



2024

**Audacious Hope**

# Worship Liturgy

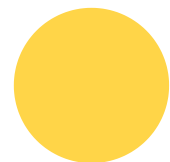
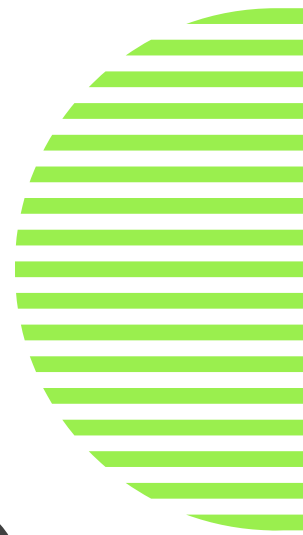


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# Intro

**Affirmation of Faith that moves with us through the week.**

Each section corresponds with some of the themes of the day. They are moveable.

We have been born into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ!

This living hope changes and grows with us,  
day by day  
year by year

We know that hope can be a crescendo:  
starting off soft and timid,  
but gaining confidence whenever we come together in the Spirit,  
finding and sharing God's good news as we worship, play, and work.

**Our hope comes from God, nothing can hold us back.**

We recognize that hope can be hidden and mysterious,  
sometimes barely a whisper.  
We have to be still to sense its comforting and encouraging presence.

**Our hope comes from God, nothing can hold us back.**

We proclaim that hope can be bold and audacious  
celebrating and partying  
loud and courageous  
inspiring us to faithful action

**Our hope comes from God, nothing can hold us back.**

We affirm that hope is always there:  
God's shout or whisper,  
a companion on the journey  
spread out like a blanket for the feast of faith.

# Day One: Hope as Faith

## Opening/Gathering Words

(English and French on first evening, different languages at subsequent services)

This is the day that God has made  
Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

## Call to Worship

From north, south, east and west.  
We are finally here!  
After many years of being apart.  
We are finally here!  
We are here together to worship the Living God  
In faith and through doubt  
Through anxiety and with hope  
We come with joy to sing, pray, and worship

## Prayer of Adoration

God of joy,  
In the midst of chaos, you are calm.  
In the midst of uncertainty, you are constant;  
In the midst of worry, you are trustworthy.  
In the midst of despair, you are living hope.  
We are here to praise you.  
We are here to learn about your love.  
We are here to regain our hope.

Breath of God,  
blow though us clean and holy,  
warm us with courage and joy  
as we open ourselves to offer our confession and also receive your forgiveness.  
Accept our common confession, as we pray together:

## Prayer of Confession

Holy God,  
Sometimes, we feel alone,  
and we wonder if you are real and really alive.  
Sometimes, the world around us is overwhelming,  
And we waver in the goodness that you have promised will prevail.  
Sometimes, it seems like no one else around us goes to church,  
and we think faith might be foolish.  
Renew our faith and our hope.  
Remind us, always, of Christ's boundless and unwavering compassion  
for the world, for our neighbours and for ourselves.



## Assurance of Pardon

Here is our hope:  
God's mercies are new everyday.  
In God's love we always have a fresh start.  
God never gives up on us or abandons us. Never.  
In Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.  
So, be at peace tonight.  
Be at peace with God.  
Be at peace with your neighbour.  
And even be at peace with yourself.

## Prayer for Understanding

Illuminating Spirit,  
As we come to the reading and preaching of your Word,  
open our minds to understand ancient words;  
open us to listen to your message for us today;  
and open our hearts to receive the love you offer us in this gift of Holy Scripture. Amen.

## Response to Scripture Readings

**One:** The Word of God in Scripture,  
The Word of God among us,  
The Word of God within us.

**All:** Thanks be to God



## Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

(Refrain for the Slides: Recognizing your creative power and gentle genius, we give you thanks.)

