

# Christ Church Woodley

## Order of Service

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November

Remembrance Sunday

Hope in Grief



## Call to worship

Come, let us turn to God,  
who is with us in all our sorrows,  
who weeps with us as we weep,  
who binds our wounds,  
and who lifts our eyes towards the eternal horizon.  
God is with us: let us turn to God  
and be people of praise in the story of our lives.

**Amen.**

We start in prayer, as we come together in this our community, be it those that have come via Zoom, or are one of the few able to be in the church to broadcast this service, or maybe one of those that prefers to read the service or watch it later on YouTube, however and whenever we take part in this act of worship, we are a community, a community of people whom worship God, just like many other communities all around the world and we join with all of them, past, present and still to come in our worship of the lord.

Let's pray.

## A gathering prayer

God of consolation,  
in all the stories of our lives, you are with us.  
As we turn to each other, and turn to you,  
may we give and find all the comfort that we need,  
knowing that it is in such shelter  
that we hear the echoes of your great kindness.

**Amen.**

Let us draw near to God.

**God draws near to us.**

Let us listen to God.

**God listens to us.**

Let us open our hearts.

**God gathers all in the place of the heart.**

Let us be nurtured by words of eternal life.

**God, yours are the words of life and life abundant.**

**Amen.**

We shall sing our first hymn and please do take this opportunity to sing, to sing your heart out, let your joy, your grief, your anger, your emotions out in the hymn and open your self to this period of worship we are entering into.

## 1st Hymn – StF 328 Jesus shall reign where'er the sun

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tcxdvJy\\_t8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tcxdvJy_t8)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1 Jesus shall reign where'er the sun<br>does his successive journeys run ;<br>his kingdom stretch from shore to shore,<br>till moons shall wax and wane no more. | 4 Blessings abound where'er he reigns ;<br>the prisoner leaps to lose his chains ;<br>the weary find eternal rest,<br>and all who are in want are blest. |
| 2 For him shall endless prayer be made,<br>and praises throng to crown his head ;<br>his name like sweet perfume shall rise<br>with every morning sacrifice.     | 5 Let every creature rise and bring<br>its grateful honours to our King ;<br>angels descend with songs again,<br>and earth repeat the loud amen.         |
| 3 People and realms of every tongue<br>dwell on his love with sweetest song ;<br>and infant voices shall proclaim<br>their early blessings on his name.          |  |

Isaac Watts (1674–1748)

## Opening prayers including Praise, Thanksgiving & The Lord's Prayer

There are a number of prayers coming each with a small pause between them, I will let you know when we are moving on, so for now please make yourself comfortable and let's talk to God.

For this first prayer when I say I please in your hearts understand I mean you to feel this I is you.

To you, Yahweh, I lift up my soul.

And I lift up my story, too.

My story that has known comfort,

my story that has also known separation, and sadness.

I lift up my heart, that has sometimes loved well,  
and sometimes failed.

In my own days, I have known the goodness of community  
and the questions that isolate.

And in all these, I lift up my eyes to you,  
who always keeps me in your gaze.

Let me find kindness and wisdom  
in all stages of life, both easy and trying.

**Amen.**

God of beginnings and endings,  
you are with us when things are new –  
new friends, new homes, new places;  
and you are with us when things change, too.  
In all of this, may we find courage and comfort,  
knowing that you are always with us –  
as things begin,  
and as things change.

**Amen.**

God, your wisdom draws us in.  
It is the bright sun in the morning,  
and the soft moon of night.  
Your wisdom is the dawn and the dusk,  
the kind opening and gentle closing.  
We praise you for all your wisdom gives:  
strength for continuation;  
hope for consolation;  
courage for perseverance;  
joy for the journey,  
and love for all time.

**Amen.**

Take a moment to let your personal prayers be lifted to God, God see's in our hearts,  
he knows our pains and our joys, lift up to him all that you have and are, all that you  
dream to be and ask his blessing upon us all.

**Amen**



Now we say the lord's prayer together

### Lord's Prayer

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 for ever.  
Amen.

### All age talk

We turn to the all age talk, which when I planned this we were going to have some people in the church and I was going to be mean and pick on them with the questions, but now here I am and your all out there either reading this or on zoom, YouTube etc.... that does not get you off the hook, so for those on zoom I will be looking for a few people to answer some of these questions.... The rest of you please also have a think about your answers.

