

## Order of Service for 28th Feb 2021

### ***Planning Permission***

#### Welcome

Welcome to our service for the second Sunday in Lent, entitled Planning Permission. We continue a study in Nehemiah and also reflect on Christ's challenging call to deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow him. We also continue to pray for God's guidance for our fellowship at Hearsall, and, to that end, we will be having a prayer meeting on zoom on Thursday 11th March at 7:30pm. For the moment though, let's be still and focus our attention on the presence of the Lord Jesus in our worship.

#### Call to Worship

In Lent, we seek to die to what is small and merely selfish. And we do that so we are ready to love the resurrection life on Easter Day. Let's hear Paul's reflections on this theme...

What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning, so that grace may increase? 2 By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? 3 Or don't you know that all of us who were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death? 4 We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. 6 For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin – 7 because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.

Romans 6: 1 - 7

Let us sing a hymn reminding us of the wonder of the salvation Christ won for us on the cross. *It is a thing most wonderful...*

Hymn **It is a thing most wonderful** (BPW 219)

It is a thing most wonderful,  
almost too wonderful to be,  
that God's own Son should come from heaven  
and die to save a child like me.

And yet I know that it is true:  
he came to this poor world below,  
and wept, and toiled, and mourned, and died,  
only because he loved us so.

I cannot tell how he could love  
someone so weak and full of sin;  
his love must be most wonderful,  
if he could die my love to win.

It is most wonderful to know  
his love for me so free and sure;  
but 'tis more wonderful to see  
my love for him so faint and poor.

And yet I want to love you, Lord;  
O teach me how to grow in grace,  
and I will love you more and more,  
until I see you face to face.

Prayers of confession and adoration

*The Hedgehog* (by Carmen Bernos de Gasztold, tr by Rumer Godden)

Yes, Lord, I prick!

Life is not easy - but you know that - and I have too much on my shoulders!

I speak of my prickles but thank you for them.

You at least have understood me, that is why you made me such a pin ball.

How else can I defend myself?

When people see me, my anxious nose searching for fat slugs that devastate the garden, why can't they leave me alone?

Ah! But when I think proper,  
I can roll myself up into my hermit life.

Lord, I often want to roll up into a ball and hide away.  
Sometimes I need to do that,  
but forgive me if I do it too often  
and grant me the courage to live life to the full.

Lord, you teach me that if I seek to save my life I will lose it,  
but if I lose it for your sake and for the sake of the gospel, I will find it.  
Sometimes I turn away in fear and confusion,  
but sometimes I do catch a sense of what you mean.

Forgive me for my sins, O Lord,  
call me again on the path of life eternal  
And teach me to live my life in service and worship.  
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.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen

Let's steel ourselves to sing this next song of offering our lives up to God...

*I will offer up my life...*

## Song I Will Offer Up My Life

### Verse 1

I will offer up my life  
In spirit and truth,  
Pouring out the oil of love  
As my worship to You.  
In surrender, I must give my every part;  
Lord, receive the sacrifice  
Of a broken heart.

### *Chorus*

*Jesus, what can I give, what can I bring  
To so faithful a friend, to so loving a King?  
Saviour, what can be said, what can be sung  
As a praise of Your name?  
For the things You have done,  
Oh, my words could not tell, not even in part  
Of the debt of love that is owed  
By this thankful heart.*

### Verse 2

You deserve my every breath,  
For You've paid the great cost,  
Giving up Your life to death,  
Even death on a cross.  
You took all my shame away,  
There defeated my sin,  
Opened up the gates of heaven  
And have beckoned me in.

### *Chorus X 2*

This week's Through My Window comes from our dear brother and 'flying deacon'  
Nick Leonard.

## Through The Window

Hello everyone,

This is the second 'Through the Window' or 'Door Ajar' that I have been asked to do. When David asked me to do it, I asked what he would like me to include that I had not before. His response was "Just let the Church know what goes through the mind of the Flying Deacon". I have a feeling that this could be a very short feature!

