

Sunday 20th September 2026

Christ Church with St Mary's

Informal Service of Holy Communion

Theme: 'Generosity'

We say together all words in **bold**



Welcome and Introduction





Parish Bible verse
2025 - 2026

**Love never wrongs
anyone- hence love
is the fulfilment
of the law.**

Romans 13:10

A Prayer for Growth

God of mission

**who alone brings growth to your church,
send your Holy Spirit to give vision to our planning,
wisdom to our actions and power to our witness.
Help our Partnership of Churches to grow in numbers,
in spiritual commitment to you
and in service to our Swindon community
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Amen

Opening Sentences

In the beginning
before time
before people
before the world began

All : **GOD WAS**



Here and now
among us
beside us
clearer than air
closer than breathing

All : GOD IS



In all that is to come
when we have turned
to dust and human
knowledge has been
completed

All : GOD WILL BE



Not despairing of earth
but delighting in it
not condemning the world
but redeeming it
through Jesus Christ
by the power of the Holy Spirit



All: GOD WAS, GOD IS, GOD WILL BE.

King Of Kings

**In the darkness we were waiting
Without hope without light
Till from Heaven You came running
There was mercy in Your eyes
To fulfil the law and prophets
To a virgin came the Word
From a throne of endless glory
To a cradle in the dirt**

Chorus

**The King
of Kings**



**Praise the Father
Praise the Son
Praise the Spirit three in one
God of Glory, Majesty
Praise forever to the King of Kings**

**To reveal the kingdom coming
And to reconcile the lost
To redeem the whole creation
You did not despise the cross
For even in Your suffering
You saw to the other side
Knowing this was our salvation
Jesus for our sake You died.**



**Praise the Father
Praise the Son
Praise the Spirit three in one
God of Glory, Majesty
Praise forever to the King of Kings**

**And the morning that You rose
All of heaven held its breath
Till that stone was moved for good
For the Lamb had conquered death
And the dead rose from their tombs
And the angels stood in awe
For the souls of all who'd come
To the Father are restored.**

**And the Church of Christ was born
Then the Spirit lit the flame
Now this Gospel truth of old
Shall not kneel shall not faint
By His blood and in His Name
In His freedom I am free
For the love of Jesus Christ
Who has resurrected me.**



**Praise the Father,
Praise the Son,
Praise the Spirit, Three in One,
God of Glory, Majesty,
Praise forever to the King of Kings!
Praise forever to the King of Kings!**



Offertory
and
thank you
prayer



Children's Talk – 'The Generosity of our God'

Prayer with the children



Confession

All of us carry with us past experiences, past failures or mistakes, which lie like burdens in our lives.

All of us have histories in relationships, things which we wish we had not done or said, or which will not enhance our future together.

In the silence that follows, let us reflect on things we would rather not carry with us and in the light of Christ confess our sins.

(silence)