Have you heard the saying: 'every cloud has a silver lining'? .....

What kinds of clouds are there? .....

Have you ever been out in the sunshine and it's suddenly gone dull? Where did the sun go? .....

The sun is still there – it is just hidden behind a cloud. What about on a really cloudy day, when the sky is dark and grey – where is the sun then? .....

Have you ever seen clouds with a rim of bright light round them – as if the clouds can hardly keep the sunshine hidden? It can look very beautiful. I wonder if this is what made people think that clouds have silver linings.

But even when the sun seems to be totally hidden, it is still there. And it will shine through again.

We have been through some sad times lately in our world, some of us have not been able to take part in clubs or other activities. Some of us have not been able to see our grandparents or parents, or other family members. We had the first lock down, some have lost loved ones and not really been able to mourn as we might have wanted to. We have a second wave of Covid coming at us and we are now in a second lock down. Christmas is almost here and we may not be sure what it holds for us.

– a bit like looking at clouds with no sunshine. It makes us sad and probably worried about what's to come.

But we need to remember that behind the clouds there is always sunshine, even if we cannot see it – and it will shine again. God is with us, he loves us and we will again see the smiles and love of family and friends. We will again be allowed back out and to use our church building and take part in clubs and activities. Like the sunshine behind a cloud this is a temporary thing that is facing us right now.

But we need to remember that behind the clouds there is always sunshine, even if we cannot see it – and it will shine again.

And now I hand over to James to tell us about Junior Church and announce our next hymn along with a prayer. For those reading this I am sorry you wont get to hear it.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Hymn – StF 693 Beauty for Brokenness

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RbtN4vyPBxU>

1 Beauty for brokenness,  
hope for despair,  
Lord, in your suffering world  
this is our prayer.  
Bread for the children,  
justice, joy, peace,  
sunrise to sunset,  
your kingdom increase !

2 Shelter for fragile lives,  
cures for their ills,  
work for all people,  
trade for their skills ;  
land for the dispossessed,  
rights for the weak,  
voices to plead the cause  
of those who can't speak.

*God of the poor,  
friend of the weak,  
give us compassion we pray :  
melt our cold hearts,  
let tears fall like rain ;  
come, change our love  
from a spark to a flame.*

3 Refuge from cruel wars,  
havens from fear,  
cities for sanctuary,  
freedoms to share.  
Peace to the killing-fields,  
scorched earth to green,  
Christ for the bitterness,  
his cross for the pain.

4 Rest for the ravaged earth,  
oceans and streams  
plundered and poisoned —  
our future, our dreams.  
Lord, end our madness,  
carelessness, greed ;  
make us content with  
the things that we need.

*God of the poor,  
friend of the weak,  
give us compassion we pray :  
melt our cold hearts,  
let tears fall like rain ;  
come, change our love  
from a spark to a flame.*

Sebastian Temple (1928–1997)  
from the *Prayer of St Francis*

5 Lighten our darkness,  
breathe on this flame  
until your justice burns  
brightly again ;  
until the nations  
learn of your ways,  
seek your salvation  
and bring you their praise.

*Refrain*

As the young people leave us please pray for them that they feel God talking to them in the lessons they go to receive, just as we pray that we might hear God talking to us. **Amen**

Remembrance preparations



Remembrance honours those who serve to defend our democratic freedoms and way of life. We unite across faiths, cultures and backgrounds to remember the service and sacrifice of the Armed Forces community from Britain and the Commonwealth. We will remember them.

We remember the sacrifice of the Armed Forces community from Britain and the Commonwealth. We pay tribute to the special contribution of families and of the emergency services. We acknowledge innocent civilians who have lost their lives in conflict and acts of terrorism.

Remembrance does not glorify war and its symbol, the red poppy, is a sign of both Remembrance and hope for a peaceful future. Wearing a poppy is never compulsory but is greatly appreciated by those who it is intended to support.

When and how you choose to wear a poppy is a reflection of your individual experiences and personal memories. Remembrance unites people of all faiths, cultures, and backgrounds but it is also deeply personal. Everyone is free to remember in their own way, or to choose not to remember at all.

For those that wish to now is the time to stand as we listen to the last post and prepare to remember them in our hearts and prayers as we honour them with 2 minutes silence.

### The Exhortation is recited

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We will remember them.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2weDBIOTgmo> (this video should be paused at 1:21 and no later than 1:23, the 2 minutes are then observed, and the video can be continued to play the Rouse.)

