

Sunday 26th Feb 2023 – Abiding in God

Welcome

Call to Worship

Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

- Phil 4:7

Leader: We come to worship God,
We come, bringing our stories, our lives,
and our whole selves

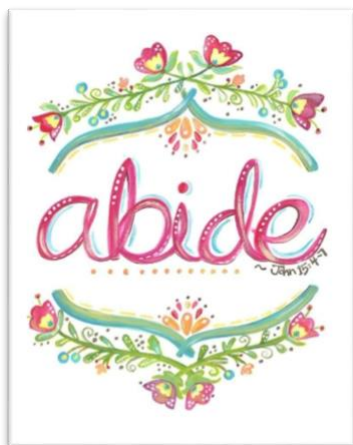
All: All are welcome

Leader: We come with our faith and our doubts,
With our hopes and our fears.

All: All are welcome

Leader: We come as we are,
Invited by God who will never turn us away.

All: All are welcome



Song – Take, oh, take me as I am [CH4 795]
<https://youtu.be/LWSc8-VNyUY>

Bible 1 – Psalm 125 [ESV]

¹ Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion,
which cannot be moved, but abides forever.

² As the mountains surround Jerusalem,

so the Lord surrounds his people,
from this time forth and forevermore.

³ For the sceptre of wickedness shall not rest
on the land allotted to the righteous,
lest the righteous stretch out
their hands to do wrong.

⁴ Do good, O Lord, to those who are good,
and to those who are upright in their hearts!

⁵ But those who turn aside to their crooked ways
the Lord will lead away with evildoers!
Peace be upon Israel!

Song – I will offer up my life [CH4 503]

<https://youtu.be/kQkzHwz2eLE>

Bible 2 – John 15: 4-7 [ESV]

⁴ Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

Song – Praise, my soul, the King of heaven [CH4 160]

<https://youtu.be/18JRaiWyksQ>

Prayer & Lord's prayer

God of love,
plant us in the soil of your grace.
Nurture us with the strength of Christ,
the vine of everlasting life.
Enlighten us with the wisdom of your Spirit,
which flows through us today and all days.
Abide in us,
that we may abide in you
and live in your love.
In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

Our Father, which art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come;
Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our
debts, as we forgive our debtors
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from
evil:
For thine is the Kingdom, the Power and the
Glory,
For ever.

Amen

Song – Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your side
[CH4 691]

<https://youtu.be/QYbX9wmQTII>

Reflection

Offering – Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost

Prayers for offering and for others

Jesus said, 'If you abide in me, and my words
abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will
be done for you.' Let us now approach him with
confidence.

Risen Lord, you came as a sacrifice for our
sin. Give us faith to accept this act of love, so that
we turn from all human efforts and drink in the
atoning righteousness of your death and
resurrection.

Lord, in your mercy... **hear our prayer.**

Risen Lord, you are the true vine and we are the
branches. By your Spirit, produce the fruit of love,
joy, peace, and patience in us for others to taste
and enjoy. Keep us from hanging on to love for

ourselves. Prune all selfishness from us and fill us
with your love.

Lord, in your mercy... **hear our prayer.**

Risen Lord, have mercy on your earth and supply
its needs. Where people are hungry, give food.
Where people are in distress, comfort
them. Where people are in trouble, bring order
and peace. And turn the whole world to you in
faith, repentance and praise.

Lord, in your mercy... **hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus Christ, focus our love on people we
know with special needs. Heal those who are
unwell and others in need whom we now name
silently in our hearts... (brief silence)

Lord, in your mercy... **hear our prayer.**

Thank you, Lord Jesus, for hearing us and caring
for us in all our needs. Constantly intercede for us
before our heavenly Father, and open our eyes
that we may see him through you. We ask all this
in your holy name, for you live and reign with the
Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and
forever. Amen.

— from the Lutheran Church of Australia's [Worship Planning Page](#) (revised slightly).

Song – All I once held dear, built my life upon
[CH4 506]

<https://youtu.be/Merf00qcQik>

Benediction

Whatever wilderness the Spirit has brought you
to:
walk in boldness, as a beloved child of God
walk in peace, under the shelter of the Most High
walk in faith, knowing Christ walks with you.
Amen.

~ written by Joanna Harader, and posted on her **Spacious Faith** blog. <http://spaciousfaith.com/>

Grace