



# Order of Service

*Please join in with the words in bold*

## Welcome

The Lord be with you

**And also with you.**

**Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord, Amen.**

## Opening Hymn

Love is his word, Love is his way,  
feasting with all, fasting alone,  
living and dying, rising again,  
love, only love, is his way.

*Refrain:*

*Richer than gold is the love of my Lord:  
better than splendour and wealth.*

Love is his way, love is his mark,  
sharing his last Passover feast,

Christ at the table, host to the twelve,

love, only love, is his sign.

Love is his mark, love is his sign,  
bread for our strength, wine for our joy,

‘This is my body, this is my blood.’

Love, only love, is his sign.

Love is his sign, love is his news,  
‘Do this,’ he said, ‘lest you forget all my deep sorrow, all my dear blood.’

Love, only love, is his news.

Love is his news, love is his name,  
we are his own, chosen and called,  
family, brethren, cousins and kin.

Love, only love, is his name.

Love is his name, love is his law,  
hear his command, all who are his,  
‘Love one another, I have loved you.’

Love, only love, is his law.

Love is his law, love is his word:  
love of the Lord, Father and Word,

love of the Spirit, God ever one,  
love, only love, is his word.

## Responses & Confession

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed! Alleluia**

O Lord, open our lips

**and our mouth shall proclaim your  
praise.**

In your resurrection, O Christ, **let  
heaven and earth rejoice.**

Blessed are you, Lord God of our  
salvation, to you be praise and glory  
for ever. As once you ransomed your  
people from Egypt and led them to  
freedom in the promised land, so  
now you have delivered us from the  
dominion of darkness and brought us  
into the kingdom of your risen Son.  
May we, the first fruits of your new  
creation, rejoice in this new day you  
have made, and praise you for your  
mighty acts. Blessed be God, Father,  
Son and Holy Spirit. **Blessed be God  
for ever.**

**Death is swallowed up in victory.  
Where, O death, is your sting?**

Christ is risen from the dead,  
the first fruits of those who have  
fallen asleep.

**Death is swallowed up in victory.**

The trumpet will sound  
and the dead shall be raised.

**Where, O death, is your sting?**

We shall not all sleep,  
but we shall be changed.

**Death is swallowed up in victory.  
Where, O death, is your sting?**

Like Mary at the empty tomb,  
we fail to grasp the wonder of your  
presence.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Like the disciples behind locked  
doors, we are afraid to be seen as  
your followers.

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Like Thomas in the upper room,  
we are slow to believe.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

May the God of love and power  
forgive you and free you from your  
sins, heal and strengthen you by his  
Spirit, and raise you to new life in  
Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **Bible Reading: Acts 8: 26 – 40**

<sup>26</sup>Then an angel of the Lord said to  
Philip, 'Get up and go towards the  
south to the road that goes down  
from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a  
wilderness road.) <sup>27</sup>So he got up and  
went. Now there was an Ethiopian  
eunuch, a court official of the  
Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in  
charge of her entire treasury. He had  
come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup>and

was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip. 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' <sup>31</sup> He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup>Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: 'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. <sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.' <sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' <sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>When they

came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup>But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

## Sermon

### The Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who**

**proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

### **Intercessions**

Lord in thy mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

### **Communion**

The Lord is here.

**His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise...

... evermore praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**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, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.**

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

### **Post Communion Prayer**

**God of our pilgrimage, you have led us to the living water. Refresh and sustain us as we go forward on our journey, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **Closing Hymn**

I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
'Come unto me and rest;

lay down, thou weary one,  
lay down thy head upon my breast.'  
I came to Jesus as I was,  
so weary, worn and sad;  
I found in him a resting-place,  
and he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
'Behold, I freely give  
the living water, thirsty one;  
stoop down and drink and live.'  
I came to Jesus, and I drank  
of that life-giving stream;  
my thirst was quenched, my soul  
revived,  
and now I live in him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
'I am this dark world's light;  
look unto me, thy morn shall rise,  
and all thy day be bright.'  
I looked to Jesus, and I found  
in him my star, my sun;

and in that light of life I'll walk  
till trav'ling days are done.

### **Blessing and Close**

Christ give you grace to grow in  
holiness, to deny yourselves, take up  
your cross, and follow him and the  
blessing of God Almighty, the Father,  
the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be  
among you and remain with you  
always. **Amen.**

**Voluntary:** *Wir danken dir, Herr Jesu  
Christ* BWV 623 ('Lord Jesus Christ,  
we thank you') – J S Bach

**Thank you for joining in with our  
service this week.**

**for pastoral care: please email  
[peace@4u-team.org](mailto:peace@4u-team.org)**