

That first Easter morning you proclaimed the promise of resurrection, the power of hope it holds, and the vision of a just new order. We affirm that although bodies are mutilated and broken, the spirit refuses submission. Your great voice will never be silenced, Great liberating God.

We pray for all those broken by the world and its cares. Great Liberator God, help us raise our voices against injustice and wrong.

Time of prayer for others

Statement of belief

We believe, although everything hides you from our faith.

We believe, although everything shouts No! to us.

We believe, although everything may seem to die.

We believe we have founded our life on a sincere word, on the word of a Friend, on the word of God.

**We believe, although we feel alone in pain.
We believe, although we see people hating.
We believe, although we see children weep,
because we have learnt with certainty that he comes to meet us in the hardest hours with his love and his light.**

We believe, lead us to worship and increase our faith.

Blessing

**God to enfold us,
God to surround us,
God in our speaking,
God in our thinking.**

**God in our sleeping,
God in our waking,
God in our watching
God in our hoping**

*In Communion we:
We remember the sacrifice of Christ
We encounter the risen Lord, we feed on him in faith.
Communion with our brothers and sisters
Looking forward to the day of his return*

All prayers taken from Bread of tomorrow
Praying with the world's poor
SPCK/Christian Aid

Chelmsley Wood Baptist Church
Heddingham Grove
Chelmsley Wood

Sacred Space

Worship and Communion

Justice and Liberation



Come to the living God,
come to stand alongside the poor.
Come to struggle with those who seek freedom.
Come to resist all that offends God's justice.
Come to the living, disturbing God.

Prayer of approach

Who will set us free?
Who else can set us free?
Who will open our eyes?
Who else can open our eyes?
Who will be our light?
Who else can be our light?
Who will give us life?
Who else can give us life?

**Jesus, we're waiting,
we're waiting for you.
Be with us now
Be our freedom, our vision,
our light and our life. Amen**

Canticle (a prayer from the Bible)

The desert will sing and rejoice
and the wilderness blossom with flowers;
all will see the Lord's splendour,
see the Lord's greatness and power.

Tell everyone who is anxious:
Be strong and don't be afraid.

The blind will be able to see;
the deaf will be able to hear;
the lame will leap and dance;
those who can't speak will shout.

They will hammer their swords into ploughs
and their spears into pruning-knives;

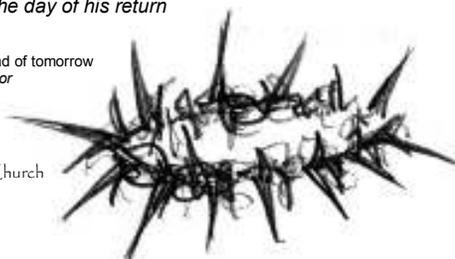
the nations will live in peace;
they will train for war no more.

This is the promise of God:
God's promise will be fulfilled

Invitation

Come to this table
to meet the living God,
love indescribable and beyond our imagining
yet closer than our own breathing.

Come to this table
to meet the risen Christ
flesh of our flesh, bone of our bone, God-with-us



Come to this table
to meet the life-giving Spirit,
helping us in our search for truth and justice,
breathing into us new life.

Come to find, to meet, to hold the living, loving
God made new for us in bread and wine.

Prayer of preparation and confession

Lord, forgive us
for we are a people of contradiction.
We go in many directions at once.
We seek opposite goals
and serve contradictory causes.

We speak of liberation, *we live oppression.*
We whisper peace, *we do violence.*
We shout justice, *we walk in injustice.*
We preach love, *we fail to care.*

Through your compassion
have mercy on us and make us whole.
Help us to hear your voice among the voices
that surround us.

Amen

The story of the Last Supper

We take bread
symbol of labour – exploited, degraded,
symbol of life.
We will break the bread
because Christ, the source of life,
was broken for the exploited and downtrodden.

We take wine
symbol of blood, spilt in war and conflict,
symbol of new life.
We will drink the wine
because Christ, the peace of the world,
was killed by violence.

Now bread and wine are before us,
the memory of our meals,
our working, our talking;
the story which shapes us,
the grieving and the pain,
the oppressor who lies deep in our own soul;
the seeking and the loving.

And we give thanks
for all that holds us together in our humanity;
that binds us to all who live and have lived,
who have cried and are crying,
who hunger and are thirsty,
who long for justice,
and who hold out for the time that is coming.

And in this we are bound to Jesus,
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples saying;

'Take, eat;
this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.'

In the same way after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them saying;

'drink this all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this as often as you drink it
in remembrance of me.'

This act of defiance showed a new way;
Violence defeated by peacefulness
Loneliness defeated by acceptance
Taking defeated by giving
Power defeated by humility
Anger defeated by goodness
Hatred and apathy defeated by love
Death defeated by life

This is the God we worship.
This is the death we celebrate.
This is the new life we proclaim.
This is the vision we await.

The Breaking of the bread

The body of Christ
Broken for us *The bread is shared*

The Pouring of the wine

The blood of Christ
Shed for us *The wine is shared*

Prayers for others

Nailed to a cross because you would not
compromise on your convictions.
Nailed to a cross because you would not bow
down before arrogance and might.

Our Saviour, you were laughed at,
mocked, bullied, spat upon,
but with unbroken spirit, Liberator God, you died.

Daily you are crucified.
Many lives are sacrificed
because they will not bend;
we pray for those
who are in prison for following you.
we pray for those
who are sacrificed for political ends.
we pray for those
in the torture rooms of cruel and ruthless
powers.