



in our villages, towns & cities -

All Praying Together – Order of Service

Call to Worship and Welcome

'Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path... accept, O Lord, the willing praise of my mouth, and teach me your ways.' (Psalm 119:105, 108)

HYMN: *Praise My Soul the King of Heaven* (Henry Francis Lyte)

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven,
To his feet thy tribute bring;
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
Who like me his praise should sing?
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise the everlasting King.

Praise him for his grace and favour
To our fathers in distress;
Praise him still the same as ever,
Slow to chide, and swift to bless:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Glorious in his faithfulness.

Father-like, he tends and spares us,
Well our feeble frame he knows;
In his hands he gently bears us,
Rescues us from all our foes:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Widely as his mercy flows.

Angels, help us to adore him;
Ye behold him face to face;
Sun and moon, bow down before him,
Dwellers all in time and space:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise with us the God of grace.

Introductory illustration

Explain that this weekend is a very special weekend, because it is the weekend where Christians across the UK are being invited to pray with and for each other.

- **QUESTION:** What is the most famous prayer in the world? (The answer to this is not as important as hearing the ideas of what prayers might be said.)
- **CLIP:** Show the clip of the post-it notes from Bruce Almighty.
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n0cG11ITS1E>

Whether people believe in God or not, or even if people attend church or not – most people pray at some point in their lifetime. They may pray for themselves. They are more likely to pray for other people or situations. Today we are going to spend some time thinking about prayer and we are going to spend some time praying together.

- **ACTIVITY:** Hand out post-it notes – you could invite people to write prayers of praise and thanksgiving on the post-it notes and use these in the prayers of praise.

Prayers of adoration and confession

HYMN : *Forgive our Sins as We Forgive* (Rosamund Herklots, OUP)

Bible Readings:

Psalm 146

Mark 7:24-37 OR Matthew 6:5-18 [Depending if the sermon is on the Lord's Prayer or the lectionary]

James 2:1-10

HYMN: *Master Speak, Thy Servant Heareth* (Francis Havergal)

Sermon

Do take a look through our resources at www.hopetogether.org.uk for suggested sermon ideas around the lectionary readings or the Lord's Prayer.

HYMN: *Prayer is the Soul's sincere desire* (James Montgomery)

Or: *Christ is the World in which we move* (John Bell)

Intercessions

If you have used post it notes for the opening prayers, you may want to revisit this, and hand out post it notes for people to write their prayers on.

Response / Reflection

CLIP: The Skit Guys on Prayer <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uml GTKU2IE>

ACTIVITY: Introduce 'Lord's Prayer Consequences.'

- Give out pieces of paper
- Read out the first line of the Lord's Prayer, and invite people to write their own version at the top of their piece of paper
- Fold down the top of the page, and pass it onto someone else.
- Read the next line, and repeat for the whole of the prayer
- On the final time, pass the paper on one more time
- Read out a few of the complete prayers
- Invite people to take away the complete paraphrases of the prayers from the congregations

CLIP: For reflection

Bocelli – *The Lord's Prayer*

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aEplqV0scyo>

Or Matt Maher *As it is in Heaven*

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2OhCx07UNY8>

The Lord's Prayer

HYMN: *Sent by the Lord am I* (Jose Aguiar)

Blessing

*This Church Service Outline was written by the Reverend Joanne Cox -
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as part of HOPE's All Praying Together resources:
www.hopetogether.org.uk*