

## **CHURCH @ HOME SERVICE ORDER**

**Sunday, 4 January 2026  
Second Sunday After Christmas**

### **WELCOME TO WORSHIP**

**Almighty God,  
you wonderfully created us in your own image,  
and even more wonderfully restored us.  
As your Son our Lord Jesus Christ  
was made in our likeness, so let us share in his divine nature.  
For he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. Amen.**

### **OPENING SENTENCES**

*The Lord says: I will turn your mourning into joy,  
I will comfort you, and give you gladness for sorrow.*  
(based on Jer 31:13)

### **INVOCATION**

*In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.*  
**Amen.**

### **BLESSED ASSURANCE**

**Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine;  
O what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,  
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood**

**This is my story; this is my song,  
Praising my Saviour all the day long  
This is my story; this is my song,  
Praising my Saviour all the day long**

Perfect submission, perfect delight,  
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;  
Angels descending, bring from above  
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

This is my story; this is my song,  
Praising my Saviour all the day long  
This is my story; this is my song,  
Praising my Saviour all the day long

Perfect submission, all is at rest,  
I in my Saviour am happy and blest,  
Watching and waiting, looking above,  
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

This is my story; this is my song,  
Praising my Saviour all the day long  
This is my story; this is my song,  
Praising my Saviour all the day long

Fanny Jane Crosby, Phoebe Palmer Knapp  
Public Domain

### **CONFESSION OF SINS**

*Let us draw near to God our Father with a true heart to confess our sins,  
and ask Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.*

**Almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor helpless sinner, confess to You all my sins,  
and repent of all the evil I have done. I have deeply displeased You and deserve Your  
punishment in time and in eternity. But I am sorry for my sins, and I ask You, for the  
sake of the holy innocent sufferings and death of Your dear Son Jesus Christ, to be  
gracious and merciful to me. Amen.**

*Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on us, and has given His only Son to  
die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in His name He  
has given the right to become children of God, and has given them His Holy Spirit.  
Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved. Grant this, Lord, to us all. Amen.*

*Peace be with you.*

**Amen**

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

### LORD HAVE MERCY

*(spoken)*

*Lord, have mercy.*

**Lord, have mercy.**

*Christ, have mercy.*

**Christ, have mercy.**

*Lord, have mercy.*

**Lord, have mercy.**

### GLORY BE TO GOD IN HEAVEN

**Glory be to God in heaven,  
peace to those who love you well;  
on the earth let all your people  
speak your grace, your wonders tell:  
Lord, we praise you for your glory,  
mighty Father, heaven's king;  
hear our joyful adoration  
and accept the thanks we bring.**

**Only Son of God the Father,  
Lamb who takes our sin away,  
now with God in triumph seated -  
for your mercy, Lord, we pray:  
Jesus Christ, most high and holy,  
Savior, you are God alone  
in the glory of the Father  
with the Spirit: Three-in-One!**

Michael Perry

Permission used under CCLI - 53805 / 230276 / 153413

*The Lord be with you.*

**And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*Let us pray that the light of Christ shines in us.*

[silence]

**Almighty and merciful God,  
we thank you for sending to us the light for the world,  
the Word who became a human being  
and lived among us.  
Make the light of faith shine within us  
and be seen by those around us.  
We ask this through your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns  
with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
Amen.**

## **PSALM 147:12-20**

*Extol the Lord, Jerusalem;  
praise your God, Zion.*

*He strengthens the bars of your gates  
and blesses your people within you.*

*He grants peace to your borders  
and satisfies you with the finest of wheat.*

*He sends his command to the earth;  
his word runs swiftly.*

*He spreads the snow like wool  
and scatters the frost like ashes.*

*He hurls down hail like pebbles.*

**Who can withstand his icy blast?**

*He sends his word and melts them;  
he stirs up his breezes, and the waters flow.*

