

## *A CELEBRATION OF CHRISTIAN NURTURE*

### *OPENING HYMN: Heart of Worship*

When the music fades, All is stripped away And I simply come.  
Longing just to bring, Something that's of worth That will bless your heart.

I'll bring you more than a song,  
For a song in itself Is not what you have required.  
You search much deeper within Through the way things appear;  
You're looking into my heart.

Chorus: I'm coming back to the heart of worship  
And it's all about you, All about you Jesus.  
I'm sorry, Lord, for the thing I've made it,  
When it's all about you, All about you Jesus.

King of endless worth, No one could express How much you deserve.  
Though I'm weak and poor, All I have is yours Every single breath.

I'll bring you more than a song,  
For a song in itself Is not what you have required.  
You search much deeper within  
Through the way things appear; You're looking into my heart. (Chorus)

"Heart of Worship" by Matt Redman 1997 Kingsway's Thankyou Music CCLI # 366145

### *INVOCATION:*

P: In the name of the Father, and of ✠ the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: Into this holy place we have come to proclaim the love of God, our Father.

C: **Thank You, heavenly Father, for creating us and for caring for us every day.**

P: We have come here to tell again the story of Jesus, God's Son. He rescued us from sin and death.

C: **We acknowledge You to be our only Lord, God's promised Messiah. You are our Saviour and Friend.**

P: Here we honour God the Holy Spirit. He enables us to understand and believe what the Scriptures teach about Jesus.

C: **We praise You, O Holy Spirit. You blend the story of our lives with Jesus' story. In Him we have new life, thanks to You.**

### *CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:*

P: We learn from the word of God that we are all conceived and born sinful and so are in need of forgiveness. We would be lost forever unless delivered from sin, death, and everlasting condemnation.

C: **But the Father of all mercy and grace has sent His Son Jesus Christ, who atoned for the sin of the whole world that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.**

P: In the light of God's word, set forth in the commandments, let us reflect upon our lives, mindful of the ways in which we have neglected His word, walking according to our own path, rather than following His holy will.

C: **We confess, O Lord, our sins and shortcomings as Your disciples. We take for granted the wisdom of Your words. We are slow to learn of You and to tell others what we have learned. We grow little in our use of the Scriptures, the Sacraments, and prayer. At times we assume that we have learned all there is to learn of Your truth, Your power, and Your grace. Forgive us, Lord.**

**Renew us and strengthen us that once again Your people will tell this generation and the next your praiseworthy deeds.**

P: God is indeed merciful to us. He does not hold our sins against us, although He has every right to do so. Instead, He has laid them all on His Son, Jesus Christ, who already suffered the punishment that these sins called for. As His servant, speaking by His command and authority, I declare to you: Your sins are forgiven; you are precious members of the eternal family of God; and He has promised to you His Holy Spirit. Rejoice in Him! Rejoice in His love, for He declares that you are His beloved children!

**C: Amen.**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY:***

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray: Lord, we have much to learn. Show us our gifts and our role in your kingdom. Help us to mine the Scriptures for truth and to use the truth you reveal to us. To learn from you, Lord, is to know the secrets of life itself. With you as our teacher, we learn to live triumphantly, sacrificially, and eternally with You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

***HYMN: Ancient Words***

Holy words long preserved For our walk in this world  
They resound with God's own heart O let the ancient words impart

Words of life, words of hope Give us strength, help us cope  
In this world where'er we roam Ancient words will guide us home

Chorus: Ancient words ever true Changing me changing you  
We have come with open hearts O let the ancient words impart

Holy words of our faith Handed down to this age  
Came to us through sacrifice O heed the faithful words of Christ

Holy words long preserved For our walk in this world  
They resound with God's own heart O let the ancient words impart (Chorus)

We have come with open hearts  
O let the ancient words impart O let the ancient words impart

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***FIRST LESSON:*** Isaiah 50:4–10

P: This is the Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God!**

***SECOND LESSON:*** James 3:1–12

P: This is the Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God!**

***CHILDREN'S SERMON***

**GOSPEL LESSON:** Mark 9:14-29

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 9<sup>th</sup> chapter

**C: Glory to You, O Lord!**

Mark 9:14-29

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord

**C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

**HYMN:** Build Your Kingdom Here

Come set Your rule and reign In our hearts again  
Increase in us we pray Unveil why we're made  
Come set our hearts ablaze with hope Like wildfire in our very souls  
Holy Spirit come invade us now We are Your church  
We need Your pow'r in us.

Chorus: Build Your kingdom here Let the darkness fear  
Show Your mighty hand Heal our streets and land  
Set Your church on fire Win this nation back  
Change the atmosphere Build Your kingdom here we pray

We seek Your kingdom first We hunger and we thirst  
Refuse to waste our lives For You're our joy and prize  
To see the captives' hearts released The hurt the sick the poor at peace  
We lay down our lives for heaven's cause We are Your church  
We pray revive this earth. (Chorus)

Unleash Your kingdom's pow'r Reaching the near and far  
No force of hell can stop Your beauty changing hearts  
You made us for much more than this Awake the kingdom seed in us  
Fill us with the strength and love of Christ We are Your church  
We are the hope on earth. (Chorus)

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**SERMON:** Is Your God Too Small? - Mark 9:14-29