### (voice 1)

Creator and Creating God,  
You are concerned for the most delicate creature and the most vulnerable people.  
Recognizing your creative power and gentle genius,  
**we give you thanks.**

### (voice 2)

God of the universe, you created the stars and knit together human souls. You created ecosystems and networks that make us part of a much greater whole.  
Recognizing your creative power and gentle genius,  
**we give you thanks.**

### (voice 3)

God of abundance, you shower us with blessings of growth and food, beauty and wisdom, friendship and faith that sustain our living and enrich our spirits.  
Recognizing your creative power and gentle genius,  
**we give you thanks.**

### (voice 1)

As we give thanks,  
    remind us of our smallness in relation to creation, history, life and love.  
    May such humbleness be a gift to us.

As we reflect with gratitude,  
    remind us of our significance in relation to creation, history, life and love.  
    May such importance inspire us.

(At this point change the response on the slides:

God of audacious hope,

**Help us claim and share your love.)**

### (voice 2)

As we live in this beautiful and sorrowing world,  
    we are sometimes upset  
    that there is much hurt and disappointment, fear and anger and heartbreak.  
    Our grief is only a very small part of your own.  
    Yet, you do not despair.  
    You offer hope,  
        and hold out the possibility of transformation.  
    Your response is greater love.  
    You never give up on us.  
    And so we come to you in prayer for this world that you love,  
        and in Jesus Christ, you came to save.

## Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession (continued)

### (voice 3)

The world spins and life hurries by.  
There is much that goes on that we have little ability to change.  
And yet, in the global world and in our lives,  
there is much that we can do to bring about change, joy and love,  
when we are empowered by you –  
a gentle smile, an uplifting word, time given, skills exchanged,  
our prayers offered in sincerity, and acts of kindness.  
God of audacious hope,  
**Help us claim and share your love.**

### (voice 1)

You call each human being to purpose, abundance and joy.  
You have called us. Help us listen for that call and trust you.  
God of audacious hope,  
**Help us claim and share your love.**

### (voice 2)

You have gifted each human being with unique and powerful gifts.  
You have gifted us. Help us discover those gifts and trust you.  
God of audacious hope,  
**Help us claim and share your love.**

### (voice 3)

You love us – and all human beings made in your image – with a love we all long for.  
We are chosen. We are beloved. Help us believe this truth.  
God of audacious hope,  
**Help us claim and share your love.**

### (voice 1)

Such promises are exciting and life-changing!  
Continue to transform us and heal your world, Loving God.  
Send us out into this night  
safe in your love,  
inspired by your hope,  
and ready to live out our faith with courage.

## **Sending Words** Romans 5:5

(the same each time – perhaps in different languages – spoken by different participants – could be on a slide with English and whatever language is being spoken, but with only one voiced)

Friends, remember ...  
“Hope does not disappoint us,  
because God’s love has been poured into our hearts  
through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.”

## **Benediction Day 1** Romans 15:13

(spoken by the preachers)

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.

# Day Two: Hope as Fuel

## Opening/Gathering Words

(English and French on first evening, different languages at subsequent services)

This is the day that God has made  
Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

## Call to Worship (based on Psalm 116)

We come to offer thanksgiving together  
**as one worshipping community.**  
We are celebrating God's presence  
**where all are welcomed – exactly as they are.**  
We come to call on God's holy name  
**together in God's house.**

## Prayer of Adoration and Confession

**Liturgist:** Holy God, giver of every good gift,  
How can we describe you? What words can we borrow to express your greatness?

**Voice 1:** You are solid and immovable as rock,  
**Voice 2:** you are invisible and free like the wind.

**Voice 1:** You are strong and agile like the wild eagle,  
**Voice 2:** you are protective like the mother hen.

**Voice 1:** You burn like fire,  
**Voice 2:** you cool and cleanse like a river.

**Voice 1:** You speak through the cry of a newborn,  
**Voice 2:** you are older than the stars.

**Liturgist:** You give human beings every good gift:

(depending on mics, you could have these voices come from different places in the room or on the stage or they could be pulled out of the picnic basket by the liturgist?)

of purpose and wisdom,  
of dreams and prudence,  
of spontaneity and critical thinking,  
of music and science,  
of teaching and counselling,  
of figuring and discovering,  
of inclusion and love.

