

Call To Worship

We gather as the children of Abraham, descendants, part of the many nations
God promised to him.

All **We gather to worship the Lord our God,
the maker of the stars,
the one who calls us to follow.
We gather united in our love for God
and offer this time of worship.**

HYMN 584

All my hope on God is founded;
he doth still my trust renew.
Me through change and chance he
guideth,
only good and only true.
God unknown, he alone
calls my heart to be his own.

Human pride and earthly glory,
sword and crown betray his trust;
what with care and toil he buildeth,
tower and temple, fall to dust.
But God's power, hour by hour,
is my temple and my tower

God's great goodness ay endureth,
deep his wisdom, passing thought:
splendour, light, and life attend him,
beauty springeth out of nought.
Evermore, from his store
new-born worlds rise and adore.

Daily doth the almighty giver
bounteous gifts on us bestow;
his desire our soul delighteth,
pleasure leads us where we go.
Love doth stand at his hand;
joy doth wait on his command.

Still from earth to God eternal
sacrifice of praise be done,
high above all praises praising
for the gift of Christ his Son.
Christ doth call one and all:
ye who follow shall not fall.

Confession

*When I consider the heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars
that you have established, what are human beings that... you care for them?
(Psalm 8)*

Gracious God, as we prepare once again to walk
with Jesus on the road that has only one end,
we pray that his spirit may be with us,
enabling us to grieve and keep on going;
to hurt and bear the pain;
to question and go on trusting in your goodness
and the ultimate victory of love.

All **Remind us of your promises, O God,**

**and of our calling to help you to fulfil them
in the fleetingly brief time that we are here on earth.
May we play our part in the eternal struggle
of light against darkness, goodness against evil,
love against hatred, hope against despair,
trusting you for all that we may not live to see.**

**We praise you, O God, for the deep mysteries
of our faith, and ask you to keep us faithful
to the one who has called us to leave everything
to follow him through death into everlasting life. Amen.**

READING Genesis 17:1-7,15-16

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. **15** God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. **16** I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her." ¹⁷Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said to himself, "Can a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Can Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?"

HYMN 383

Lord, thy word abideth,
and our footsteps guideth;
who its truth believeth
light and joy receiveth.

When the storms are o'er us,
and dark clouds before us,
then its light directeth,
and our way protecteth.

When our foes are near us,
then thy word doth cheer us,
word of consolation,
message of salvation.

Who can tell the pleasure,
who recount the treasure,
by thy word imparted
to the simple-hearted?

Word of mercy, giving
succour to the living;
word of life, supplying
comfort to the dying!

O that we discerning
its most holy learning,
Lord, may love and fear thee,
evermore be near thee.

TALK

Hymn 510 Will you come and follow me?

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.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, who made all things?

All We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ, who redeemed the world?

All We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in his Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God?

All We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

**All This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God:
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

PRAYERS

Lord Jesus, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as 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 for ever. Amen.**

791 The God of Abraham praise verses 1,4, 8, 9 &10

The God of Abraham praise
who reigns enthroned above,
ancient of everlasting days,
and God of love:
Jehovah, great I AM,
by earth and heaven confest;
we bow and bless the sacred name
for ever blest.

The goodly land we see,
with peace and plenty blest:
a land of sacred liberty
and endless rest;
there milk and honey flow,
and oil and wine abound,
and trees of life for ever grow,
with mercy crowned.

The God who reigns on high
the great archangels sing,
and 'Holy, holy, holy,' cry,
'almighty King!
who was, and is the same,
and evermore shall be:
Jehovah, Father, great I AM,
we worship thee.'

Before the Saviour's face
the ransomed nations bow,
o'erwhelmed at his almighty grace
for ever new;
he shows his prints of love -
they kindle to a flame,
and sound through all the worlds above
the slaughtered lamb.

The whole triumphant host
give thanks to God on high;
'hail, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,'
they ever cry; hail! Abraham's God, and
mine! (I join the heavenly lays)
all might and majesty are thine,
and endless praise.

Sending

All With thankfulness for our ancestors,
and in anticipation for the part we play today
for generations to come,
may we go with the assurance of God's covenant
alive and well within us,
knowing that we are part of God's story.