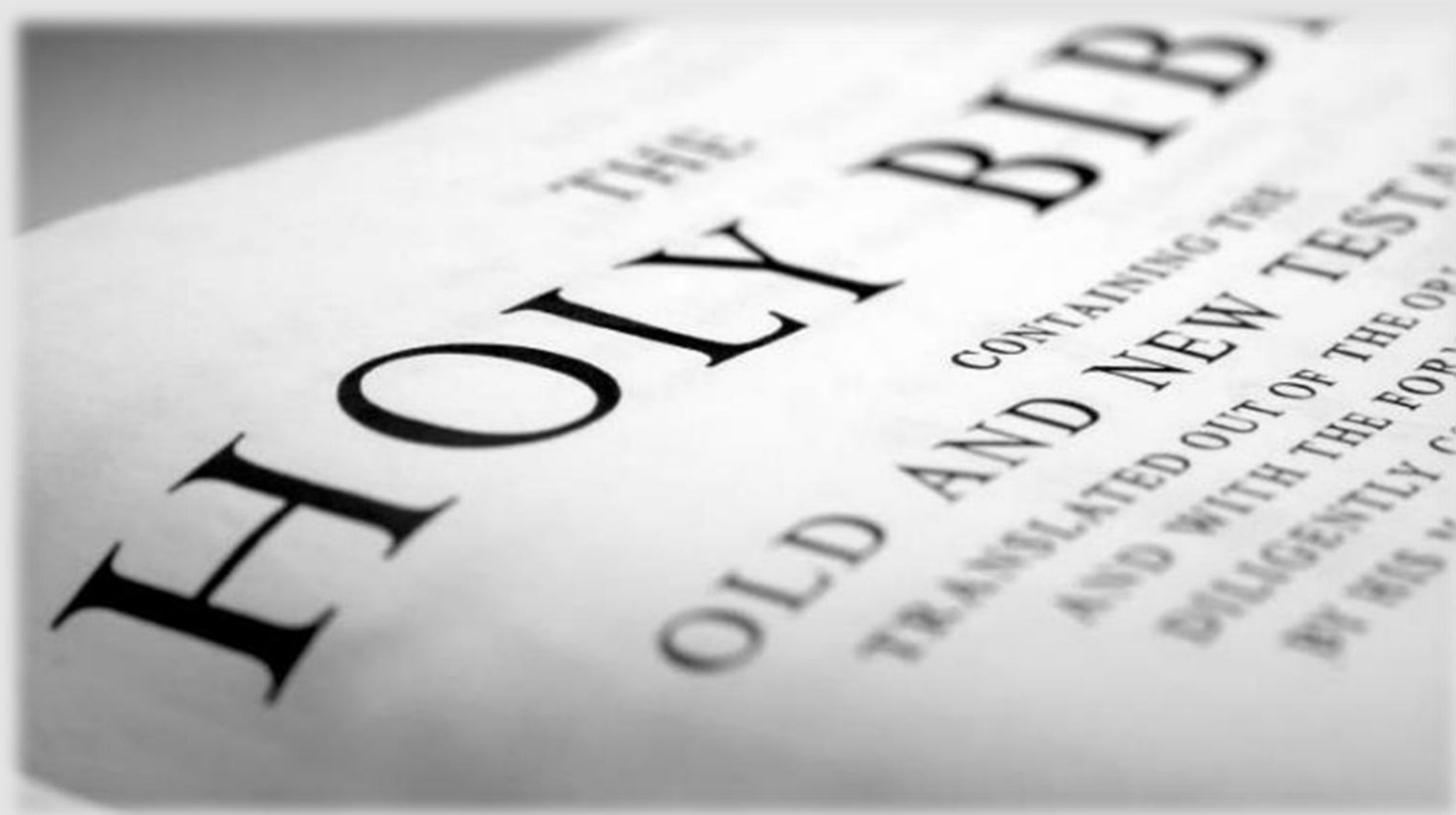
**All: Take all these our burdens into your life,
O God. We lay them down in faith for healing,
forgiveness, re-creation and release.**

Amen

Words of Forgiveness

May God forgive us, Christ befriend us and the
Spirit renew and change our lives.

Amen



Reader: This morning the first reading comes from....

Philippians 1: 21 - end

Listen now for the Word of God.

Psalm 133 A Song of Ascents.

¹How very good and pleasant it is
when kindred live together in unity!

²It is like the precious oil on the head, running down
upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron,
running down over the collar of his robes.

³It is like the dew of Hermon,
which falls on the mountains of Zion.
For there, the LORD ordained his blessing,
life for evermore.

Goodness Of God

I love You Lord
Oh Your mercy never fails me
All my days
I've been held in Your hands
From the moment that I wake up
Until I lay my head
I will sing of the goodness of God

Chorus

All my life You have been faithful
All my life You have been so so good
With every breath that I am able
I will sing of the goodness of God

God is FAITHFUL

Verse 2

I love Your voice
You have led me through the fire
In darkest night
You are close like no other
I've known You as a father
I've known You as a friend
I have lived in the goodness of God

Chorus

All my life You have been faithful
All my life You have been so so good
With every breath that I am able
I will sing of the goodness of God

God is FAITHFUL

Bridge 1

Your goodness is running after
It's running after me
Your goodness is running after
It's running after me
With my life laid down
I'm surrendered now
I give You everything
Your goodness is running after
It's running after me