### The Kohima Epitaph

*When you go home, tell them of us and say,  
For your tomorrow, we gave our today.*

## Poem - For the Fallen

BY [LAURENCE BINYON](#)

With proud thanksgiving, a mother for her children,  
England mourns for her dead across the sea.  
Flesh of her flesh they were, spirit of her spirit,  
Fallen in the cause of the free.

Solemn the drums thrill; Death august and royal  
Sings sorrow up into immortal spheres,  
There is music in the midst of desolation  
And a glory that shines upon our tears.

They went with songs to the battle, they were young,  
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.  
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted;  
They fell with their faces to the foe.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We will remember them.

They mingle not with their laughing comrades again;  
They sit no more at familiar tables of home;  
They have no lot in our labour of the day-time;  
They sleep beyond England's foam.

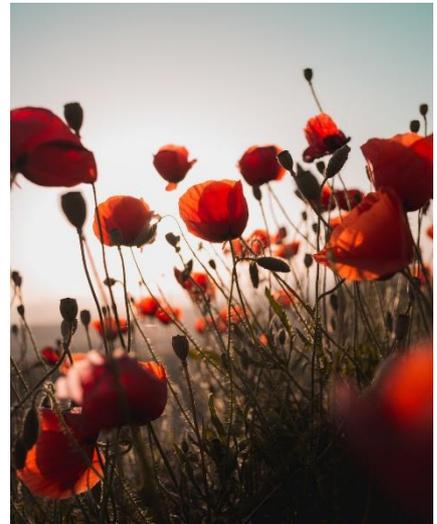
But where our desires are and our hopes profound,  
Felt as a well-spring that is hidden from sight,  
To the innermost heart of their own land they are known  
As the stars are known to the Night;

As the stars that shall be bright when we are dust,  
Moving in marches upon the heavenly plain;  
As the stars that are starry in the time of our darkness,  
To the end, to the end, they remain.

Source: *The London Times* (1914)



*Robert Laurence Binyon, by  
artist William Strang.*



*Woodley War Memorial*

## 3rd Hymn - StF 707 Make me a channel of your peace

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dZwZbC7A5JO>

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1     Make me a channel of your peace.<br>Where there is hatred, let me bring your love ;<br>where there is injury, your pardon, Lord ;<br>and where there's doubt, true faith in you : | 2     Make me a channel of your peace.<br>Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope ;<br>where there is darkness, only light ;<br>and where there's sadness, ever joy : |
| <i>O Master, grant that I may never seek<br/>so much to be consoled as to console ;<br/>to be understood as to understand ;<br/>to be loved, as to love with all my soul.</i>           | <i>Refrain</i>   |
|   | 3     Make me a channel of your peace.<br>It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,<br>in giving unto all that we receive,<br>and in dying that we're born to eternal life.     |

Sebastian Temple (1928–1997)  
from the *Prayer of St Francis*

### Intro to the reading

'Do you ever think about what happens when we die?'

The letter to the Thessalonians addresses some questions asked by these early Christians. Life expectancy was a lot shorter than ours (often under 30 years) and they expected Christ to return during their lifetime. Death would have been a more common part of their daily experience than it is for most of us – but their questions may still be ones that we wrestle with today. Our reading has been dramatized and for those reading it there is a copy of the drama pre-recorded in our church on YouTube. It features an interviewer, Paul, Silvanus, Timothy, and three questioners. Think of this as Question Time with Brenda, set back in the world of Thessalonica, so I give you today's question time on Thessalonica Television with your very own host Brenda.

### Dramatized Reading

YouTube link to follow

**Interviewer:** Good morning, and welcome to *Question Time* on TTV – Thessalonica Television. Today we are pleased to welcome to our panel: Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy – all followers of Jesus Christ.

**Paul/Silvanus/Timothy:** (*all together, one word each*) Hello. Good morning. Hi.

**Interviewer:** Now, our questions today come from our local Thessalonian followers of 'The Way', as they call themselves, and reflect some of the big questions that are often discussed among followers here. So, for our first question, please, *Name of Questioner 1*.

**Questioner 1:** Good morning panel. You know that since you were with us, many of us have been persecuted for following The Way of the Messiah. And some have lost their lives. You taught us that Jesus Christ is the Messiah, that he died and came back to life. What happens to us when we die?