I suppose a good place to start would be to think about the motivation for what I do in my Flying Deacon roll. Many, many years ago when I was a Methodist local preacher I always wrote at the bottom of my sermon planning sheet 'SO WHAT' in capital letters. The reason for this is quite simple. No matter how much I had done previously in the sermon to illuminate biblical texts or to challenge the congregation, it all seemed pointless to me if there was not a practical outcome or response to the message of Jesus. This has followed me throughout my faith journey. I still often think to myself in difficult situations 'W.W.J.D.' - 'What Would Jesus Do'.

The last song in this service is 'The Summons'. As I was recording it, the words which hit me most were: "Will you use the faith you've found, to reshape the world around?" This, pretty much, is the challenge, amongst many in the song, which I feel is aimed at me. Have a good listen later on, and try and decide what the Lord is challenging you to do in this hymn.

Happily, I seem to have carved out a niche within Hearsall Baptist Church which makes me one of the first points of contact for people who are in need, both inside and outside the church membership. Yes, this can mean that needs arise at inconvenient times and some days can be very busy; but as I see it, these things are an opportunity to be an agent of Jesus in today's world. I consider the role to be a great blessing, but also a great responsibility.

Actually, I must say at this point that it would be impossible for me to do the things which I currently do, without the support of my wife, Annie.

I suppose the two things which define me are my musical and practical abilities. The former you have heard as part of these recorded services and the latter has involved

me in such things as printing The Messenger and Hearsall @ Home service sheets and then going on to deliver them every week.

Just like everyone else in the church, and probably the country, I look forward to a time in the future, hopefully not too far away, when we can meet and share together in person. In the meantime, I am doing everything I can to ensure that this can happen, by doing lots of small things, like taking people for their vaccination jabs.

Just as Jesus was a friend, comforter, and counsellor to people whom he met during his time on Earth, all I am doing in my small way, is to attempt to do the same for people that I meet. I consider it my Christian duty to use the skills which I have been given, as well as the resources I have been blessed with, to enrich the lives of those around me.

Agape love to you all.

Your brother in Christ,

Nick

Thanks, Nick, for sharing with us today. We worship God with our next song, *Lord I lift your name on high....*

**Song Lord I Lift your Name on High (WT 272)**

Verse

Lord, I lift your name on high,  
Lord, I love to sing your praises.  
I'm so glad you're in my life;  
I'm so glad you came to save us.

*Chorus*

*You came from heaven to earth to show the way,  
From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay.  
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky,  
Lord, I lift your name on high.*

Verse

Lord, I lift your name on high,  
Lord, I love to sing your praises.  
I'm so glad you're in my life;  
I'm so glad you came to save us.

**Chorus X2**

*You came from heaven to earth to show the way,  
From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay.  
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky,  
Lord, I lift your name on high.*

Verse

*Chorus*

*Lord, I lift your name on high.  
Lord, I lift your name on high.*

Our prayers of intercession this week are led by our dear sister and church secretary, Anne Thompson.

### Prayers of Intercession

Loving Father God, be with us during this time of Lent, when we think of the time you spent in the Wilderness being tempted by Satan. At this time we think of our own lives and what we should be doing during this time to improve ourselves and reflecting on what our impact is on other people and the world. Being in lockdown may feel like being in the wilderness to us and we ask you to help us find the strength to get through it and not be tempted to break the rules.

We are looking forward to seeing the beauty of your world come alive in the spring bulbs that are starting to come through. We long to be free to go further afield into pastures new when lockdown allows. We pray for the people who have no gardens to be in or to cultivate and no pleasant outdoor spaces nearby, and we hope that because of this their mental health will not be too badly affected.

We pray too for other people in a different kind of captivity. Those in prison, or kept in slavery, or kept against their will for political reasons, or perhaps by controlling members of their family. Especially as we have heard the stories of Princess Latifa in the media, which has highlighted this issue.

We ask you to be with those who have been affected by the severe and uncharacteristic weather that many parts of the world are experiencing, the wild fires, the severe storms, the snow and ice in Texas and the floods in many countries. These things, on top of the pandemic, are putting severe strains on many people and governments trying to alleviate the problems.

