

FLOURISH '23
MORNING WORSHIP
Saturday 15th April

GATHERING SONG

OPENING RESPONSES

Leader: O God, you summon the day to dawn,
you teach the morning to waken the earth.

ALL: GREAT IS YOUR NAME.
GREAT IS YOUR LOVE.

Leader: For you the valleys shall sing for joy,
the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

ALL: GREAT IS YOUR NAME.
GREAT IS YOUR LOVE.

Leader: For you the monarchs of the earth shall bow,
the poor and persecuted shall shout for joy.

ALL: GREAT IS YOUR NAME.
GREAT IS YOUR LOVE.

Leader: Your love and mercy shall last forever,
fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise.

ALL: GREAT IS YOUR NAME.
GREAT IS YOUR LOVE.

SONG I OWE MY LORD A MORNING SONG

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| 1. I owe my Lord a morning song
for God has made this day.
Through fears of night and hidden light
God moves and wills my way. | 3. I owe my Lord a morning song;
the Spirit gave me voice,
nor did she force my soul to praise
but honoured me with choice. |
| 2. I owe my Lord a morning song
for Jesus rose at dawn;
he made death die and would not lie
that others might live on. | 4. I owe my Lord a morning song.
how can I help but sing
when God is all in all, and I
am one with everything? |

PRAYER

Leader: We need you, God.
ALL: WE NEED YOU, GOD.

Leader: So we respond,
ALL: MAKER OF ALL,
WE ARE YOUR CHILDREN,
THE CREATURES OF YOUR KINDNESS,
THE BEARERS OF YOUR IMAGE.

THIS DAY,
WE WILL WALK BY YOUR LIGHT,
FOLLOW YOUR SON
AND LIVE BY YOUR SPIRIT.

THIS DAY,
WE WILL NOT OFFER TO YOU
OFFERINGS THAT COST US NOTHING.
FOR THIS IS THE DAY THAT THE LORD HAS MADE;
WE WILL REJOICE AND BE GLAD IN IT.
AMEN.

SONG THIS IS THE DAY

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

1. This is the day that God has made;
grace, truth and beauty are displayed.
No day will ever be the same
so let's praise God's holy name:
2. This is the day when we can see
God's passion for diversity:
colour and culture, landscape, race
different contours, each in place.
3. This is the day when we may find
nourishment for both soul and mind:
insights and wisdom, calls to care,
food enough for faith and prayer.
4. This is the day in which we know
kindness and love are meant to grow:
love to the stranger, to the friend,
to the world - love without end.
5. This is the day we will rejoice,
stretch our horizons, raise our voice,
join in earth's symphony of love
improvised for heaven above.

PSALM 8

Leader: O Lord our God,
how glorious is your name in all the earth;
your majesty is praised above the heavens.
ALL: ON THE LIPS OF CHILDREN AND BABIES,
YOU HAVE FOUND PRAISE
TO FOIL YOUR ENEMIES,
TO SILENCE THE FOE AND THE REBEL.

Leader: When I see the heavens, the work of your hands,
the moon and stars which you arranged,
what are human beings
that you should remember them,
mere mortals
that you have time for them?

ALL: YOU HAVE MADE THEM
IN YOUR OWN IMAGE
AND CROWNED THEM
WITH GLORY AND HONOUR;
YOU APPOINTED THEM GUARDIANS
OF ALL YOU CREATED;
ALL THINGS ARE KEPT IN THEIR CARE.

Leader: All of them, sheep and cattle,
yes, even the savage beasts,
birds of the air, and fish
that make their way through the waters.

ALL: O LORD, OUR GOD,
HOW GLORIOUS IS YOUR NAME
IN ALL THE EARTH.

CHANT

Listen to the word which God has spoken,
listen to the One who is close at hand,
listen to the voice behind creation,
listen even if you don't understand.

BIBLICAL REFLECTION

SONG THERE IS A LINE OF WOMEN

1. There is a line of women
extending back to Eve
whose role in shaping history
God only could conceive;
and though through endless ages
their witness was repressed,
God valued and encouraged them
through whom the world was blessed.
 So sing a song of Sarah –
 to laughter she gave birth;
 and sing a song of Tamar
 who stood for women's worth;
 and sing a song of Hannah
 who bargained with her Lord;
 and sing a song of Mary
 who bore and bred God's Word.
2. There is a line of women
who took on powerful men,
defying laws and scruples
to let life live again;
and though, despite their triumph,
their stories stayed untold,
God kept their number growing,
creative, strong and bold.
 So sing a song of Shiphrah
 with Puah close at hand:
 engaged to kill male children,
 they foiled the king's command;
 and sing a song of Rahab
 who sheltered spies and lied;
 and sing a song of Esther
 preventing genocide.
3. There is a line of women
who stood by Jesus' side,
who housed him while he ministered
and held him when he died;
and though they claimed he'd risen,
their news was deemed suspect
till Jesus stood among them,
his womanly elect.
 So sing a song of Anna
 who saw Christ's infant face;
 and sing a song of Martha
 who gave him food and space;
 and sing of all the Marys
 who heeded his requests,
 and now, at heaven's banquet,
 are Jesus' fondest guests.

PRAYERS

ending with

GOD, SET YOUR BLESSING ON US
AS WE BEGIN THIS DAY TOGETHER.
CONFIRM IN US THE TRUTH BY WHICH WE RIGHTLY LOVE,
CONFRONT US WITH THE TRUTH FROM WHICH WE WRONGLY TURN
AS WE OFFER THIS DAY TO YOU AND FOR YOU
THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD.
AMEN.

SONG WE REJOICE TO BE GOD'S CHOSEN

1. We rejoice to be God's chosen
not through virtue, work or skill,
but because God's love is generous,
unconformed to human will.
And because God's love is restless
like the surging of the sea,
we are pulled by heaven's dynamic
to become, not just to be.
2. We rejoice to be God's chosen,
to be gathered to God's side
not to build a pious ghetto
or be steeped in selfish pride,
but to celebrate the goodness
of the one who sets us free
from the smallness of our vision
to become, not just to be.
3. We rejoice to be God's chosen,
to align with heaven's intent,
to await where we are summoned
and accept where we are sent.
We rejoice to be God's chosen
and, amidst all that we see,
to anticipate with wonder
that the best is yet to be.

DISMISSAL

Leader: This is the day that God has made:
ALL: WE WILL REJOICE AND BE GLAD IN IT.
Leader: We will not offer to the Lord
ALL: OFFERINGS THAT COST US NOTHING.

Leader: Go in peace to love and to serve:
ALL: WE WILL SEEK PEACE AND PURSUE IT.

Leader: In the name of the Trinity of love,
ALL: GOD IN COMMUNITY, HOLY AND ONE.