

***We affirm our faith in God (Please stand.)***

**We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and earth is named. We believe in God the Son, who lives in our heart through faith and fills us with love. We believe in the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high. We believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

***Prayers (Please sit or kneel.)***

God of Love **Hear our prayer**

*We end our intercessions with a prayer of Peace.*

**Peace from God who is our heavenly Father. Peace from his Son Jesus Christ who is our peace. Peace from the Holy Spirit, who is our life-giver. The peace of the triune God be always with us. Amen.**

*Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art -  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night;  
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.*

*Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;  
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.  
Thou my great Father; thine own may I be,  
Thou in me dwelling and I one with thee.*

*Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise;  
Thou mine inheritance, now and always;  
Thou and thou only first in my heart,  
High King of heaven, my treasure thou art.*

*High King of heaven, my victory won,  
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Still be Thou my vision, O Ruler of all.*

***Blessing*** May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (*Romans 15 v 13*)

***Final Prayer***

To a searching world, **the love of God.**

To a troubled world, **the peace of Christ.**

To a waiting world, **the joy and comfort of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**A Reflective Service on the theme of HOPE**

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope.

**My soul longs for your salvation; I hope in your word.**

For the needy shall not always be forgotten, and the hope of the poor shall not perish forever.

**Hope in God; I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God.**

(*Psalms 130:5; 119:81: 9:18*)

**May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be us all. (2 Cor. 11.13)**

*Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,  
Whose trust, ever child-like, no cares can destroy,  
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,  
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.*

*Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,  
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,  
Be there at our labours, and give us, we pray,  
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.*

*Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,  
Your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace,  
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,  
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.*

*Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,  
Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,  
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,  
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.*

*We keep a short silence to still our hearts.*

**Lord God, as we come into your presence,  
still our bodies, open our hearts and focus our minds,  
that we may know your Spirit drawing us closer to you, through  
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

***Words of confession***

Father, you come to meet us when we return to you: **Lord, have mercy.**

Jesus, you died on the cross for our sins: **Christ, have mercy.**

Spirit, you give us life and peace: **Lord, have mercy.**

May God the Father forgive us in Christ and heal us by the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.

*Gloria (Please stand.)*

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

**The Word**

1 Peter 1. 3-9 A Living Hope

Psalms 71 (*Please join in the words in bold type.*)

**O God, be not far from me.**

- 1 In you, O Lord, do I seek refuge; ♦ let me never be put to shame.
- 2 **In your righteousness, deliver me and set me free; ♦  
incline your ear to me and save me.**
- 3 Be for me a stronghold to which I may ever resort; ♦  
send out to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress.
- 4 **Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked, ♦  
from the grasp of the evildoer and the oppressor.**
- 5 For you are my hope, O Lord God, ♦  
my confidence, even from my youth.
- 6 **Upon you have I leaned from my birth, when you drew me from  
my mother's womb; ♦ my praise shall be always of you.**
- 14 But as for me I will hope continually ♦ and will praise you more and  
more.
- 15 **My mouth shall tell of your righteousness and salvation all the  
day long, ♦ for I know no end of the telling.**
- 16 I will begin with the mighty works of the Lord God; ♦  
I will recall your righteousness, yours alone.
- 17 **O God, you have taught me since I was young, ♦  
and to this day I tell of your wonderful works.**
- 18 Forsake me not, O God, when I am old and grey-headed, ♦  
till I make known your deeds to the next generation and your power  
to all that are to come.

- 19 **Your righteousness, O God, reaches to the heavens; ♦  
in the great things you have done, who is like you, O God?**
- 20 What troubles and adversities you have shown me, ♦  
and yet you will turn and refresh me and bring me from the deep of  
the earth again.
- 21 **Increase my honour; ♦ turn again and comfort me.**
- 22 Therefore will I praise you upon the harp for your faithfulness,  
O my God; ♦ I will sing to you with the lyre, O Holy One of Israel.
- 23 **My lips will sing out as I play to you, ♦  
and so will my soul, which you have redeemed.**
- 24 My tongue also will tell of your righteousness all the day long, ♦  
for they shall be shamed and disgraced who sought to do me evil.  
**O God, be not far from me.**

*Faithful Lord, living Saviour, in youth and old age, from the womb to  
the grave, may we know your protection and proclaim our hope in  
your great salvation the glory of God the Father.*

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit  
As it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.**

*All my hope on God is founded, all my trust he shall renew;  
he, my guide through changing order, only good and only true:  
God unknown, he alone calls my heart to be his own.*

*Pride of man and earthly glory, sword and crown betray his trust;  
all that human toil can fashion, tower and temple, fall to dust.  
But God's power, hour by hour, is my temple and my tower.*

*Day by day our mighty giver grants to us his gifts of love;  
in his will our souls find pleasure, leading to our home above:  
love shall stand at his hand, joy shall wait for 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:  
hear Christ's call, one and all – we who follow shall not fall.*

*(Please stand.)*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke (Luke 4 v  
16-21) **Glory to you O Lord.**

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you O Christ.**

**Reflection** followed by Musical reflection (*Please be seated.*)