We thank you Lord for all the people trying to advance the vaccination programme and working on future vaccines and for all those working in our hospitals, where, although the rates of Coronavirus are dropping, many people are still very sick in hospital and many others are not able to get the treatment they need.

We ask you to be with our leaders as they plan the way out of this lockdown. Give them good judgement to make the decisions and not to be coerced into opening up places too early.

Father we ask you for your guidance as the Trustees and members seek to discern the way we should go in providing new buildings for the future of our church. Enable us to have the faith and confidence to take this forward, whilst taking responsible decisions about finances, as people responsible for this.

We ask you, Lord, to hold in your hand, all those who have been bereaved, who are sick or undergoing tests, those who are lonely, anxious and worried about the future because they have lost their job, income and the sense of who they are.

Now in a few moments of silence we think of particular people known to us personally and through the church and the prayer chain.

Dear Father, we ask all these things in the name of your son, Jesus Christ.  
Amen

Many thanks Anne for those prayers. We remember our offering.

## The Offering

For the joy of giving we bless your holy name. Take our humble gifts, O Lord, and let them be a part of the great proclamation of the gospel in word and deed across our world.

Amen.

## Bible readings

### **Nehemiah 2:1-10**

#### *Artaxerxes sends Nehemiah to Jerusalem*

**2** In the month of Nisan in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was brought for him, I took the wine and gave it to the king. I had not been sad in his presence before, <sup>2</sup> so the king asked me, 'Why does your face look so sad when you are not ill? This can be nothing but sadness of heart.'

I was very much afraid, <sup>3</sup> but I said to the king, 'May the king live for ever! Why should my face not look sad when the city where my ancestors are buried lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?'

<sup>4</sup> The king said to me, 'What is it you want?'

Then I prayed to the God of heaven, <sup>5</sup> and I answered the king, 'If it pleases the king and if your servant has found favour in his sight, let him send me to the city in Judah where my ancestors are buried so that I can rebuild it.'

<sup>6</sup> Then the king, with the queen sitting beside him, asked me, 'How long will your journey take, and when will you get back?' It pleased the king to send me; so I set a time.

<sup>7</sup> I also said to him, 'If it pleases the king, may I have letters to the governors of Trans-Euphrates, so that they will provide me safe-conduct until I arrive in Judah? <sup>8</sup> And may I have a letter to Asaph, keeper of the royal park, so he will give me timber to make beams for the gates of the citadel by the temple and for the city wall and for the residence I will occupy?' And because the gracious hand of my God was on me, the king granted my requests. <sup>9</sup> So I went to the governors of Trans-

Euphrates and gave them the king's letters. The king had also sent army officers and cavalry with me.

When Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official heard about this, they were very much disturbed that someone had come to promote the welfare of the Israelites.

### **Mark 8:31-38**

#### *Jesus predicts his death*

<sup>31</sup> He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup> He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

<sup>33</sup> But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. 'Get behind me, Satan!' he said. 'You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.'

#### *The way of the cross*

<sup>34</sup> Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: 'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup> For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. <sup>36</sup> What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? <sup>37</sup> Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? <sup>38</sup> If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels.'

We serve a great God who makes a way where there was not one before, who performs miracles where a situation seems impossible, who dreams a dream worth dying for and worth living for... Let's sing *Way Maker*...

Song **Way Maker** (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=29lxnsqOkmQ>)

**Verse 1 X 2**

You are here, moving in our midst,

I worship You, I worship You.

You are here, working in this place,

I worship You, I worship You.

**Chorus X 2**

*(You are) Way Maker, Miracle Worker, Promise Keeper,  
Light in the darkness, my God, that is who You are.*

**Verse 2**

You are here, touching every heart,

I worship You, I worship You.

You are here, healing every heart,

I worship You, I worship You.

**Verse 3**

You are here, turning lives around,

I worship You, I worship You.

You are here, mending every heart,

I worship You, I worship You.

**Chorus X 2**

*(You are) Way Maker, Miracle Worker, Promise Keeper,  
Light in the darkness, my God, that is who You are.*

That is who You are, that is who You are,

That is who You are, that is who You are.