And every gift you give,  
you give for the purpose of peace and justice within the church and among humankind  
and so that we can love one another as you love us.

We come before you recognizing and rejoicing in such gifts,  
even as we come before you in confession:

**God who gives us diverse gifts,  
Sometimes we can't find them.  
Or we fail to use them.**

People in our world misuse and manipulate your good gifts,  
For greedy or power-hungry purposes.  
Sometimes the world, or even the church,  
restricts people from using their gifts because of their gender or their status.

**Forgive us, merciful God.  
Teach us how to use the good gifts you give each of us  
to create communities of love, joy, and hope.**

### **Assurance of Pardon**

You have gifts. Many gifts -- that God has given uniquely to you.

*This line above could be repeated in 2 or 3 other languages?*

Tonight, you are set free to use them  
for your own joy,  
for the good of others  
and for the glory of God. Amen

### **Prayer of Preparation**

Life-Giving God,  
The community of faith has been nourished by your Word through the ages. Together, we have experienced you speaking through these ancient Scriptures – leading us, changing us. Your Holy Spirit has continued to teach us. Help us to trust your Word freshly once again with new understanding tonight. Amen.

### **Response to Scripture Readings**

**One:** The Word of God in Scripture,  
The Word of God among us,  
The Word of God within us.

**All:** Thanks be to God

## Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

God of summer days,

How we love these long days of summer sun,

rising early in the morning and lasting late into the evening!

Its light kisses the earth, causing growth and green, variety and variegation.

The leaves turn its energy into food.

Its heat causes the seeds in the ground to burst out of the earth,

growing steadily towards the harvest even while we sleep.

As the colour bursts forth from the ground,

we give you thanks for joy, laughter and growth we are experiencing together here

in our games and our play,

in friendships new and old,

in our faith and in our thinking.

For challenges that makes us more faithful,

for obstacles that strengthen our need for community,

for situations that call us to rise up and stand for what it right,

we offer gratitude rather than grumbling.

Hear us now as we lift our prayers for the renewal of hope

**The following petitions could be read by different participants. Some could be cut out.**

May hope be our fuel in the effort to preserve and save the earth from climate change:

Where water is polluted or dried up and there is famine,

Where fires rage or floods overwhelm,

Where animal and their habitats are endangered or destroyed,

restore balance, wholeness, order.

Energizing God,

**Fuel us with living hope.**

May hope be our fuel to bring about peace among the nations:

Not just absence of conflict,

not just tolerance or the status quo,

but instead bring reconciliation, justice and true peace.

Energizing God,

**Fuel us with living hope.**

May hope be our fuel for healthy bodies and minds.

fill us each with healing, well-being, and true peace.

Energizing God,

**Fuel us with living hope.**

## Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession (continued)

May hope be our fuel as we pray for those we love:  
where there is disease of body, mind or spirit,  
where there is fear, disappointment or distress,  
where there is loneliness, anxiety or insecurity  
bless us with healing, friendship and courage.

Energizing God,  
**Fuel us with living hope.**

May hope be our fuel as we pray for our church communities back home:  
help us grow and be faithful,  
help us be beacons of your love in our neighbourhoods,  
help us be vibrant, exciting communities of hope.

Energizing God,  
**Fuel us with living hope.**

Grant your hope to those who feel forgotten by the world or even the church:  
those who are hungry, addicted to harmful substances, caught in harmful  
relationships,  
those who do not have a place to call home, and those whose voices have been  
ignored ...  
grant your peace, purpose, and a renewed sense of your love.

Energizing God,  
**Fuel us with living hope.**

We offer the prayer Jesus taught us to pray in the language of our hearts:  
Lord's Prayer in several different languages?

**(Korean)** Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,

**(Language)** your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.

**(Language)** Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

**(Language)** Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**(English)** For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.



### **Prayer of Dedication (after collecting the offering)**

Generous God,

As you fuel us with hope, help us to fuel others with your hope.

