

HOME

AT HOME IN GOD'S WORLD SERVICE ORDER

This service order provides a menu of ideas to create a themed service, or to slot into an existing pattern of service. It is designed to be used with the accompanying documents "Home – Hymns & Songs", and "Home – Sermon". If children are present, the confession, response and prayers are all suitable, but the sermon is adult-orientated. Sections include:

- *Introduction – with ideas for songs / time of worship*
- *Confession – two alternative forms*
- *Ministry of the Word - readings and sermon*
- *Prayers of Intercession (responsive; can involve up to 10 people)*
- *Order for Holy Communion*
- *Blessing & Dismissal*

INTRODUCTION

Opening Sentence from Scripture: "And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Look! God's dwelling-place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.'" (Revelation 21:3)

Opening Prayer:

**Loving God, as we gather in this place,
come amongst us by your Holy Spirit.**

**Help us to worship you with all our being,
and to hear and receive your word and your gifts.**

**As we think about our homes and the places we live,
may we respond to you in love for our neighbours and for your creation,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Opening Hymns / Songs of Worship

Depending on your tradition, either a time of sung worship with several songs, or a single hymn. If children are present do choose songs they can understand and enjoy. There is a full list in the "Home – Hymns & Songs" document, from which the following may be suitable:

- All creatures of our God and King
- As we are gathered, Jesus is here
- Let everything that has breath praise the Lord
- I reach up high, touch the ground
- Over all the earth you reign on high
- We come to you with a heart of praise (All creation looks to you)

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CONFESSION

There are three choices provided: An “All Age Confession” suitable for children, a “Responsive Confession”, and an adapted version of the confessional song “Look around you” (Kyrie Eleison).

All Age Confession

Father God, when we treat your world badly, dropping litter or wasting good things, forgive us Lord.

Forgive us Lord.

Lord Jesus, when we don't look after our homes or possessions with care and respect, forgive us Lord.

Forgive us Lord.

Holy Spirit, when we act selfishly and forget that you made us to love you by caring for your world and its creatures, forgive us Lord.

Forgive us Lord.

Responsive Confession

Creator God, you formed us from the dust of the earth and placed us in a garden. Remind us of our place as your creatures at home in your creation. Forgive us when we forget our connection to the earth, and our dependence upon the goodness of your world. Lord have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

Our Saviour Christ, you were born into this world, and made your earthly home in Nazareth. Help us to know and love the people and places where you have set us. Forgive us when we fail to care for our homes, our communities, and your creation. Christ have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

Spirit of God, you desire to grow in us your fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Forgive us when our roots are so shallow, and our hearts so restless, that our lives fail to bear fruit. Enable us to find our home in you, and in the places to which you call us. Lord have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

Absolution: May the God of all grace forgive us our sins, settle us in a place of belonging, and enable us to bear fruit for His Kingdom; in the name of Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

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Confessional Song: Look around you

Adapted for this pack from 'Kyrie Eleison' by Jodie Page Clark © 1976 Celebration Music; 'Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison' means 'Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy' in Greek. Music can be found at www.worshiptrax.co.uk/Songs2MP3/LookArou_MP3.html.

Look around you, can you see? Homeless wanderers, refugees,
Burning forests, dried up rivers; Oh, my people, weep with me.
Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison.

Called to care for God's creation, called to love our local place,
Jesus teach us here to serve you, see you in our neighbour's face.
Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison.

Forgive us Father; hear our prayer. Help our lives to show your care,
Building homes and planting gardens, bringing life back to the land.
Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison.

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

It may be suitable for children to leave for their groups at this stage. However, unless they are going to see it in their groups, why not use the PowerPoint "Home – a view from the reef", first? It shows how coral reefs form a home for many different marine species, and points out that human activity is threatening these homes.

Song / Hymn: See "Home – Hymns & Songs" for suggestions. Possibilities include:

- In Christ alone my hope is found
- Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you
- The Lord's my shepherd I'll not want (*traditional or modern version*)
- The King of love my Shepherd is

Bible Readings: The sermon is based on **Jeremiah 29:4-11**. Other readings could include **Romans 12:9-21** (an agenda for practical love and community involvement) as a New Testament reading, and either **Luke 2:39-52** (Jesus' childhood and home), or **John 15:1-17** (the vine and the branches – rooted together in Jesus) as a Gospel reading.

Jeremiah 29: 4-11 (New International Version)

"⁴This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: ⁵'Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. ⁶Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease. ⁷Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have

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carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.’⁸ Yes, this is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says: ‘Do not let the prophets and diviners among you deceive you. Do not listen to the dreams you encourage them to have.’⁹ They are prophesying lies to you in my name. I have not sent them,’ declares the Lord.¹⁰ This is what the Lord says: ‘When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfil my good promise to bring you back to this place.’¹¹ For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.’”

Romans 12:9-21 (New International Version)

⁹ Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in love. Honour one another above yourselves. ¹¹ Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord. ¹² Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. ¹³ Share with the Lord’s people who are in need. Practise hospitality. ¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. ¹⁸ If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. ¹⁹ Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: ‘It is mine to avenge; I will repay,’ says the Lord. ²⁰ On the contrary: ‘If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.’ ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”

Luke 2:39-52 (New International Version)

³⁹ When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him. ⁴¹ Every year Jesus’ parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover. ⁴² When he was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom. ⁴³ After the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. ⁴⁴ Thinking he was in their company, they travelled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵ When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. ⁴⁶ After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷ Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸ When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, ‘Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you.’ ⁴⁹ ‘Why were you searching for me?’ he asked. ‘Didn’t you know I had to be in my Father’s house?’ ⁵⁰ But they did not understand what he was saying to them. ⁵¹ Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. ⁵² And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.