**OFFERING:****HYMN:** Lead Me to the Cross

Saviour I come, quiet my soul  
Remember redemption's hill  
Where Your blood was spilled For my ransom  
Ev'rything I once held dear I count it all as loss

Chorus: Lead me to the cross Where Your love poured out  
Bring me to my knees Lord I lay me down  
Rid me of myself I belong to You  
Oh lead me lead me to the cross

You were as I tempted and tried human  
The word became flesh  
Bore my sin in death Now You're risen  
Ev'rything I once held dear I count it all as loss (Chorus)

To Your heart To Your heart  
Lead me to Your heart Lead me to Your heart

Lead me to the cross Where Your love poured out  
Bring me to my knees Lord I lay me down  
Rid me of myself I belong to You Oh lead me lead me (Chorus)

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### ***CONSECRATION OF TEACHERS***

**P:** Dear friends in Christ, what a joy it is to see so many people gathered together who so generously share themselves with this congregation in the ministry of Christian nurture! In different ways each of you is contributing your gifts so that the people of this parish may continue to grow in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. God uses your gifts to continue what he began at your Baptism. We rejoice with anticipation as we remember His gracious promise, "He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." You are among the instruments God is using to bring that promise to fruition.

**C:** **We praise and thank God for the gift of faithful ministers and teachers who carry on this vital ministry of nurture.**

**P:** I now ask you: Do you willingly accept this challenge and privilege as workers in God's kingdom with the knowledge that the Lord will help and guide you as you carry out this task for Him? Then answer, "I do with the help of God."

**Teachers: I do with the help of God.**

**P** I place you as officers and teachers of Foothills Lutheran Sunday School in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

The almighty and most merciful God, our heavenly Father, enlighten and strengthen you in your office that through you and your guidance the people of God may grow in their faith and life, and that many of those who do not know God may be drawn by the Spirit into His fellowship.

**C: Amen.**

**P:** Let us pray. Almighty God, we give You thanks for the wondrous blessing of this assembly of faithful servants in the ministry of nurture. We praise You for their dedication and their generosity in sharing themselves with our congregation. We bless You for the generous ways in which their families permit them to share themselves with us. We implore You to pour out Your blessings on their preparations, so that they may reap many benefits from their service in the word. We ask You to pour out on them Your Holy Spirit, and strengthen them for the tasks to which they are called. Help us to do everything in our power to support their ministry. May we join with them in striving to achieve the goal of bringing Your love to all of those for whom Your Son gave His life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

**C: Amen.**

***THE RE-CONSECRATION OF THE CONGREGATION***

(We ask the congregation to stand.)

P: Dear friends in Christ, let us pray for one another in the family of God.

**C: Lord God, our spirit is willing to hear Your voice and to follow You, but our flesh is weak. We have not always been eager to hear Your word or to equip ourselves for service in our world. For these and all our other sins forgive us in Your mercy. endow us with Your Holy Spirit so that we may prepare ourselves for Christian service through the study of Your word and may we serve you in all areas of our life; Through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.**

***PRAYER OF THE CHURCH:***

P: O God, our Father, our Leader, our Nurturer, today we ask Your blessings upon the ministry of education in our church. You alone can create faith, hope, and love in our hearts. You alone can preserve us against the evil influences of the world. Give Your blessing to all instruction offered in this congregation. May Your Word be for all a well of water springing up to eternal life, and a source of growth and life.

**C: Lord, feed us with Your Word.**

P: Grant, O Lord, that all teachers of the Word realize the importance of their task, teaching the way of life to all whom You have bought with the holy, precious blood of Your Son. Give them the ability to teach the way of salvation that every child of God may clearly perceive and understand it.

**C: Lord, feed us with Your Word.**

P: Enable us, O Lord, to walk as Christians in this sinful world. Lead us into the Holy Scriptures, for Your Word is truth. As a shepherd leads his flock to green pastures, may You lead us to seek the nourishment of Your Word. Keep our feet on the path of Your righteousness.

**C: Lord, lead us by Your Word.**

(Other petitions may be added. Each one concludes:

P: Lord, in Your mercy, **C: Hear our prayer.**)

P: For all whom we pray, we ask Your mercy, and pray Your feeding and leading may be present in their lives.

**C: Lord, lead us by Your Word, for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, who has taught us to pray: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

***THE BENEDICTION:*** Shalom, My Friends

P Shalom, my friends! Shalom, my friends!

Shalom! Shalom!

God's peace be with you! God's peace be with you!

Shalom! Shalom!

**C Shalom, my friends! Shalom, my friends!**

**Shalom! Shalom!**

**God's peace be with you! God's peace be with you!**

**Shalom! Shalom!**

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***HYMN: Shine, Jesus, Shine***

Lord the light of Your love is shining in the midst of the darkness shining  
Jesus Light of the World shine upon us  
Set us free by the truth you now bring us  
Shine on me, Shine on me

Shine Jesus shine fill this land with the Father's glory  
Blaze Spirit blaze set our hearts on fire  
Flow river flow flood the nations with grace and mercy  
Send forth Your word, Lord and let there be light

Lord, I come to Your awesome presence  
From the shadows into your radiance  
By the blood I may enter Your brightness  
Search me, try me consume all my darkness  
Shine on me, shine on me

As we gaze on your kingly brightness  
So our faces display your likeness  
Ever changing from glory to glory  
Mirrored here may our lives tell your story  
Shine on me, shine on me

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