**Bridge X 2**

Even when I don't see it, You're working,

Even when I don't feel it, You're working.

You never stop, You never stop working,

You never stop, You never stop working.

**Chorus X 3**

*(You are) Way Maker, Miracle Worker, Promise Keeper,  
Light in the darkness, my God, that is who You are.*

Lord open our ears and our hearts to your Word today. Amen.

Sermon

***Planning Permission***

There was once an old widow who had been devoted to her husband and was utterly devastated when she lost him. Her friends in the village tried their best to console her over the months, but all to no avail. A couple of years later they enlisted the help of an old wise man.

He visited the widow and listened to how she felt she could never move beyond her own world of complete grief. And then he drew from a deep pocket a single mustard seed, and gave it to the widow.

“I think I have a cure for your sadness,” he said, “Visit all your neighbours - everyone in the village - and when you find a family with no sorrows, give them this seed. Then come back to see me.”

So she set off touring round her neighbours, visiting everyone in the village, searching for a family without sorrow. In every home she entered, she listened to the concerns of the family. She heard of their worries, their own griefs, their own often hidden sorrows. Finding no one without sorrow, she eventually forgot about the mustard seed, but continued her work of visiting and listening to the concerns of others.

One day she met the wise man in the street. “I’m so sorry,” she said, “I still have your mustard seed. I couldn’t find anyone without any sorrows.”

“Well you have got beyond your own world of suffering and found healing in listening to others’ concerns. Maybe the mustard seed really is a magical seed.”

*Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.*

Of course, grief-stricken people need time, but eventually they also need to see beyond their world of grief, and to reach out again to others. Simply to deny the self, is not the gospel. To remain long term without any appetite for living and caring, for loving and dreaming... well that can become a kind of self-absorption.

Simply to deny the self and do nothing else can be mere apathy: not to care about anything; to be content with obscurity and even defeat. This is not the way of Jesus.

*Whoever wants to save their life,  
will lose it.*

*But whoever loses their life  
for me and for the gospel  
will save it.*

The way of Christ is to deny selfishness and small-mindedness **in favour of something much bigger**. A Christian is someone who believes in a bigger family, a wider vision, and in an endless hope. A Christian sees sisters and brothers all over the place in people of goodwill who have felt the wind of the Spirit of love blowing. A Christian longs for justice and fairness for all, and is often remembering migrants, refugees, the homeless, the victims of war and domestic violence. A Christian lives as part of an endless cosmic vision that includes the star and the beetle, the galaxy and the atom, the river, the ocean, the air, the birds, the plants and the animals - all part of a unified embrace.

A Christian denies himself or herself a life absorbed by personal convenience, solitary wealth and the interests of one nuclear family... A Christian transcends the small self and finds a larger self in a vision of something better, something bigger, something fairer, something more joyous, something more wonderful.

*Whoever wants to save their life,  
will lose it.*

*But whoever loses their life  
for me and for the gospel  
will save it.*

It's the paradox of the gospel.

You find yourself, by giving yourself away.

You find wealth, not by hoarding, but by sharing.

You find personal hope, not by calculating what is best for you alone, but by being committed to the wellbeing of others.

You find endless joy bubbling up in your heart, not by grabbing positive experiences for yourself and ring-fencing them, but by delighting in the worship of the God who transcends ourselves and who loves and cares for all that he has made.

You lose yourself in this kingdom-of-God endeavour.

But losing yourself, you find out who you really are.

A soul cannot be kept safe in a jar on a shelf...

A soul only exists as it worships, serves and loves.

Of course, we needn't despise regular ambitions like owning a home and earning an income and going on holiday and growing roses. It's just that for us there is more; oh, there is more, there is so much more.

In Lent, we repent.

Things we might need to repent of include:

- a fear of significant achievement,
- an unduly small ambition,
- a burying of talents in the ground,
- a lack of confidence in the big vision of Jesus.

Sometimes indeed, we might be most afraid not of failure, but of success; not of weakness, but of power; not of our nightmares, but of our dreams.