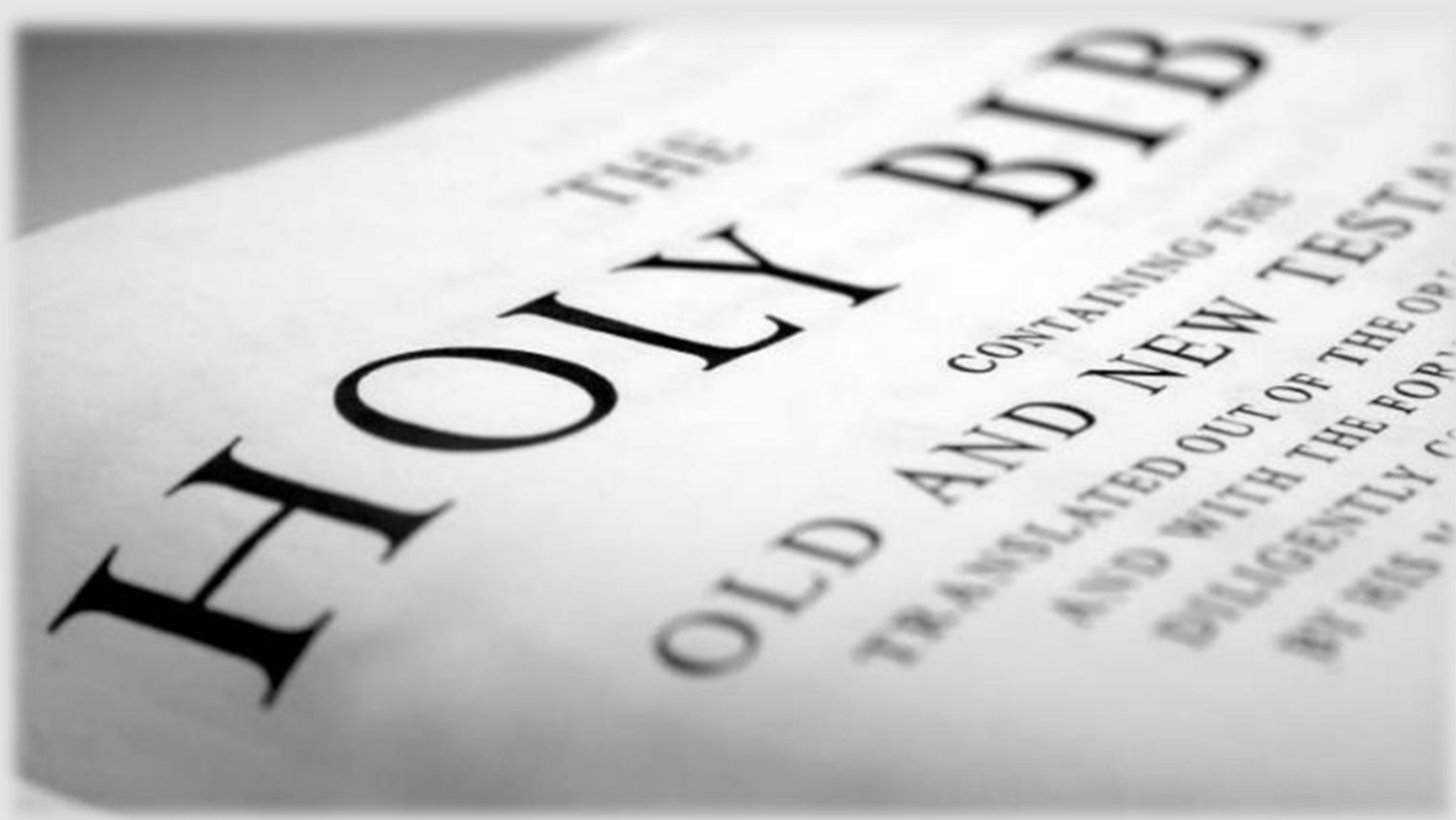
Bridge 2

Your goodness is running after
It's running after me
Your goodness is running after
It's running after me
With my life laid down
I'm surrendered now
I give You everything
Your goodness is running after
It's running after me

Chorus

All my life You have been faithful
All my life You have been so so good
With every breath that I am able
I will sing of the goodness of God

God is FAITHFUL



Reader: This morning the second reading comes from...