*He has revealed his word to Jacob,  
his laws and decrees to Israel.*

*He has done this for no other nation;  
they do not know his laws.*

*Praise the Lord.*

**Glory to the Father and the Son  
and the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and will be forever.  
Amen.**

### **BIBLE READING**

**Jeremiah 31:7-14** - The Lord will gather Israel together

This is what the Lord says: ‘Sing with joy for Jacob; shout for the foremost of the nations. Make your praises heard, and say, “Lord, save your people, the remnant of Israel.” See, I will bring them from the land of the north and gather them from the ends of the earth. Among them will be the blind and the lame, expectant mothers and women in labour; a great throng will return. They will come with weeping; they will pray as I bring them back. I will lead them beside streams of water on a level path where they will not stumble, because I am Israel’s father, and Ephraim is my firstborn son. ‘Hear the word of the Lord, you nations; proclaim it in distant coastlands: “He who scattered Israel will gather them and will watch over his flock like a shepherd.” For the Lord will deliver Jacob and redeem them from the hand of those stronger than they. They will come and shout for joy on the heights of Zion; they will rejoice in the bounty of the Lord – the grain, the new wine and the olive oil, the young of the flocks and herds. They will be like a well-watered garden, and they will sorrow no more. Then young women will dance and be glad, young men and old as well. I will turn their mourning into gladness; I will give them comfort and joy instead of sorrow. I will satisfy the priests with abundance, and my people will be filled with my bounty,’ declares the Lord.

*After the reading*  
*This is the Word of the LORD.*  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Ephesians 1:3-14** - Spiritual blessings in Christ

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will – to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he

purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfilment – to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ. In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession – to the praise of his glory.

*After the reading*  
*This is the Word of the LORD.*  
**Thanks be to God.**

**John 1: 1-18** - We saw God’s glory in Jesus

*Before the reading*  
**Glory be to You, O LORD.**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognise him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God – children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, ‘This is the one I spoke about when I said, “He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.”’) Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in the closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

*After the reading*  
*This is the gospel of the LORD.*  
**Praise be to You, O Christ.**

## **CORNERSTONE**

**My hope is built on nothing less  
than Jesus blood and righteousness;  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,  
but wholly trust in Jesus name.**

**My hope is built on nothing less  
than Jesus blood and righteousness;  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,  
but wholly trust in Jesus name.**

**Christ alone, cornerstone:  
weak made strong in the Saviour's love;  
through the storm He is Lord,  
Lord of all.**

**When Darkness seems to hide His face  
I rest on His unchanging grace.  
In every high and stormy gale  
my anchor holds within the veil;  
my anchor holds within the veil.**

**Christ alone, cornerstone:  
weak made strong in the Saviour's love;  
through the storm He is Lord, Lord of all.  
He is Lord, Lord of all.**

**Christ alone,  
Christ alone, cornerstone,  
weak made strong; in the Saviour's love;  
through the storm He is Lord, Lord of all.**

**Christ alone, cornerstone,  
weak made strong in the Saviour's love;  
through the storm He is Lord,  
Lord of all.**

**When He shall come with trumpet sound,  
O, may I then in Him be found;  
dressed in His righteousness alone,  
faultless stand before the throne.**

## **MESSAGE**

At this point you may wish to watch the Sermon.

For Church YouTube Channel ([click here](#))

For LCA Worship Resources ([click here](#))

## **APOSTLE'S CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell.**

**The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven,  
and sits at the right hand of God, the Father almighty,  
from there He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**

## **ONLY A HOLY GOD**

**Who else commands all the hosts of heaven?  
Who else could make every king bow down?  
Who else can whisper and darkness trembles?  
Only a Holy God!**

**What other beauty demands such praises?  
What other splendour outshines the sun?  
What other majesty rules with justice?  
Only a Holy God!**

**Come and behold Him –  
the One and the Only.  
Cry out, sing holy;  
forever a Holy God.  
Come and worship the Holy God!**