Jesus people dream big dreams.

\* \* \*

Wind back four centuries or so to the day of Nehemiah and we see a man of courage. Talk about *Feel the fear and do it anyway...*

His long prayer of chapter 1 (that we thought about last week) leads into the momentous encounter of chapter 2. *Give your servant success today by granting him favour in the presence of this man.*

In chapter 2, Nehemiah is in the presence of *this man*, this great king, Artaxerxes. His first act of courage is to appear sad-faced in the king's presence. Courtly protocol surely required a happy or at least a neutral countenance. Nehemiah has the guts to show his inner state to the king.

Now the related biblical book of Esther shows that Jewish queen fearful of her life if she had the temerity to ask a question of the king. And here, Nehemiah was playing with fire in hoping to make a request of Artaxerxes.

So when the king asks him - *Why the long face?* - we see Nehemiah's courage at work...

*I was very much afraid  
but I said to the king...*

We teach our children to sing, *I am not afraid....*

But in truth, sometimes, we **are** afraid...

Afraid in the hospital,  
afraid before our line manager,  
afraid of an angry relative,  
afraid, like Jacob, of facing our past,  
afraid, like Nehemiah, of facing our future  
afraid, sometimes, even of a new day...

We need to stick in a '**but**' when we are afraid...

*I was very much afraid  
**but** I said to the king...*

*Feel the fear and do it anyway!*

Nehemiah seizes the opportunity to explain the plight of his ancestral home. Things progress and amazingly, the king asks him what he wants! So - in another example of spiritual courage - we read...

*Then I prayed to the God of heaven, and I answered the king... Please send me to the city and let me rebuild it...* Backed by a prayer, Nehemiah is asking the king for planning permission!

So, more little spiritual tips for us here... Stick in an '**and**'

*Then I prayed to the God of heaven,*

**and** *I answered the king...*

Two kings are addressed at the same time!

Earthly King Artaxerxes must be answered, and Nehemiah simultaneously reaches out to the higher King of heaven in what we call an arrow prayer.

Now Nehemiah is on a roll... The King wants to know about the timing, so Nehemiah sets a time...

And then we see the extent of Nehemiah's forethought and ambition.

*'If it pleases the king, may I have letters to the governors of Trans-Euphrates, so that they will provide me safe-conduct until I arrive in Judah? And may I have a letter to Asaph, keeper of the royal park, so he will give me timber to make beams for the gates of the citadel by the temple and for the city wall and for the residence I will occupy?'*

Nehemiah is asking for a passport - travel documents to get him safely through to Jerusalem. And he asks for materials to get the building completed. Maybe he might not have planned to ask for all that much, but he senses he is on a roll. Artaxerxes is listening, *and because the gracious hand of my God was on me, the king granted my requests.*

So Nehemiah sets out - and Artaxerxes even sends the cavalry with him! Yes he meets opposition on arrival, and we'll think more about that next time.

After the visit of his brother, Nehemiah has made up his mind in prayer. He is not content to pursue his career as a high government official, living in comparative luxury and security. His heart has been fired up by something altogether greater than pursuing his own parochial interests.

If Nehemiah had stayed in Susa all his life, he might have been superficially happy but we would have never heard of him. He denied his small, private ambitions for a quiet and safe life. He abandoned himself to a big dream and therefore discovered

who he really was. His spirituality, doctrine and action were all integrated together. He found himself by seeing beyond his own immediate self-interest.

\* \* \*

As we seek to recover from the pandemic, the need to transcend immediate self-interest is vital. People of faith can remind the wider population of this truth at this time. We encourage people to have the vaccine and follow social distancing rules because here's the thing - it's not about the individual, it's about the community, the nation, the world.

And more generally, we all need to remember that there are times when we need to steel ourselves for a greater cause. Maybe some listening to this are toying with pushing the boat out a bit - in a career, or interest or artistic pursuit or a family matter or a community event. Is God nudging you to feel the fear and, in a spirit of prayer, and alive to a bigger vision, to do it anyway? To walk in courage and faith towards a larger vision? To risk finding yourself by letting go of what is small, safe, comfortable and narrow, and reaching for something big, risky, challenging and broad. To find yourself by giving yourself away.