Matthew 20 : 1-16

Listen now for the Word of God.



Sermon – ‘Our response to the Generosity of God’

We say together in faith



What We Believe

**Holy, holy, holy
is the Lord God almighty,
who was and is and is to come.**

We believe in God the Father
who created all things:
**for by his will they were created
and have their being.**



What We Believe

We believe in God the Son, who was slain:

**for with his blood
he purchased us for God
from every tribe and language
from every people and nation.**

What We Believe

We believe in God the Holy Spirit:
the Spirit and the Bride say ‘Come!’
Even so come, Lord Jesus!
Amen.

Prayers of Intercession



Final Response

**Merciful Father - Accept these prayers
for the sake of your son our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**

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 for ever.

Amen

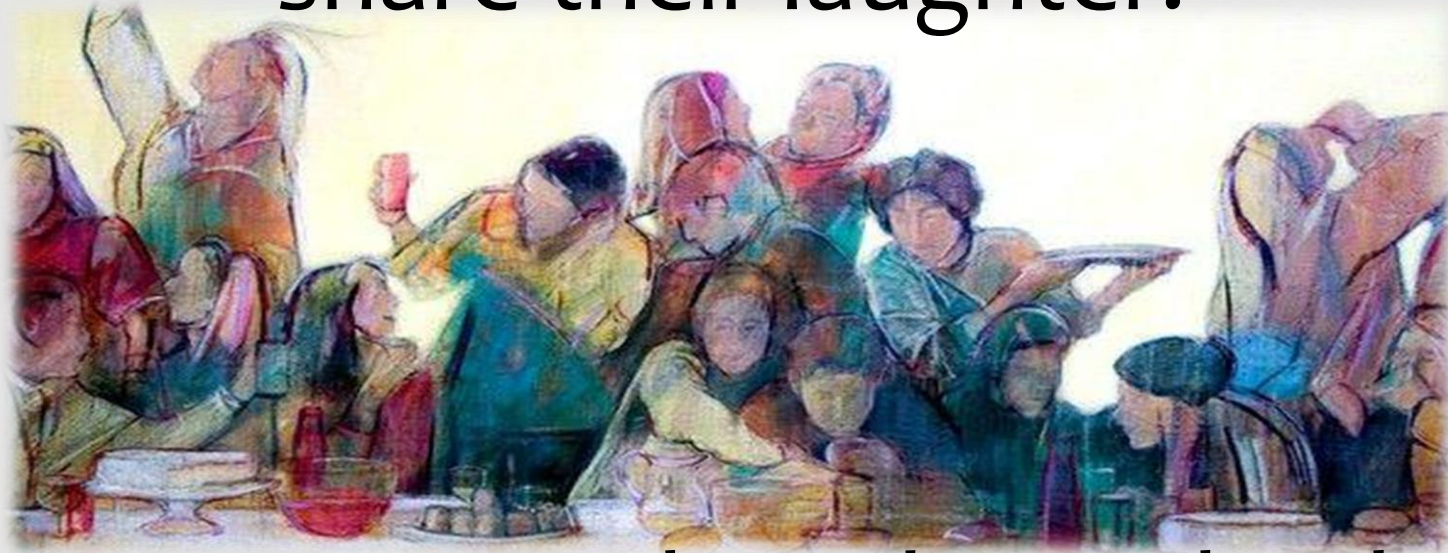
Invitation



Gathered round a table is where
Jesus so often met people

... gathered round the table of Matthew, Zacchaeus,
Simon, Peter, Lazarus and Martha and Mary,
the table of Joanna and Susannah

...gathered round a table where he could see people face to face, listen to their stories, share their laughter.



And here, we are gathered together because this is where Jesus has promised to be for those who want to meet him.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you

All: **And also with you**

Lift up your hearts

All: **We lift them to the Lord**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

All: **It is right to give God thanks and praise**

It is right to praise you, for you are the
One from whom we came
and the One to whom we will return.

