

# Order of Service – Sunday 29 March 2020

- This service is designed for use in a small group setting, so will function differently with only 1 or 2 people. Feel free to adapt it to suit.
- It will be helpful if one person leads the gathering, and introduces each section using the suggested words, or take turns! There are some things to say together as well (in bold).
- You can access the songs and sermon by clicking on the links where they are found in the outline.

## ***Introduction***

We have come together as the church of God to fix our eyes upon Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, to encourage one another to hold fast to the hope he has given us, and to spur one another to love and good deeds.

Hebrews 12:1-2 says:

*“Therefore, since we also have such a large cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us lay aside every hindrance and the sin that so easily ensnares us. Let us run with endurance the race that lies before us, keeping our eyes on Jesus, the source and perfecter of our faith.”*

## ***Optional Song***

**We Belong to the Day -[Link](#)**

## ***Optional Kid’s Song***

**Big Bible Story - [Link](#)**

## ***The Creed***

Let’s affirm with Christians across the world and through the ages what we believe about God and his love for us:

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;  
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy universal church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.**

## ***Bible Readings***

The following, or another prayer may be said before the Bible readings

Gracious God,  
your word is alive and active, sharper than any double-edged sword.  
Today, when we hear your voice, deliver us from hardness of heart.  
Help us to put away everything that keeps us from persevering in your way,  
for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

### 1 Kings 2:26-35

<sup>26</sup>The king said to the priest Abiathar, “Go to your fields in Anathoth. Even though you deserve to die, I will not put you to death today, since you carried the ark of the Lord GOD in the presence of my father David and you suffered through all that my father suffered.” <sup>27</sup>So Solomon banished Abiathar from being the LORD’s priest, and it fulfilled the LORD’s prophecy he had spoken at Shiloh against Eli’s family.

<sup>28</sup>The news reached Joab. Since he had supported Adonijah but not Absalom, Joab fled to the LORD’s tabernacle and took hold of the horns of the altar.

<sup>29</sup>It was reported to King Solomon: “Joab has fled to the LORD’s tabernacle and is now beside the altar.” Then Solomon sent <sup>a</sup> Benaiah son of Jehoiada and told him, “Go and strike him down!”

<sup>30</sup>So Benaiah went to the tabernacle and said to Joab, “This is what the king says: ‘Come out!’”

But Joab said, “No, for I will die here.”

So Benaiah took a message back to the king, “This is what Joab said, and this is how he answered me.”

<sup>31</sup>The king said to him, “Do just as he says. Strike him down and bury him in order to remove from me and from my father’s family the blood that Joab shed without just cause. <sup>32</sup>The LORD will bring back his own blood on his head because he struck down two men more righteous and better than he, without my father David’s knowledge. With his sword, Joab murdered Abner son of Ner, commander of Israel’s army, and Amasa son of Jether, commander of Judah’s army. <sup>33</sup>The responsibility for their deaths will come back to Joab and to his descendants <sup>b</sup> forever, but for David, his descendants, his dynasty, and his throne, there will be peace from the LORD forever.”

<sup>34</sup>Benaiah son of Jehoiada went up, struck down Joab, and put him to death. He was buried at his house in the wilderness. <sup>35</sup>Then the king appointed Benaiah son of Jehoiada in Joab’s place over the army, and he appointed the priest Zadok in Abiathar’s place.

## 1 Corinthians 13

If I speak human or angelic tongues but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup>If I have the gift of prophecy and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith so that I can move mountains but do not have love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup>And if I give away all my possessions, and if I give over my body in order to boast but do not have love, I gain nothing.

<sup>4</sup>Love is patient, love is kind. Love does not envy, is not boastful, is not arrogant, <sup>5</sup>is not rude, is not self-seeking, is not irritable, and does not keep a record of wrongs. <sup>6</sup>Love finds no joy in unrighteousness but rejoices in the truth. <sup>7</sup>It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

<sup>8</sup>Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. <sup>9</sup>For we know in part, and we prophesy in part, <sup>10</sup>but when the perfect comes, the partial will come to an end. <sup>11</sup>When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put aside childish things. <sup>12</sup>For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I will know fully, as I am fully known. <sup>13</sup>Now these three remain: faith, hope, and love—but the greatest of these is love.