**What other glory consumes like fire?  
What other power can raise the dead?  
What other name remains undefeated?  
Only a Holy God!**

**Come and behold Him –  
the One and the Only.  
Cry out, sing holy;  
forever a Holy God.  
Come and worship the Holy God!**

**Who else could rescue me from my failing?  
Who else would offer His only Son?  
Who else invites me to call Him Father?  
Only a Holy God! Only my Holy God!**

**Come and behold Him –  
the One and the Only.  
Cry out, sing holy;  
forever a Holy God.  
Come and worship the Holy God!  
Come and worship the Holy God!**

**Michael Farren, Jonny Robinson, Dustin Smith, Rich Thompson  
Permission used under CCLI - 53805 / 230276 / 153413**

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

**Thank you, Lord, for sending your Son into the world  
to become a human being and to show us your love.**

**Help us to praise your glory  
in our words and in our lives,  
by giving of ourselves in service  
to you and to our fellow human beings.**

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*By his birth as a human being, Jesus has made the Father known to us. Let us therefore pray to our Father in heaven.*

Almighty God, You sent Your Son into our human flesh, born of the Virgin Mary, so that we might become your children. Help us to always remember this calling so that the way we live brings glory to your name.

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

We pray for all parents as they care for their children you have entrusted to them. Give them wisdom that they might know how to raise their children in godliness and surround them with your love. Let the light of your word shine in our homes.

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

Father, open the door of understanding to all who are instructed in the faith that they might learn to trust your promises and rejoice in your steadfast love. We pray that your word is preached in its purity throughout your church on earth so that all who hear it may come to know Christ.

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

Grant your blessings to the congregations of the LCA, our pastors, and all our church workers, and help them to grow in love for you.

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

Remember with compassion all those who call to you in any time of need. Surround them with your mercy, defend them against every danger, and keep them steadfast in the faith. Bring your peace and comfort to those who mourn.

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

Giver of every good and perfect gift, we thank you for the seasons, for the rain and sunshine which have brought us another harvest. Let your blessing rest on agriculture, commerce and industry; our arts and culture, our rest and leisure. Protect those who travel at this holiday time.

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

Let your word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path as we journey through the New Year ahead. Give us wisdom to see what must be torn down and what must be built up; when to speak and when to keep silent. Give us courage to throw away the things we no longer need and to gather in the things we need to keep close and dear.

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

Heavenly Father, you revealed yourself through your only Son, Jesus Christ. In his name, hear our prayer, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**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 forever. Amen.**

### **BLESSING TO SHARE**

*May Jesus come to dwell in your heart this day*  
**May Jesus come to dwell in your heart this day**  
**Amen**

### **IN CHRIST ALONE**

**In Christ alone my heart is found,  
He is my light, my strength, my song.  
This Cornerstone, this solid ground,  
Firm through the fiercest drought & storm.**

**What heights of love,  
What depths of peace,  
When fears are stilled,  
When strivings cease!  
My Comforter, my All in all;  
Here in the love of Christ I stand.**

**In Christ alone who took on flesh,  
Fullness of God in helpless Babe!  
This gift of love and righteousness,  
Scorned by the ones he came to save.**

**'Til on that Cross as Jesus died,  
The wrath of God was satisfied,  
For every sin on him was laid;  
Here in the death of Christ I live.**

**There in the ground his body lay  
Light of the world by darkness slain;  
Then bursting forth in glorious Day  
Up from the grave he rose again!**

**And as he stands in victory  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,  
For I am his and he is mine,  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.**

**No guilt in life, No fear in death,  
This is the power of Christ in me;  
From life's first cry to final breath,  
Jesus commands my destiny.**

**No power of hell, no scheme of man  
Can ever pluck me from his hand;  
'Til he returns or calls me home  
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.**

**Stuart Townend & Keith Getty  
Permission used under CCLI - 53805 / 230276 / 153413**