You conceived the universe, wove the world
together and hold all life in your hand.



You watch us waking or sleeping
you keep every tear that we shed
you hear every prayer we make
you know both our best and our worst
and you will not let us go.

So, with rain, wind and sunshine
with all that moves in time with its Maker
we praise you.

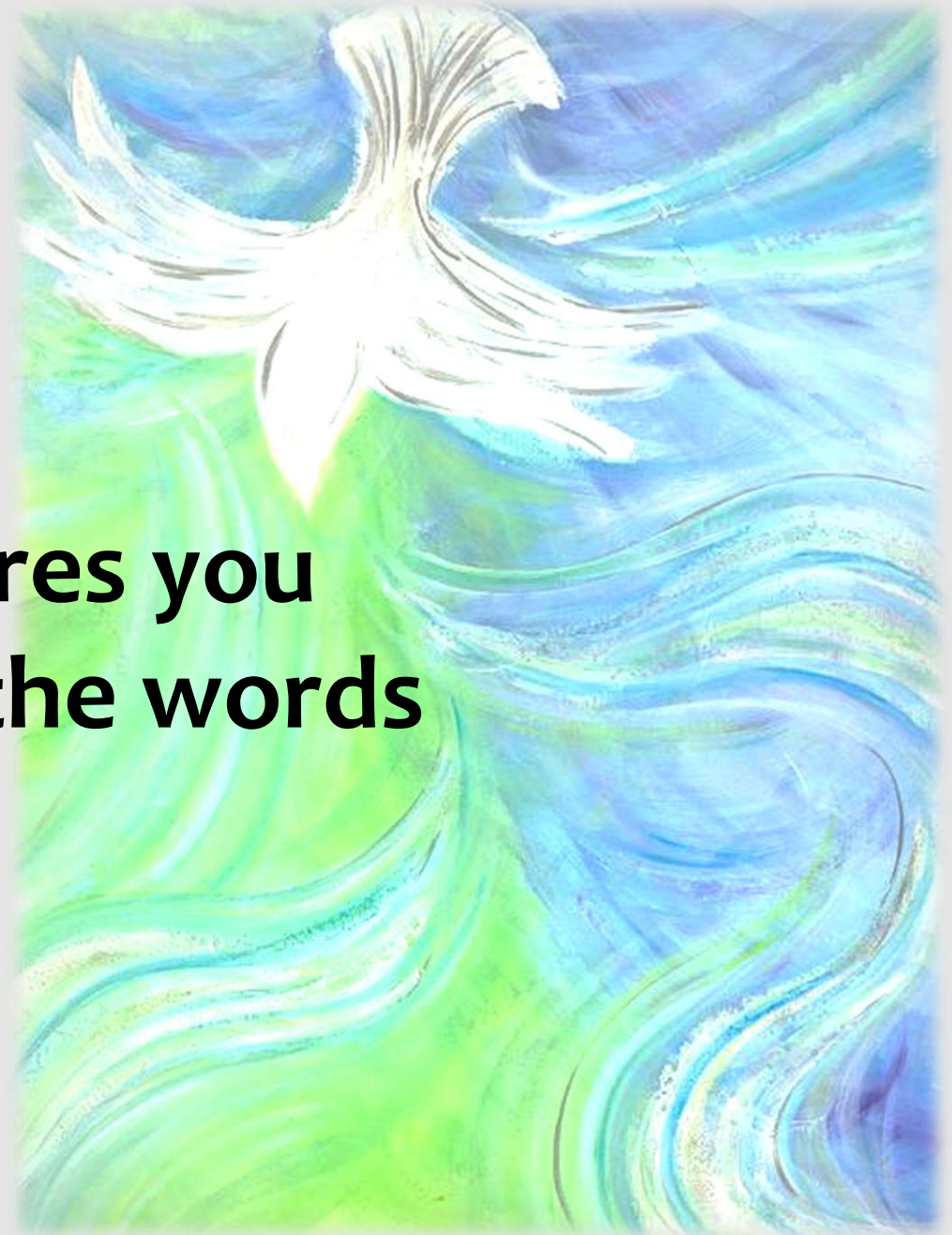
With angels and archangels, with the saints from
long ago, with our loved ones who are gathered
round your heavenly table,
we praise you.

