

# Worship Bundle Autumn 2025

Some latest songs and suggestions for Back to school, Harvest, p2-4, Remembrance, p4-5, Advent and Christmas services, p6-16.

Appendix Extra – a free all-age resource from Scripture Union, p17-23.

## 1. Latest Songs

### Sunday Songs for Everyday Life - London Institute of Contemporary Worship and Integrity Music

Download chord sheets, and more - <https://licc.org.uk/boundless>

These powerful, memorable songs affirm the truth that God cares about every single part of our lives – not in an abstract way, but working through every item on our to-do list, every chat in the coffee shop, every load of washing.

Written and performed by some of the UK's top worship songwriters, including Philippa Hanna, Elle Limebear, Graham Kendrick, and Nathan Jess, they'll inspire you to see your whole life through God's eyes: not just the 'holy moments', but the everyday moments too.

The songs were written at a central London retreat hosted by LICC and Integrity Music, and recorded live in session at St John's Hoxton. Here is a sample of three:

This is the Day [Boundless - This Is The Day \(feat. Philippa Hanna, Noel Robinson & Joel Payne\) \(Live Video\)](#)

Before I Receive I'll Give Thanks [Boundless – Before \(feat. Elle Limebear & Nathan Jess\) \(Live Video\)](#)

Let Our Work Be for Your Glory [Boundless – Let Our Work Be For Your Glory \(feat. Steph Macleod & Lou Fellingham\) \(Live Video\)](#)

## 2. Back to School All-age Service

Some congregations take the opportunity to invite parents and families to an end of summer all-age service. It is an opportunity to re-connect with children and parents that have been blessed through a holiday bible club or to hear feedback from other summer mission activities. It can be encouraging to receive an invite along with information about kids' organisations, start-up dates and what will be happening on Sunday mornings.

Scripture Union has produced a resource for Restart School Sunday that you receive for free. Restart school Sunday church service is a fantastic, practical way to pray for and encourage your young people and school staff at the start of a new school year, showing them that God and His Church are interested in their everyday lives.

## Restart School Sunday 2025

This year's theme is 'A Shared Life' - focusing on the approach of the Apostle Paul, particularly as outlined in 1st Thessalonians 2:1-12. Tucked away in the middle of the passage are these important words...

'Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well.' (1st Thessalonians 2:8)

The free resource includes service outline, PowerPoint, praise suggestions and a video. Email Rachel at [rachel@suni.co.uk](mailto:rachel@suni.co.uk) or register through the link.

[Restart School Sunday - SUNI Scripture Union Northern Ireland](#)

### 3. Harvest Services

The theme of harvest weaves throughout Scripture — from God's provision in the wilderness to Jesus' parables of seeds, sowing, and abundance. Harvest is never just about crops; it's about trust, justice, generosity, and shared joy

"You shall eat your fill and bless the Lord your God for the good land that he has given you."  
— Deuteronomy 8:10

"The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, has blessed us."  
— Psalm 67:6

"Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore, ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.'"  
— Matthew 9:37–38

Harvest invites us to pause — to give thanks, to share what we have, and to notice the hand of God in the ordinary and the everyday.

#### **A Harvest Confession (from Arthur Rank Centre, below)**

We say sorry to God for the times we take our food for granted, waste God's precious resource and forget the poor and hungry.

Lord, in our selfishness we take for granted plentiful food supplies, while the poor go hungry day after day.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord, in our carelessness we discard and waste food, forgetting those who worked hard to produce it for little reward.

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, in our apathy we ignore the mistreatment and exploitation of farm workers, doing little to right the wrongs of injustice.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

May the God, who has given in abundance for the benefit of all, forgive us for our lack of gratitude, strengthen us in concern and compassion, and make us eager to serve him in the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Songs for Harvest Thanksgiving**

For the fruits of all creation to the traditional Welsh tune All Through the Night

[For the Fruits of all creation. Lyric video \(StF 124\)](#)

Inspired by love and anger to the tune of Down by the Sally Gardens

[Inspired by Love and Anger \(Tune: Salley Gardens - 4vv\) \[with lyrics for congregations\]](#)

### **Two new hymns from Creation Justice Ministries** [The Power of God - CREATION JUSTICE MINISTRIES](#)

Come Sing the Plenteous Power of God [Sheet Music \(2025 Power of God\) - Google Drive](#)

Creation's Song [Sheet Music \(2025 Power of God\) - Google Drive](#)

### **Other Harvest Resources**

In preparation for **God's World: Our Responsibility? A Presbyterian Church in Ireland Creation Conference** produced some resources for a Creation Sunday Service in 2025.