**Silvanus:** I'm so glad you asked this question, *Name*, as it is a fundamental part of our faith. Just as Jesus died and rose again, so God wants us to share in the eternal life he gave his Son.

**Timothy:** Yes, so to be really clear: if we die, we will also share in the resurrection, and be with God for ever.

**Interviewer:** I want to bring in our second questioner here, as it is a related point. *Name of Questioner 2?*

**Questioner 2:** Like you, we are joyfully waiting for the day when Christ returns, and we will be with him for ever. But we are worried about our friends and family who have already died. Will they be with Jesus too?

**Paul:** I can understand your concern, but you don't need to be sad for the friends you have lost. We believe that through Jesus, God will bring the dead and the living together again with him.

**Timothy:** Yes, in fact we think the dead are already in God's presence, and when the Messiah returns, they will rise first and then we, the living, will join them.

**Silvanus:** So, we are very happy to hear that you are joyfully waiting, especially when it has been so hard for you.

**Interviewer:** Now I will take questions from the floor. Yes, *Name of Questioner 3?*

**Questioner 3:** It can be hard staying positive when we are waiting for something that is so unfamiliar and difficult to imagine. Can you tell us what it will be like when Jesus comes back?

**Paul:** Well, you know what it's like when there is a big royal visit? There's a big announcement, and fanfares, processions, lots of pomp and ceremony. Imagine that but a hundred times bigger, more wonderful and amazing! The Lord will come to meet us, and we will join him for ever in heaven!

**Timothy:** Hold on to this image to inspire you. Keep telling each other about it, to encourage you. We will be with God for ever!

**Interviewer:** Well, I'm afraid that's all we have time for this week. But we have an inspiring image to hold on to until next time. Please join us next week for another exciting edition of *Question Time* here on TTV.

## Sermon

Its been quite a week, at the time of writing this sermon I am unable to talk about the results of the race to become the next president of the United States of America, but there is so much more to talk about any way and very much closer to home.

Death and grief are an unavoidable part of being human, just as much today as when Paul wrote his letter to the Thessalonians.

Sure enough, we do not need to look far to find cause to grieve and mourn in recent days:

- In Vienna, four people were shot dead in [what seems to have been a terrorist attack](#). It comes barely a week after the knife attacks at a church in Nice [that left three people dead](#).
- A powerful earthquake in the Aegean Sea [killed at least 27 people in Turkey](#).
- Today Sunday 8 November is Remembrance Sunday, when we [remember those who have died in the service of Britain and the Commonwealth](#).
- The death toll from the coronavirus pandemic [continues to climb daily](#).
- As well as those facing recent bereavements from coronavirus or other causes, others may be mourning the loss of jobs, freedoms, social contact and the sense of a 'normal' life as England enters a second lockdown. Some of our brothers and sisters are not able to be here in live worship with us as the church is closed to congregations again.

In the midst of such depths of pain and suffering, how should we, in Christ, respond?

Before we explore that question lets just take a look at the reading in more detail.

Paul's practical theology develops in dealing with particular concerns. The Thessalonians are longing for Paul to return (3.6), perhaps to explain why, when they have been told to wait for God's Son (1.10), some of them have already died before his arrival. Paul, who longs to see them too (3.6), offers an imaginative combination of sound (a cry of an archangel and the blast of a trumpet) and vision (the clouds of the Lord's descent and their own future ascent), images with which they are to encourage one another. This draws on apocalyptic literature that envisions the

eternal sovereign defeating transient tyranny and delivering the saints for ever (see also 1.10). Indeed, the language used here of the Lord's coming with a retinue, and being met by citizens who have come out to greet him, is the courtly language of an imperial visit to a city. The idea that the faithful departed – literally here 'those who have fallen asleep' – are already in the presence of God (4.14) is found for example in 2 Esdras, where Ezra 'shall live with my Son and with those who are like you until the times are ended' (14.9), and in Revelation, where John sees under the heavenly altar 'the souls of those who had been slaughtered for the word of God and for the testimony they had given' (6.9). In Revelation, as here in 1 Thessalonians, the apocalyptic timetable is transformed by the belief that the future resurrection is already a reality in Jesus 'who died and rose again'. Here, Paul assumes he will be among those 'who are alive' when the Lord comes, but later, he thinks that 'to depart and be with Christ' would be 'far better' (Philippians 1.23).