With the church throughout the world,
with all who love Jesus and honour his name,
we praise you, singing the hymn of your
everlasting glory:

Argentinian Sanctus

**All: Holy, holy, holy
my heart, my heart adores you
my heart is glad to say the words
you are holy Lord.**

(x2)



So accept his invitation
and feel welcome at this table.



Jesus Christ
who here offers us a foretaste of eternal life
invites you to be his guests.

Prayer of Blessing

Yes, blessed is he...
who was born among us incognito,
who grew up without privilege or status,
who walked the way to heaven
through the back street of this world,

who told the deepest truths
in ordinary language,
who touched and healed,
blessed and disturbed
without fear or favour,
who showed inclusive
love in all its
unconditional glory;

who for all this, was crucified, died and was
buried, who, for all this and for all of us,
rose again; who, though high in heaven,
is present with us here and now.

Blessed is he in all his love and beauty.

God beyond holiness, as we do what Jesus once did, let your Spirit move among us to settle on this bread and this wine that they may become for us the body and blood of Christ.

And let that same Spirit
stir our souls so that as
we share this sacrament,
we may recognise our
Lord and receive him
that he may be in us
and we in him for ever.
Amen.



The Breaking of the Bread

Among friends gathered round a table,
Jesus took bread and when he had
blessed it, he broke it and said

“Take this and eat it. It is my body. It is given for you.
Do this to remember me.”



Then later he took a cup of wine,
and when he had given thanks, he said,
“In this cup is the new relationship with God
made possible because of my death.
Take this all of you, to remember me”.



All who hunger and thirst for a better life,
for a deeper faith, for a better world,
here is the bread of life
feed on it with gratitude
here is the cup of salvation
drink from it and believe.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Sharing the bread and wine



I Stand In Awe

Who can know the mind of our Creator
Who can speak of wonders yet unseen
Who can reach the height of understanding
To play the notes of wisdom's melody



Verse 2

Who has weighed the dust of ev'ry mountain
Who has walked the myst'ries of the deep
Who has laid the earth on its foundation
And who conducts the waves upon the sea



Chorus

I stand in awe of You
I stand in awe of You
So glorious and true
I stand in awe I stand in awe



Verse 3

You have seen the end from the beginning
You have been before the world began
You have reached to me within my darkness
And in the light of mercy now I see



Chorus

I stand in awe of You
I stand in awe of You
So glorious and true
I stand in awe I stand in awe



Who You Say I Am

Who am I that the highest King
Would welcome me
I was lost but He brought me in
Oh His love for me
Oh His love for me



Chorus 1

Who the Son sets free
Oh is free indeed
I'm a child of God
Yes I am



Verse 2

Free at last
He has ransomed me
His grace runs deep
While I was a slave to sin
Jesus died for me
Yes He died for me



Chorus 1

Who the Son sets free
Oh is free indeed
I'm a child of God
Yes I am



Chorus 2

In my Father's house
There's a place for me
I'm a child of God
Yes I am



Bridge 1

I am chosen not forsaken
I am who You say I am
You are for me not against me
I am who You say I am