[Stewardship of Creation - Presbyterian Church Ireland](#)

You will also find Harvest resources on the websites of individual organisations. This year we have highlighted Tearfund, Christian Aid, and Arthur Rank Centre, an English organisation that provides support for rural parishes.

### **Tearfund – Bearing Fruit**

This year's service is based on John 15:1-17 and the resource will guide you through sharing stories of transformation from Malawi. PowerPoint slides, prayers, video, sermon notes and activities are provided in the resource.

Harvest resources - Tearfund

### **Christian Aid – Climate Justice**

In partnership with Fischy Music, Christian Aid has produced three new songs with accompanying learning activities under the heading Think, Talk and Act in a new resource called Sing Up for Justice. Link to the webpage [Sing Up for Justice | Christian Aid](#)

The songs are available on Youtube.

Speak Up (Faith Version) [Speak Up \(Faith version\) - Fischy Music/Christian Aid](#)

Let Justice Roll Like a River [Let Justice Roll Like a River \(Fischy Music version\) - Fischy Music/Christian Aid](#)

Global neighbours [Global Neighbours - Fischy Music/Christian Aid](#)

The full resource pack can be downloaded from this link. [sing-up-for-justice-resource-pack\\_interactive.pdf](#)

### **Arthur Rank Centre – Confident Rural Christians**

**Thank You to Our Farmers** was a harvest resource produced in 2024, and you can download it here. [ARC-Harvest-2024.pdf](#)

## **4. Remembrance Sunday**

Many churches incorporate an Act of Remembrance in this first part of morning worship and others do not. Some churches may carry the remembrance theme throughout the service and others will continue with the preaching plan.

It could be a Sunday where there is an opportunity for lament, silence and reflection. The psalms of lament testify to the reality of the psalmists' lives and their confidence in God as they bring those lives, in all their complexity, to God in prayer. They are the unvarnished, honest outpourings of hurting hearts. When God's presence seems impossibly absent, we experience desolation and hopelessness as the psalmist laments: 'Do not cast me from your presence' Ps51:11; 'Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble?' Ps 10:11; 'Why, O lord, do you reject me and hide your face from me?' Ps 88:14.

Apart from just one psalm, Psalm 88, the psalms of lament end with a declaration of praise, of thankfulness for the truth of God's character – his love, mercy, justice, compassion.

### **Some suggestions**

We meet in the presence of God who knows our needs, hears our cries, feels our pain and heals our wounds.

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Psalm 46:1

I lift up my eyes to the hills – from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. Psalm 121.1-2

This I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning. Lamentations 3.21-23.

### **Other Readings**

Isaiah 2:1–5 or Isaiah 10.33–11.9 or Ezekiel 37:1–14

Psalm 4 or Psalm 47 or Psalm 93 or Psalm 126 or Psalm 130

Romans 8:31–39 or Revelation 1:1–7

Matthew 5:1–12 or John 15:9–17

### **Worship songs for Lament**

As the deer longs for streams [Psalm 42: As the Deer Longs for Streams](#) Traditional melody,  
Down By the Sally Gardens

How Long O Lord, How Long [How Long, O Lord, How Long? \(Psalm 13\) • Official Video](#),  
Sovereign Grace

### **Closing Prayer**

The Lord God almighty is our Father: he loves us and tenderly cares for us.

The Lord Jesus Christ is our Saviour: he has redeemed us and will defend us to the end.

The Lord, the Holy Spirit, is among us: he will lead us in God's holy way.

To God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be praise and glory today and for ever. Amen.

## **5. Luke's Gospel in Advent and Christmas**

Welcome to this worship resource for Advent and Christmas based on the gospel of Luke. There are suggestions for six weeks of praise for the four weeks of Advent, the Sunday after Christmas and the first Sunday of the New Year.

Each week gives an overview of the theme with suggestions for four traditional hymns or carols. In addition, there is a weekly suggestion for the choir, options for a video praise song for listening and reflection and an option for the congregation to learn a new song.

### **About Advent**

The word Advent from the Latin meaning "coming" or "arrival." The focus of the season is the celebration of the birth of Jesus in his First Advent, and the anticipation of his return as Christ the King in his Second Advent. For most churches in the Western tradition, Advent is the beginning of the Church Year. It begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day, which is the Sunday nearest November 30, and ends on Christmas Eve. Traditionally, Christmas lasts twelve days until 5<sup>th</sup> January.

