering Spirit soothe and replenish you.
In the name of Christ, In the name of Christ

Words: Julie Perrin (from Robin Mann, Altogether Again, Open Book used with permission)

*Prayers from *Prayers for all Seasons Year B* Seasons of the Spirit Collection.