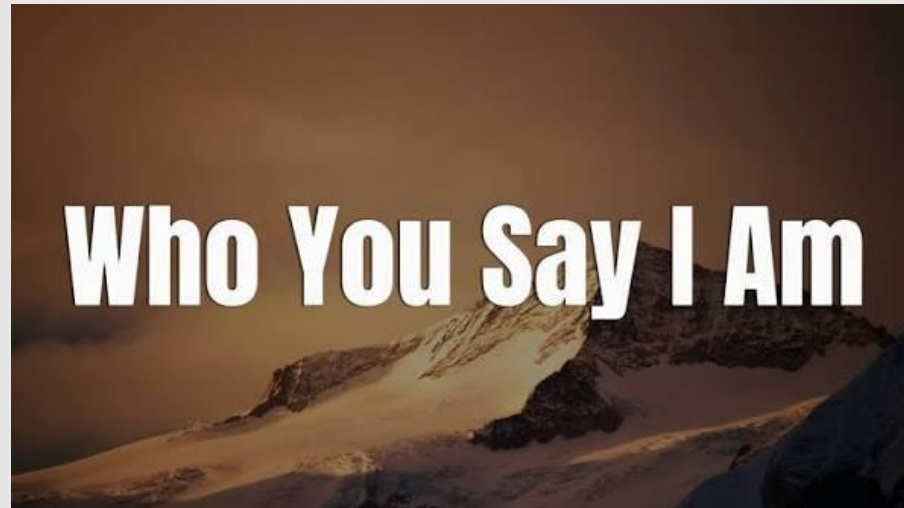
Bridge 2



I am chosen not forsaken
I am who You say I am
You are for me not against me
I am who You say I am

Tag

(Oh) (Yes) I am who You say I
am



Chorus 1

Who the Son sets free
Oh is free indeed
I'm a child of God
Yes I am



Chorus 2

In my Father's house
There's a place for me
I'm a child of God
Yes I am



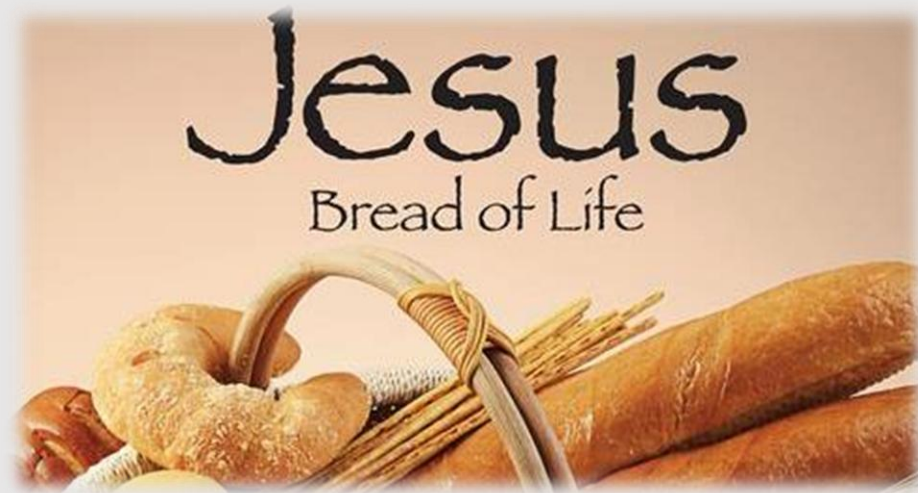
Chorus 2

In my Father's house
There's a place for me
I'm a child of God
Yes I am



.Prayer after Communion

**In gratitude for this moment, this meal,
these people, we give ourselves to you.
Take us as we are to live as changed people
because we have shared the Living Bread
and cannot remain the same.**



**Ask much of us,
expect much from us, enable much by us,
encourage many through us.**

**So Lord, may we live to your glory,
both as inhabitants of earth and
citizens of the commonwealth of heaven.**

Amen

The Peace

Not an easy peace
not an insignificant peace
not a half-hearted peace
but the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ
is with us now.

Let us share it with each other.....

28.12.61.

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.



All: And also with you

Family News

What's going on?



Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)

1. Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost but now I'm found
Was blind but now I see

2.'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed

Chorus

My chains are gone, I've been set free
My God my Saviour has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy rains
Unending love amazing grace

3. The Lord has promised good to me
His word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures

Chorus

**My chains are gone, I've been set free
My God my Saviour has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy rains
Unending love amazing grace**

Chorus

My chains are gone, I've been set free
My God my Saviour has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy rains
Unending love amazing grace

4. The earth shall soon dissolve like snow
The sun forbear to shine
But God who called me here below
Will be forever mine. (X 3)

We say together

**Lord Jesus Christ,
you have put your life into our hands
now we put our lives into yours.
Take us, renew and remake us.
What we have been is past
what we shall be, through you,
still awaits us.
Lead us on. Take us with you. Amen**



The Blessing