**Christian Standard Bible (CSB)**

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### *Sermon*

Dan Budd - 1 Corinthians 13

### *Optional time for discussion or reflection*

### *Confession*

Romans 3:23 tells us that “All of us have sinned and fall short of God’s glory”. Therefore God calls us to confess our sins, to him and to one another, to turn away from our sin and turn to Christ to receive his mercy and grace. So, let’s pray this prayer of confession together:

**Heavenly Father,**

**we praise you for adopting us as your children and making us heirs of eternal life.**

**In your mercy you have washed us from our sins and made us clean in your sight.**

**Yet we still fail to love you and serve you as we should.**

**Forgive us our sins and renew us by your grace,**

**that we may continue to grow as members of Christ,**

**in whom alone is our salvation. Amen.**

### Words of Assurance

Merciful Father, we rejoice that you forgive those who truly repent and trust in your Son. Grant us true repentance and your Holy Spirit, that we may live godly and obedient lives, and finally come to your eternal glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### Prayer

Father, thank you that you have promised to hear us when we pray, and that through your dear Son Jesus Christ you have taught us best how and what to pray. We come to you now in obedience to your word and trusting in your gracious promise. We pray in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ together with all the saints and Christians on earth as he has taught us:

**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 forever.  
Amen.**

### Bible verse for reflection

Romans 8:22-25 says:

*<sup>22</sup> We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. <sup>23</sup> Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup> For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? <sup>25</sup> But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.*

### Informal time of prayer or you could use some of the prayers below:

God our Father, we give you thanks that you are God who is from everlasting to everlasting, unchanging and completely in control of this world. No matter what happens from day to day, you are there, sovereign over every tiny detail. Thank you for rescuing us from the dominion of darkness and bringing us into the kingdom of Jesus. Thank you, that in him we have redemption, the forgiveness of our sins.

Father, thank you we have your Word. It seems that during these times your Word comes alive even more. Awaken us through this time. Help us to know that no matter what

happens in this world, you are in control. There is nothing you do not know, nothing you do not see. Thank you, that you remain with us. Help us in our time of need. Help our unbelief!

Lord of all, there is so much to pray and we thank you that when we can't get the words out – you have us covered. We ask at this time that your light may shine into people's lives. May many, many people realise they have no control of their life and come to know you.

Father the whole earth is groaning in pain from the pandemic and we seek your intervention and healing of the nations. Please be very near to all who cry to you for help and please provide relief for every person suffering. Where there is shortage of supplies or understaffing of medical carers, please meet that need. Please comfort and sustain the medical personnel at the frontline. We pray for countries who may not have good medical systems or where hygiene and health is not a priority. Only you can protect them.

We pray for those among us who are suffering through COVID-19. We ask you will protect the elderly. Protect the vulnerable. Bless those who now have little contact with others. Prompt us to call or email. Comfort those who may have lost jobs or could possibly lose their job. Help us to support each other through these times.

We pray for our church. Enable us to point the way to Jesus and to make the most of every opportunity you give us. May our conversation be always full of grace and seasoned with salt, that we may know how to answer everyone. We ask that through this time, our church may work together to become stronger and more reliant on you.

We ask you will care for families as schools close and sport is a thing of the past. Give teachers a steady and clear path to lead families in home schooling of their children. Please provide parents with resources, understanding, patience and good time management, that they may use this time wisely and carefully. May children continue to learn.

We pray you will be merciful on those who are separated at this time; those who are stuck on cruise ships with no place to port; families unable to travel to be with loved ones. We ask you work through these situations.

We thank you for our government at a federal and state level. Keep them level-headed. Help them to make decisions that will best serve this nation and protect lives.

We think of our overseas missionaries, particularly the French's in Spain, where the death toll is climbing dramatically. Help this family not to go stir crazy but to be productive and loving to each other.

Lord, you are the only one with the words of eternal life. Our hope is in you.

We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen

## *Optional Song*

**Your Grace is Enough - [Link](#)**

## *Concluding Prayer*

May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,  
keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God,  
and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord;  
and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be among us and remain with us always. **Amen.**

## *Notices*

A graphic for a Zoom meeting announcement. It features a white brick wall background with a blue sofa at the bottom. A large green circle is centered on the wall. Inside the circle, the text reads: "PRAYER MEETING", "Sunday 29 March", "11am on zoom", "zoom meeting ID: 809 912 657", "or connect by phone by dialling 8015 6011", "Enter meeting ID: 809 912 657 #", and "When asked for participant ID press #". To the left of the circle is a blue Zoom logo icon.

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