And there are lessons too for a church contemplating a building project. To be rooted and buoyed up in prayer. To have the courage of our convictions. To dream a bigger dream. To seek planning permission with vision, prayer and courage.

But what is this dream we might have to rebuild at Hearsall? What difference would such a building make in our city? Who are we as a people?

I dream of a church where gospel really is good news.

I dream of a church where old and young can form rich relationships, one with another.

I dream of a church where Christian faith is expressed in the language of love, where we don't exclude people because of their age or gender status or sexuality or race or even religion...

I dream of a church where the message of Jesus **is** a message of a deeply-rooted welcome for all by definition...

I dream of a church alive with artistic life... A church of music and drama, dance and painting, poetry and craftwork... much of it exploring what it means to follow Jesus with complete integrity as a 21st century person...

I dream of a church where lonely older folks are fed with a community meal, where migrants get help in improving their English and find their own culture is respected too...

I dream of a church with a strong and living connection with projects in the poorer parts of the world...

I dream of a church with a rich and growing online presence.

I dream of a church where all may serve in leadership, male or female or transgender, gay or straight, black or white...

I dream of a church of happiness where children play and learn about faith and about life with adults...

I dream of a church where the poorer parents of our city can find support in toddler activities tailored just for them...

I dream of a church with a coffee-shop and a recording studio, with a buzz about the place, and yet with a heart of silent prayer...

I dream of a church with a vision of universal love, in which we worship the God who brings all creation under one head...

I dream of a church in which people learn the truths of the gospel in ways which respect the intellects of all involved, celebrates the insights and successes of science, honours the learning of school, college and university...

I dream of a church which accepts minority groups like transgender people and others not as a concession but as a positive and essential expression of discipleship.

I dream of a green church which cares for the planet in all it does and celebrates the rich diversity of life...

I dream of a church which honours the name of Jesus and therefore dishonours no other name...

I dream of a church of colour and joy, hope and freedom, sharing and creativity...

And for **this** church I am prepared to pray and fast and pray again; to have courage to present our vision to the powers that be; for this church I am willing to seek planning permission with a confidence in God's gracious hand being upon us; to fundraise for, to plan around, to inconvenience myself for, to leave behind my small

self for; for this church I am prepared to take risks, to work for, to believe in, to lose my life for, so that I might find it in the larger vision of the kingdom of God.

We reflect a moment on the message we have heard.

Is God calling you to step out of your comfort zone and dream a bigger dream?

What is in your dream for the future of the church?

Is it a dream you could believe in?

Is it a dream you would struggle for?

Is it a dream you would die for?

Is it a dream you would live for?

Nick has already introduced our closing song, sometimes called *The Summons*. As we sing, we consider Jesus' challenge on our own lives.

Hymn **Will you come and follow me?** (BPW 363)

Will you come and follow me,

If I but call your name?

Will you go where you don't know

And never be the same?

Will you let my love be shown,

Will you let my name be known,

Will you let my life be grown in you

And you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind

If I but call your name?

Will you care for cruel and kind

And never be the same?

Will you risk the hostile stare,

Should your life attract or scare?

Will you let me answer prayer in you,

And you in me?

Will you let the blinded see,  
If I but call your name?  
Will you set the prisoners free  
And never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean,  
And do such as this unseen,  
And admit to what I mean in you,  
And you in me?

Will you love the "you" you hide,  
If I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside  
And never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you've found  
To reshape the world around,  
Through my sight and touch and sound in you,  
And you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true  
When you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you  
And never be the same.  
In Your company I'll go  
Where your love and footsteps show,  
Thus, I'll move and live and grow in you,  
And you in me.

### The Grace

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ;  
And the love of God;  
And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
Be with us all, evermore.  
Amen

## Sung Blessing

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you

Wherever he may send you;

May he guide you through the wilderness;

Protect you through the storm;

May he bring you home rejoicing

At the wonders he has shown you;

May he bring you home rejoicing

Once again into our doors.