May these gifts we collect tonight offer hope to those who feel hopeless,  
send a message of belovedness to those who feel lonely or afraid,  
and help transform the world into a kinder, more just, and more joyful place,  
just like you know it can be. Amen.

### **Sending Words -- Romans 5:5**

(the same each time – perhaps in different languages – spoken by different participants)

Friends, remember ...

“Hope does not disappoint us,  
because God’s love has been poured into our hearts  
through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.”

### **Benediction for Day 2 – (Ephesians 3: 20-21)**

(spoken by the preachers)

Now to Christ who by the power at work within us  
is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine,  
be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations  
for ever and ever. Amen

# Day Three: Hopelessness

## Opening/Gathering Words

(English and French on first evening, different languages at subsequent services)

This is the day that God has made  
Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

## Call to Worship

You who feel tired –

**Come and worship the God who loves you.**

You who feel overwhelmed –

**Come and worship the God who loves you.**

You who feel hopeless --

**Come and worship the God who loves you.**

There is hope, rest, and peace here for you.

## Prayer of Adoration and Confession

(voice 1)

How often, O God, you speak to us in that still small voice.  
There is great noise all around us,  
and sometimes we feel hopeless.  
But in the midst of it,  
when we stop to listen,  
you are there.

(voice 2)

In the rustle of the wind  
in the hushed beauty of rising light,  
in the fragrance of summer breeze,  
(voices 1 and 2) you are there.

(voice 3)

In the word of peace or challenge offered by a friend,  
in the voice of truth that whispers in our conscience,  
in the relief of confession offered to you,  
in song, in silence, in hope when all seems hopeless,  
(voices 1, 2, and 3) you are there.

(voice 1) We worship you.

(voice 2) We adore you.

(voice 3) We believe, loving God,

(voices 1, 2, and 3) help our unbelief.

(voice 1) We want to live in right relationship with you.

(voice 2) We want to live into your hope.

(voice 3) But sometimes we don't know how.

(voice 1)

And when we look around the world, you seem absent and we don't know what to do.  
In the quiet of this moment, accept our fear and our failings,  
our complicity and our confession

(time of silent confession – to the count of 30 seconds)

**Assurance of Pardon** - (this could be shared with the 3 voices above or spoken by one)

We are broken, but hopeful.

We are spent, but ready for renewal.

We are done, but God never gives up on us.

God is full of forgiveness, resources, abundance and unconditional love.

We are in good hands.

The world is in good hands.

Be at peace.

**Prayer of Illumination** (Ephesians 1:18)

God of grace,

As we gather with an attentive spirit around your life-giving Word, enlighten  
the eyes of our hearts so that we may know the hope to which you have  
called us. Amen.

**Invitation to the Table**

Friends,

this is the joyful feast of the people of God.

The Scriptures tell us that people will come

from north, south, east and west to sit at table in God's Coming Reign.

And look at us!

This is the table, not of the Presbyterian Church or the United Church or any  
church, but of Christ.

It is made ready for those who love God  
and who want to love God more.

There is a place at this table just for you.

Come with your doubts and your dreams,  
come with your sorrows and your joys  
come with your laments and your fears.

Here you will find a place to rest,  
nourishment for your spirit,  
and a healing balm for your aching heart.



## The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,  
Always and everywhere to give thanks to you,  
Creator of heaven and earth.

You created a world filled with diversity  
and blessed by your breath of life.

You led your people through the wilderness with Moses,  
and called for justice in the cry of prophets.

When your people have lost hope, faced hardship,  
experienced persecution, and wavered in faith,  
you have been faithful – steadfastly leading us into your future.

Through long generations  
you have been patient and kind to all your children.

How wonderful are your ways, almighty God.

How marvelous is your name, O Holy One.

You alone are God.

