



Gathering with God

As you light a candle say

This candle is lit to remind us today of the presence of Jesus Christ, the light of the world – the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

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

God is present with us and through us, to one another.

Prayer of Adoration and Confession

The King is coming.

Our God arrives, clothed in frail human flesh,
riding a meek donkey's foal

This is not the first time You have come to us, O
God

The history of human affairs is the history of Your
arrival among us,

As Creator,
Purpose-Giver,
Liberator, and
Prophet's voice



The story of
each of our lives is the story of Your coming to us,
As Comforter,
Friend,
Example,
Challenger
Abundant-Life-Provider,
And so we praise You;

Open our eyes to Your Presence, Lord;
Come to us again, Lord;
Hosanna – Save us again, Lord.
And be glorified among us in our scattered places.
For You are our God.

Adapted from a prayer by John van de Laar
<https://sacredise.com/>

Loving God today we celebrate Jesus entering Jerusalem as sovereign
Yet the week ahead will bring pain and torture and catastrophe
God, we know there are times when we have betrayed you
denied you.....
turned away from you.

And we pause and remember the times when we have behaved like the crowd
that shouts their praise with such excitement today
but who will turn against you before this week is over.
Forgive us... Amen.

Preparing for worship

Find a comfortable space, e.g. around a table or living room, grab your Bible and offering and prepare for worship. You can either work through the service on this sheet or follow along with our online video at

<https://youtu.be/dhfDPEcr5XI>

Words of Assurance

Jesus comes to us in all our weakness and failures.

This God is never defeated by who we are.

Receive the Christ with joy.

Receive the grace that is offered with humble thanks

We are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

Song

Hosanna

Verse 1:

Hosanna, hosanna,
hosanna in the highest
Hosanna, hosanna,
hosanna in the highest

Chorus:

*Lord we lift up your
name*

With hearts full of praise

Be exalted, oh Lord my God

Hosanna in the highest



Verse 2:

Glory, glory,
glory to the king of kings
Glory, glory,
glory to the king of kings

Carl Tuttle

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Hearing God's Word

Reading from Matthew 21:1-11 and Philipians 2:5-11

Reflection

A copy of the message is attached separately.

Prayers of the People

Good morning Loving God,

We thank you that you love each of us - each one of us- and because of your love we thank you that you listen to us.

And so this morning - together – connected and joined by our love for you, we bring you our concerns

We ask that you will give the leaders of our country (and all countries) wisdom and cooperation as they make decisions that seek to protect. Please call them to act justly, to love mercy and walk humbly with you, not just because of the impact of the COVID-19 virus but because of greed, poverty and abuse.



We ask for protection and encouragement for all our front-line workers - doctors, nurses, ambos, hospital workers, police, army and also those doing research for vaccinations and cures.

We pray for our Uniting Church leaders and ministers as they seek to facilitate ongoing connection and care in the name of Jesus.

In the midst of change and pressure and self-isolation -we pray for families impacted by domestic violence– we pray for those who abuse power and control that they will be challenged to kindness instead....

We also bring before you each one in our community – those who are sick, in hospital, alone, grieving, caring for loved ones –You know each of our needs this morning. Please Holy Spirit comfort them/us and bless them/us with the knowledge and heart of your love.

We need you Loving God, our planet needs you- please help us to be your heart, your hands, your voice, your kindness to one another ...

Because of Jesus we can pray this together - Amen.

You may like to pray 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.

O God, you bless us in so many areas of our lives
- in places we often fail to recognise as blessing.

Help us to have eyes to see and hearts to understand the depth of your love and blessing.

Today with gratitude in our hearts
we give out of that blessedness,
dedicating ourselves to lives of mercy,
giving all that we are and all that we have
to bring about your beloved community
here and now. Amen.

Offerings can be transferred electronically to
Blacktown Uniting Church
BSB: 634 634
Account No.: 100023472
or deposited directly to this account at any Westpac branch.



Song

The Servant King

Verse 1:

From heaven you came, helpless babe,
Entered our world, your glory veiled
Not to be served, but to serve
And give your life that we might live

Chorus:

*This is our God, the Servant King,
He calls us now to follow him
To bring our lives as a daily offering
of worship to the Servant King*

Verse 2:

There in the garden of tears
My heavy load he chose to bear
His heart with sorrow was torn
“Yet not my will but yours” he said

Prayer

He humbled himself.
He.....humbled himself.
He humbled.....himself.

He who is beyond us, above us, over us
lowered himself in obedience, even unto death.

**As I walk with him towards a cross this week
grant me the courage I need to practice obedience.**

**As I follow him beyond my regular patterns and comfort zones
instil in me a faith that trusts in hope's power above all.**

**As I watch my Saviour humiliated and tortured
let me bear witness that he willingly emptied himself of all but love.**

**At the sound of his name,
I bend my knee,
I confess with my mouth,
Jesus is Lord.**

**To him, above all,
I pledge my allegiance, my life, my all. Amen.**

Verse 3:

Come see his hands and his feet
The scars that speak of sacrifice
Hands that flung stars into space
To cruel nails surrendered

Verse 4:

So let us learn how to serve
And in our lives enthrone him
Each other's needs to prefer
For it is Christ we're serving.

Graeme Kendrick
1983 Thankyou Music
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Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;
the Lord turn his face toward you
and give you peace. Amen

Numbers 6:24-26

