

We Go As Hope-Carriers

*We thank You, Lord, for re-igniting the flame of hope within us,  
for filling our hearts with light and evicting the darkness,  
and for giving a new vision of Your glory. Amen.*

Go now, as light-bearers to a world in darkness,

Go now, as hope-carriers to a world in despair;

*We go in the name of Christ, in the love of God and in the power of the Spirit.  
Amen.*



A Liturgy for  
the Foretaste of the Heavenly Banquet

We Celebrate and Pray

"The light radiates through the darkness  
and no amount of darkness can extinguish it."

As light-seekers we come, O God, and we rejoice in Your light;

*May our adoration open a window,  
that Your light may flood through.*

As hope-seekers we come, O God, and we celebrate Your gift of hope;

*Capture us as we worship,  
and make us prisoners of hope.*

As Christ-followers we come, O God,  
and we open ourselves to Christ's life;

*Change us as we encounter Your glory,  
that we may carry Your light into the world.*

Into this place of worship we bring the hopes and needs  
of all who find themselves in the dark places of the world;

The grieving, the sick, the abused and the forgotten.

Into this place of worship we bring the hopes and dreams  
of all who have lost their purpose and vision;

The rejected, the fallen, the disappointed and the discouraged.

Into this place of worship we bring the hopes and courage  
of all who serve and uplift others;

The leaders, the carers, the protectors and the teachers.

*We praise You for the light that shatters the darkness,  
the hope that rises from the ashes,  
the life that returns from the grave*

*And we pray that they may fill the earth,  
as dawn fills the sky. Amen.*

**We Proclaim What We Believe**

God made all that is seen and unseen,  
filling the universe with the life of God,  
filling creation with the glory of God,  
And filling history with the purpose of God.

***We believe it.***

God became flesh and revealed His glory in Christ,  
showing the world the character of God,  
giving humanity the dignity of God,  
ending death's tyranny by the resurrection of God.

***We believe it.***

God continues to work in the world by the Holy Spirit,  
flooding the earth with the Presence of God  
teaching Christ's followers the truth of God,  
drawing all people into the family of God,

***We believe it and we proclaim it. Hallelujah!***

**We Acknowledge that We Fail**

We acknowledge Your glory, Light of the World,  
and we gratefully remember Your saving deeds.

But, when the world grows dark and threatening,

***We lose faith and we despair;***

When our hopes are delayed,

***We grow disappointed and disillusioned;***

When love and truth become hard and painful,

***We choose expediency and self-interest;***

When You seem distant and silent,

***We become faithless and lethargic.***

Chase from our hearts the darkness, the cynicism and the mocking,  
fill our minds with memories of bloody crosses and empty tombs,  
fill our ears with echoes of forgiveness,

***And fill our lives with reflections of glory.***

***For Jesus' sake. Amen.***

*The Lord's Prayer may be said together.*

**We Share the Peace of God**

God's peace passes all understanding;  
It guides our hearts and directs our minds;

May this peace be always with you.

***And with you also.***

*The people pass the peace to one another.*

**We Receive the Sacrament**

Let us be glad and praise the Lord with shouts of joy,  
for His light has come, and His glory has risen upon us.

***Glorious and merciful God,***

***We praise You and we thank You,***

***that You did not leave us in darkness,***

***You did not abandon us to our sin,***

***You did not reject us when we faltered;***

***But, You led us out from the darkness and into Your marvellous light.***

***We thank You, we praise You and we glorify You;***

***Prince of Peace, Wonderful Counsellor, King of Compassion.***

Let us hear again the story of this hopeful meal:

When Jesus knew the time for His death had come,

and the darkness was gathering around Him,

He shared His final meal with His friends.

Taking the bread, He gave thanks.

Then He broke it and gave to His disciples saying:

"This is my body broken for you.

Do this, whenever you eat it, to remember Me."

*As the bread is broken the people say:*

***We thank You, Jesus, for the broken bread.***

After supper, He took the cup and gave thanks.

Then He gave it to His disciples saying:

"This cup is my blood, bringing a new covenant and forgiveness of sins. Do this,  
whenever you drink it, to remember Me."

*As the cup is lifted up, the people say:*

***We thank You, Jesus, for the cup of wine.***

Now, as we eat this bread and drink this cup,

We proclaim that Jesus' life was not extinguished by death,

We proclaim that Jesus' body was not held by the grave,

And we proclaim the hope that we have found in Him.

***And we will keep doing this until our hope is fulfilled. Amen.***

*The sacrament is received.*