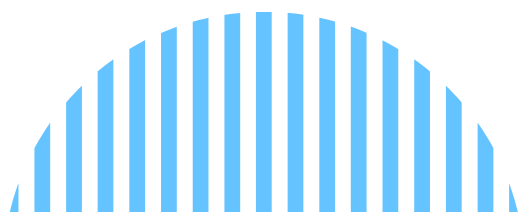
Therefore, with apostles and prophets,  
and that great cloud of witnesses from every time and place,  
we join our voices with the angels and saints around heaven's throne,  
who forever sing to glory of your name:

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

**Hosanna in the highest.**

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

**Hosanna in the highest.**



## The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving (continued)

We praise you, Gentle God, for sending your loving and beloved son into the world.  
Conceived by the Holy Spirit, he brings new life.  
Born of Mary's flesh, he knew joy, pain, love, and loss.  
Touching the sick, he heals us.  
Breaking bread and sharing the cup with those on the margins,  
he shows his love and welcome for all.  
Dying on the cross, he is with us in our suffering.  
Christ meets us in our lament and our despair,  
coming along beside us in our hopelessness.  
Resurrection hope whispers, moving silently like the wind, accompanying us on this journey.  
Therefore, in remembrance of your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,  
we come to your table seeking to trust in his promises  
and proclaiming together the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died,  
Christ is risen,  
Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us, your children, as we gather at your table.  
Bless this bread that nourishes us with infinite grace.  
Bless this cup poured out for us with a love that nurtures our hope.  
There is so much in our world that is both here and not yet here.  
There is so much in our faith that is both here and not yet here.  
There is so much in our lives that is both here and not yet here.  
Help us experience your presence and love even as we look for it.  
Help us experience healing and joy even as we work for it in the world.  
Help us trust your living hope even as we long for it.  
Feed us and send us out into the hungry world  
to share these whispers of hope, plant seeds of your love,  
and find glimmers of your joy everywhere.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory and honour are yours, almighty God,  
for ever and ever.

Lord's Prayer? Different version? Not today?



### **Prayer After Communion**

God who is wholly love and wholly mystery,

**Thank you for setting this table for us.**

Thank you for sharing your food and drink to ease our hunger.

**Thank you for welcoming us just as we are.**

Send us out tonight assured of your steadfast love and care.

**Show us the future with hope.**

### **Sending Words -- Romans 5:5**

*(the same each time – perhaps in different languages – spoken by different participants)*

Friends, remember ...

“Hope does not disappoint us,

because God’s love has been poured into our hearts

through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.”

### **Benediction – 2 Thessalonians 2: 16-17**

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Creator,

who loved us and through grace gave us eternal comfort and good hope,

comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word.

# Day Four: Hope as Action

## Opening/Gathering Words

(English and French on first evening, different languages at subsequent services)

This is the day that God has made  
Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

## Call to Worship

God calls us to worship and God calls us to action

**At such a time as this, we will act boldly!**

God equips us with love and justice.

**At such a time as this, we will act boldly!**

God leads with audacious hope and invites us to follow.

**At such a time as this, we will act boldly!**

## Opening Prayer

Powerful and empowering God,

You called Esther to act boldly, taking a huge risk in faith.

She was afraid, but she trusted you.

You called the Peter to share your message of peace and good news boldly.

He wasn't sure, but he trusted you.

Honouring their faithful actions,

you saved your people, changed hearts and minds,

and brought healing and justice to your world.

As we gather in worship now,

empowered by what we have learned this week,

embraced by new friends who share our faith,

equipped with this amazing experience of your love, help us to be bold.

Help us to trust you.

Use us and our faithful actions to change the world.

We pray all these things in the powerful name of Jesus Christ,  
our Saviour and our Friend, Amen.



**Sending Words -- Romans 5:5**

(the same each time – perhaps in different languages – spoken by different participants)

Friends, remember ...

“Hope does not disappoint us,  
because God’s love has been poured into our hearts  
through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.”

**Benediction for Day 2 – (Ephesians 3: 20-21)**

(spoken by the preachers)

Now to Christ who by the power at work within us  
is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine,  
be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations  
for ever and ever. Amen.