

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

Joshua 24:1–3a, 14–25

Psalm 78:1–7

1 Thessalonians 4:13–18

Matthew 25:1–13

**SELECTED READING AND THEME**

Psalm 78:1–7 – Tell the story of God’s faithful love.

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

We will meet in the Spirit,  
caught up in life that is holy,  
life that endures into mystery;  
we will meet in the Spirit,  
and give thanks to the Divine.

**PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

We incline our hearts to you, Holy One:  
O, incline your heart to us.  
Meet us, we pray,  
love us, we trust,  
in the air, in breath, in life.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

We have not loved as you love,  
Holy One: **forgive us, we pray.**

We have not been open as you are open,  
Holy One: **forgive us, we pray.**

We have not given honour as you give honour,  
Holy One: **forgive us, we pray.**

We have not remembered as you remember,  
Holy One: **forgive us, we pray.**

*Pause*

## **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

And Holy One does remember us into wholeness.

Holy One does honour our being.

Holy One is open, giving and welcoming us home.

Holy One does love – *loves* –

hear this and be at peace. Amen.

## **PRAYER OF ADORATION AND THANKSGIVING**

What can we say in response to such love,  
such profound, restorative, life-giving love?

Thank you.

May our lives be our thank you

every day, with love, as we have been loved.

Amen.

## **DISCIPLESHIP THOUGHT**

Tell the story of God's faithful love. Tell it every day. Use words if you must, but in your posture, your presence and care with each other, with your generous love tell the story of Holy One here with us, loving us into life!

How might you encourage your people in the telling of the story of God and their encounters with the Holy? Perhaps:

- Faith-sharing evenings or moments in worship.
- Memoir workshops with a writer you respect and an opportunity to share with voice or on the page.
- An art exhibition that invites reflection on a theme, a moment of connectedness with God, perhaps, and invite artists to write or record their reflections on their piece to help viewers engage with the work and their own story.

## **OFFERTORY SENTENCE**

We give what we can, Holy One; we give in gratitude for all you have given.

## **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

In gratitude, we share from our abundance

what money, time, skill, presence we have to offer.

Please bless these gifts to be a blessing

in the world where there is need. Amen.

## **PRAYER OF INTERCESSION**

We remember the stories we have received,  
from parents and grandparents,  
elders, teachers, mentors;  
and we pray for those stories,  
and our ancestors, saints who have gone before us.  
We pray our gratitude and love.

We remember the stories we have heard  
of neighbours, strangers, peers, and friends;  
and we pray for those stories and each other.  
We pray our gratitude and love.

We remember the ones who come after us  
in our families, our communities –  
the children, the new arrivals,  
our students, employees, and mentees.  
We remember their stories told and still unfolding,  
and we pray our gratitude and love.

We remember our story,  
its lights and its shadows,  
and we give thanks for all we have lived and told,  
for those who have listened, borne witness,  
for our courage, endurance, and hope.  
We pray for our stories and for ourselves,  
with gratitude and with love.  
Amen.

## **COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING**

Do not hide the story from those who follow,  
but tell it again and again,  
the story of God who loves us into life!

As you go to live that story,  
may Holy One Holy Three  
go with you – your breath,  
your story, your life. Amen.

## HYMNS

### **Joshua 24:1–3a, 14–25**

All my hope on God is founded  
Mine eyes have seen the glory  
Take my life and let it be

NCH.408  
TiS.315 AHB.205  
TiS.599

### **Psalm 78:1–7**

Bread of angels  
Bring many names  
God has spoken  
God has spoken by his prophets  
I will sing the wondrous story

ATW.474  
TiS.182  
TiS.636  
TiS.158  
TiS.233 AHB.173

### **1 Thessalonians 4:13–18**

Be still my soul  
Steal away  
O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder

TiS.123 AHB.48  
NCH.599  
TiS.155 SFGP.50

### **Matthew 25:1–13**

Comfort, comfort, all my people  
God of creation  
Longing for light  
Wake, awake, for night is flying

TiS.647 SA.25  
DW.134  
ATOK  
TiS.266 AHB.195