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Or **John 15:1-17** (New International Version)

¹ I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴ Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. ⁹ As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. ¹¹ I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹² My command is this: love each other as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵ I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit – fruit that will last – and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. ¹⁷ This is my command: love each other.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As the service focuses on communities and local areas, we suggest one of the following:

- *Take people outside to 'prayer walk' a short pre-planned route, with several points at which everybody stops and are led in prayer. Prayer-points might include the areas referred to in the sermon on Jeremiah 29 (ecological, social, political, economic, and spiritual). The stops could overlook local shops, businesses, schools, homes, trees / parks / gardens / fields, as appropriate. The focus of the prayer can include home-life, education, business and commerce, local leaders, food production, wildlife, waste and pollution. The ideas in "Home – Prayers" may be helpful.*
- *If going outside is impractical (or you want something for those with mobility problems who are remaining indoors), why not display pictures of your local area using a PowerPoint loop with short prayers relating to each picture.*
- *Use the specially prepared prayer outline in the "Home – Prayers" document, again ideally with pictures of your local area to illustrate each. You may want to edit the prayers to make them more relevant to your local area. The prayers would be best led by people of a variety of ages, and reflecting the church's involvement in each of the dimensions referred to in the Sermon on Jeremiah 29 (exile, ecological, social, political, economic, spiritual).*

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HOLY COMMUNION

The Peace

“For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in Christ Jesus and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.” (Colossians 1:19-20)

The peace of the Lord be always with you,
And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Hymn / Song: See “Home – Hymns & Songs” for suggestions. Possibilities include:

- For the fruits of his creation, thanks be to God
- Make me a channel of your peace
- We plough the fields and scatter
- From the highest of heights to the depths of the sea (Indescribable)

Preparation of the Table

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:
through your goodness we have this bread to set before you,
which earth has given and human hands have made.
It will become for us the bread of life.
Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:
through your goodness we have this wine to set before you,
fruit of the vine and work of human hands.
It will become for us the cup of salvation.
Blessed be God for ever.

The Eucharistic Prayer

(Adapted from Prayer D in Common Worship Rite A)

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.



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Almighty God, good Father to us all,
your face is turned towards your world.
In love you gave Jesus your Son
to be born as man and share our human life,
and to die upon the Cross as Saviour of the world.
Your Word goes out to call us home
to the city where angels sing your praise.
We join with them in all creation's song:

**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.]**

Father of all, we give you thanks
for every gift that comes from heaven,
and every gift that grows on earth.
To the darkness Jesus came as your light.
With signs of faith and words of hope
he touched untouchables with love and washed the guilty clean.
This is his story.

**This is our song:
Hosanna in the highest.**

The crowds came out to see your Son,
yet at the end they turned on him.
On the night he was betrayed
he came to table with his friends
to celebrate the freedom of your people.
This is his story.

**This is our song:
Hosanna in the highest.**

Jesus blessed you, Father, for the food;
he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said:
This is my body, given for you all.
Jesus then gave thanks for the wine;
he took the cup, gave it and said:
This is my blood, shed for you all
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this in remembrance of me.
This is our story.

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**This is our song:
Hosanna in the highest.**

Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup
we celebrate the cross
on which he died to set us and all creation free.
Defying death he rose again
and is alive with you to plead for us and all the world.
This is our story.

**This is our song:
Hosanna in the highest.**

Send your Spirit on us now
that by these gifts we may feed on Christ
with opened eyes and hearts on fire.
May we and all who share this food
offer ourselves to live for you
and be welcomed at the eternal feast
where all creation worships you,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
**Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever.**
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Gathering our prayers and praises into one, as our Saviour has taught us, so we pray:

**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.

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Breaking of the Bread

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

We break this bread to share in Christ's body, broken for us and all the world.
Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.

Giving of Communion

Draw near with faith.

Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you,
and his blood which he shed for you.

Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you and all creation,
and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

The following, or other suitable words, are used.

The body of Christ, broken for you and for all creation.

The blood of Christ, shed for you and for all creation.

Songs during Communion: See "Home – Hymns & Songs" for ideas. Possibilities include:

- God in my living (Everything)
- When all around is fading (He's got the whole world in His hands)
- The splendour of the King
- Faithful One
- From heaven you came, helpless babe

Prayer after Communion

Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us with body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ.
Through Him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out into our homes, our workplaces, and into your world,
in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory.

Amen.

BLESSING & DISMISSAL

Closing Song / Hymn: See "Home – Hymns & Songs" for ideas. Possibilities include:

- O Lord my God (How great Thou art) – *adapted version*
- Christ's is the world in which we move (a touching place)
- Take my life, and let it be
- Forth in Thy name O Lord I go



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- Your love is amazing (Hallelujah)

Blessing:

May the God who planted a garden in Eden,
and called the first people to tend it and care for it,
root us in a fertile land, and nurture us through the gifts of his creation,
that we may bear good fruit for God's Kingdom in this place;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Go into God's world in peace to love and serve the Lord
In the name of Christ. Amen.