I refer back now to that question I asked after the context was set. In the midst of such depths of pain and suffering, how should we, in Christ, respond? How should we in Christ Church Woodley respond?

In this next part of my Sermon I am going to reference the other readings from the lectionary, I am sorry that I have not included them in the service but hopefully you will get my meanings, and all will make sense, the script does have references so you can go and read them later if you wish

Rather than become lost forever in fear, bitterness and despair, Paul wishes 'that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope' (1 Thessalonians 4.13).

With Jesus' death and resurrection comes the hope that 'through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died' (1 Thessalonians 4.14) and 'we will be with the Lord for ever.' (1 Thessalonians 4.17). Paul paints a picture of this hope in triumphant terms, delivered 'with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet' (1 Thessalonians 4.16).

God's love is stronger than death and this is the hope to which we can hold.

But, as the words in Amos 5.18-24 suggest, together with the close of the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids in Matthew 25.1-14, it is a hope that we are at risk of neglecting.

Like the wise bridesmaids, we need to make sure that we keep our lamps supplied with oil, so that our path stays lit, and we will be ready to follow when the time comes.

This year has brought challenges and losses for many of us. Sometimes we picture tough times as darkness or a loss of light. The wise bridesmaids in the Gospel story know that night time is coming and they want to make sure that when it gets dark, they will still have a ready source of light to hand, so they stock up on oil for their lamps. How can you help yourself or your friends and family to 'look for the light' that will get you through the darkness? How can we at Christ Church keep the light burning. I would say one way is to keep letting the community see we are here, and one way we have done that is via the work our volunteers have done to provide the donation point which is a great bright shining light. And its fuel is not just the people that man the collection point but also those that make masks and jams, bring plants, collect the food and other items to take to the charities, organise the rota's and those that pray for the venture and keep it in their hearts and prayers.

There are other lights and its important to make sure they don't go out as well. When people come back into our building again after this current short sharp lock down, we need to let them see we are prepared for Christmas, we need to have our building decked out, shining bright showing Gods Love.

Please let your hearts and minds dwell on the idea that we are part of our community and our community needs to see Gods love shining bright, this Christmas more than ever. We are in dark times, but the light does come back out from behind the clouds. We can take measures to keep our lamps filled with Oil. Small actions from us can have massive impacts on others.

As a church we started a collection point for foodbank and CCA, and from that we now have a plant swap, a community focal point that collects for CCA, foodbank, Lunchbunch, The Cowshed, CIRDIC and raises much needed funds for toilet twinning. But it has done even more than that as I am aware of at least a few instances where it has given purpose to some who had been bereaved as they donated things and stopped for a chat and also gave encouragement to one person to attend services for the first time. It meant that some who felt that they wanted to do something useful for others could do so. I hasten to add this is impacting those in our community as well as our own congregation, not to mention all those that benefit from the charities we support.

So on a day when we pause to remember, we need to remember those that those that have died , did so, that we may have our today and tomorrow, and we are not just remembering all those that died in war or terrorism but also those that gave their lives in the line of duty or simply in heroic acts that others might survive, might live, might have an after that they in their acts choose to give up.

I would like to go back to that drama we had

**Questioner 3:** It can be hard staying positive when we are waiting for something that is so unfamiliar and difficult to imagine. Can you tell us what it will be like when Jesus comes back?

**Paul:** Well, you know what it's like when there is a big royal visit? There's a big announcement, and fanfares, processions, lots of pomp and ceremony. Imagine that but a hundred times bigger, more wonderful and amazing! The Lord will come to meet us, and we will join him for ever in heaven!

**Timothy:** Hold on to this image to inspire you. Keep telling each other about it, to encourage you. We will be with God for ever!

Now cast your minds back to the All age talk, when the sun is behind the clouds, when all is doom and gloom it can be hard to remember the sun will come back out. Things don't look good around us right now, the sun is behind the clouds, but look forwards to Christmas, Look up for the star that will guide us to the bright light.

God's love for us has not gone away, it may feel like its hidden behind the cloud but we can shine a light and show the world it is still here. Please consider how you can help keep that light bright and shining through these times.

**Amen**

4<sup>th</sup> Hymn - StF 481 The Lord's my shepherd

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DYJC8ALPRhQ&t=0s>

1 The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want ;  
he makes me lie in pastures green,  
he leads me by the still, still waters,  
his goodness restores my soul.

