

Order of Service 3rd April 2020

Call to worship

Waking up this morning,

we see a new day has dawned.

Let us raise our hands in thanksgiving

for the wonders of being alive,

for the 24 brand-new hours in which we are now living,

and the possibility of so many, many more.

Reading Hebrews 10 v 22-25

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews+10%3A22-25&version=NIV>

Hymn - For All That You Have Done - https://youtu.be/_z6TOAYZIPA

A prayer of adoration

Creator God, loving Saviour, living Spirit,

we celebrate your generosity

in receiving all that we would give you.

We rejoice in your generosity

as you pour out your blessing on all you have made.

We commit ourselves to reflecting your generosity in our lives,

by giving the best of all we have and are wherever there is need.

Amen.

Funky Follower talk - https://youtu.be/0u8dpYxt_qE

Funky Followers song - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NhW-a_BY6WM

Reading Philippians 3 v 4 - 14

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians+3.+4+-+14&version=NIV>

Hymn - Here is love vast as the ocean <https://youtu.be/R85vcOfFUso>

Reading John 12.1-8

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+12.1-8&version=NIV>

Prayers of intercession

We think first of all the good things around us and the blessings we have received this week using the following refrain:

Leader: Lord, we long to live thankfully

All: Help our thanks to pour out.

Lord, we thank you for all the goodness we have seen around us this week: for kindness of friends and strangers; for signs of spring bursting forth in our gardens, parks, fields and hedgerows; for sunshine and warmth. We thank you for friends to play with and food to eat.

We think, in silence, of a particularly special moment this week and thank you.

Lord, we long to live thankfully

Help our thanks to pour out.

Lord, we thank you for moments of busyness this week and moments of calm. We thank you for all those people who have crossed our path this week. We thank you for unexpected moments of goodness and joy, even in the midst of pain.

Lord, we long to live thankfully

Help our thanks to pour out.

Lord, we thank you for our favourite food, our favourite games and toys, our favourite music, our favourite books and hobbies. We thank you for all the good things in our lives that we take for granted sometimes. Help us to see the worth and value in everything and everyone.

Lord, we long to live thankfully

Help our thanks to pour out.

We turn our thoughts and prayers now to the needs of the world around us, both far away and close at hand. Using the following refrain:

Lord, we long to live lovingly.

Help our love to pour out.

Lord, we continue to cry out to you for Ukraine. We thank you for those who are trying to work for peace. We pray for all who have been displaced from their homes, asking that they may find new life and love in unfamiliar places. We pray for those left behind, still living with the daily terrors of attack and not knowing what will happen next. We remember all those who have died, some of whom are known only to you.

Lord, we long to live lovingly.

Help our love to pour out.

We pray for girls in Afghanistan, once again refused an education. We pray that the Taliban will reverse its decision and listen to your voice, encouraging equality for everyone. We pray for all the places in conflict in our world, currently out of the headlines. Show us how we can help and support all those who need food, shelter and education to enable them to prosper.

Lord, we long to live lovingly.

Help our love to pour out.

We pray for our country, especially as the cost of living soars and all of us have to tighten our belts and make do with less. Show us how to support each other, even when we might be struggling ourselves. Give us a spirit of generosity and help us to be content with what we need rather than what we want. We pray for all who work in our foodbanks, our homeless hostels and our support networks. We remember all children in care and pray for those who

work to find them permanent homes. We continue to lift to you all those who work in our health care system, as Covid still runs rife in our communities.

Lord, we long to live lovingly.

Help our love to pour out.

We also pray for all the communities we are part of: where we live, our church, our schools, places of work and our homes. Give us joyful hearts and generous spirits, so that we give our best to others. We remember all who are ill or sad at this time and all who are anxious or housebound.

Lord, we long to live lovingly.

Help our love to pour out.

Finally, Lord, we commit the week ahead to you. We ask that you travel with us in our work, our play, our joys and sorrows. Help us to find space to breathe your fragrance and offer ourselves and all we have to you for you to make whole, strong and beautiful.

Lord, we long to live with you with thankfulness and love.

We ask you to pour out your blessings

So that we can pour them out to others.

Amen.

Hymn Oh Lord your tenderness/Such love <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7a5abPFX7tU>

Sermon - Tom King

Song - Once again I pour out my life - <https://youtu.be/AJtTfkuOOcw>

A sending out prayer

Amazing God,

we are so thankful for the gift of being alive!

May our thankfulness to you pour out in our actions,

in our choices, in our dealings with other people,

in all that we do.

Amen.