*And I will trust in you alone,  
and I will trust in you alone,  
for your endless mercy follows me,  
your goodness will lead me home.*

2 He guides my ways in righteousness,  
and he anoints my head with oil ;  
and my cup — it overflows with joy,  
I feast on his pure delights.

3 And though I walk the darkest path —  
I will not fear the evil one,  
for you are with me, and your rod and staff  
are the comfort I need to know.

## Prayers of Confession and of petition

O God, we have held parties when you desired purity.  
We have held festivals when you desired friendship.  
We have made noise when silence was what was needed.  
Turn us towards you, who waits for us, in hope –  
in a hope that will not die.  
Turn us towards you in hope.

### **Amen**

‘There is a balm in Gilead’, goes the song. Gilead was a place that had known great grief, and the prophet Jeremiah wrote a poem, hoping for some healing for the grief of his people. In our griefs – both little and large – we are part of the great human community who have felt pain, and who have turned to poetry and words and healing rhymes for survival. Take time to think of the songs and prayers and poems that have given you consolation. Let the healing balm of hope be the thing that brings you into community with others: those who are new to grief, and those who have been living with grief for a long time. In all these things, God is with us.

Today, God, we pray for those in grief. Someone was living who is now not living, and our hearts mourn in the wake of their lives and their presence in our lives. May we have hope. Not saccharine, not silly, not soppy. We pray for hope. Hope that we may live in the light of their great lives, and in the hope of seeing them again, in the kindness of heaven.

God of encounter:

**hear our prayer. Amen.**

Now I ask are there people you wish to name in our prayers, please speak and let us all hear and remember this is part of our prayers, you can shape the prayers as you wish, I do not plan to repeat them but ask that you now shape them as you would like them to be heard by us all and by God, he knows what’s in your hearts.

\*\*\*\*\*

Lord we ask that you take all those prayers offered and you bless and look after those that we hold in hearts for you to see.

**Jesus, light of the world,  
in the midst of this darkness,  
keep our lamps burning for you.**

As autumn falls and winter draws near,  
we feel the loss of the daylight.

**Jesus, light of the world,  
in the midst of this darkness,  
keep our lamps burning for you.**

As we face lockdowns and tighter restrictions to combat coronavirus,  
we feel the loss of our 'normal' lives.

**Jesus, light of the world,  
in the midst of this darkness,  
keep our lamps burning for you.**

As we think of plans that must now be cancelled or postponed,  
we feel the loss of those hopes and opportunities.

**Jesus, light of the world,  
in the midst of this darkness,  
keep our lamps burning for you.**

As we remember those who have died,  
we feel the loss of their presence with us.

**Jesus, light of the world,  
in the midst of this darkness,  
keep our lamps burning for you.**

**Amen.**

**Amen**

## StF351 In Christ alone my hope is found

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eDTcw0t2JA8>

- 1 In Christ alone my hope is found,  
he is my light, my strength, my song ;  
this Cornerstone, this solid Ground,  
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace,  
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease !  
My Comforter, my All in All,  
here in the love of Christ I stand.
- 2 In Christ alone ! — who took on flesh,  
fullness of God in helpless babe !  
This gift of love and righteousness,  
scorned by the ones he came to save :  
till on that cross as Jesus died,  
the wrath of God was satisfied  
for every sin on him was laid ;  
here in the death of Christ I live.
- 3 There in the ground his body lay,  
light of the world by darkness slain :  
then bursting forth in glorious Day  
up from the grave he rose again !  
And as he stands in victory,  
sin's curse has lost its grip on me,  
for I am his and he is mine —  
bought with the precious blood of Christ.
- 4 No guilt in life, no fear in death,  
this is the power of Christ in me ;  
from life's first cry to final breath,  
Jesus commands my destiny.  
No power of hell, no scheme of man,  
can ever pluck me from his hand ;  
till he returns or calls me home,  
here in the power of Christ I'll stand !

Keith Getty (*b.1974*) and Stuart Townend (*b.1963*)

### Sending out Prayer & Blessing

We have been gathered in by you, God,  
the source of all wisdom and wonder.

In your infinite kindness, you show goodness to all.

May we, who have been nurtured by your consolation and welcome,  
share consolation and welcome with all we meet,  
knowing that from your great goodness,  
all goodnesses flow.

**Amen.**