### **Advent is a season of waiting**

For 400 years leading up to Jesus' arrival, generations passed without a word from God through a prophet. The Israelites looked back at what God already revealed (as expressed in the writings of the Law and the Prophets)—and waited in expectation for the promised Messiah. In secular terms 'waiting' is reflected in children's excitement to the countdown to receiving presents on Christmas Day. Spiritually, it can be significant time to reflect on the year that has passed and to wait in God's loving presence and peace.

Advent waiting is about the yearning and longings of our hearts that draw us deeper into our relationship with Jesus. This is when waiting often involves the hard work of suffering, persevering through weariness, serving with consistency and loving in the face of discouragement or setbacks. Whatever we wait for this Advent, we ultimately wait for the day when Jesus our Prince of Peace will return and reign.

### **Embrace the waiting with ...**

1. silence and wonder - Luke 1: 5-25 Zechariah
2. joy - Luke 1: 26-45 Mary
3. peace - Luke 2: 8-21 Shepherds
4. worship - Luke 2: 22-40 Simeon and Anna
5. trust - Luke 2:41-52 Jesus the boy at the temple
6. assurance – Luke 21:25-36 one day we will meet Jesus

## 5.1 Embrace the waiting with silence and wonder – Zechariah

**Call to Worship:** “For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from him.” Psalm 62:5

**Bible Reading:** Luke 1:5-25

An angel gives Zachariah wonderful news! Even though he and his wife Elizabeth were far beyond childbearing age, they would soon give birth to a son. And not just any son, but one who would take on the crucial task of preparing people for the Lord and his coming. Zechariah asks the angel an innocent question, “How can I be sure of this?” Maybe it was the shock of the whole experience. Maybe he was just too overwhelmed with joy. After all, he was only human. The angel hears this as unbelief and Zachariah is given nine months of silence to reflect on his life. Once Zachariah’s son is born his voice is restored and he praises God in wonder.

### Four Traditional Hymns

1. IPH 291 – Come O Long Expected Jesus

This traditional hymn by Charles Wesley is both a preparation for the nativity of Jesus and a longing for Christ’s kingdom. It celebrates the freedom, strength, peace and consolation that Christ offers.

2. IPH 552 – Take my Life and Let it Be
3. IPH 33 – O Worship the King
4. Blessed be the God of Israel, Who comes to set us Free by Michael Perry to the tune of IPH 330 O Little Town of Bethlehem (Lyrics below).

### One for the Choir:

IPH 305 – Angels from the Realms of Glory

### Video Praise for Listening and Reflection:

God is with Us by Casting Crowns [God Is with Us ~ Casting Crowns ~ lyric video \(youtube.com\)](#)

Don’t Let me Lose my Wonder by Keith & Kristyn Getty [Don't Let Me Lose My Wonder \(LIVE\) - Keith & Kristyn Getty \(youtube.com\)](#) This is not a Christmas song as such but the Getty’s are singing it live on a stage for a Christmas concert.

### One to Learn:

Kings of Kings by Hillsong Worship [King of Kings \(Lyric Video\) - Hillsong Worship \(youtube.com\)](#)

Available on subscription through Song Select or to purchase from Praise Charts [King of Kings \(Lyric Video\) - Hillsong Worship \(youtube.com\)](#)

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To the tune of O Little Town of Bethlehem

Blest be the God of Israel who comes to set us free,  
And raises up new hope for us, a branch of David's tree.  
So have the Prophets long declared that with a mighty arm,  
God would turn back our enemies and all who wish us harm.

With promised mercy will God still the covenant recall,  
The oath once sworn to Abraham from foes to protect us all.  
That we might worship without fear and offer lives of praise,  
With holiness and righteousness to serve God all our days.

My child, as prophet of the lord, you will prepare the way,  
To tell God's people they are saved from sin's eternal sway.  
Then shall God's mercy from on high shine forth and never cease,  
To drive away the gloom of death and lead us into peace.

## 5.2 Embrace the waiting with joy - Mary

**Call to Worship:** Luke 1:47 “Oh, how my soul praises the Lord. How my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour!

**Bible Reading:** Luke 1:26-47

Mary’s faithful reply “Let it be unto me, according to your word,” has long been heralded as the epitome of trusting God. But it is good to keep in mind that this wasn’t her first response. Before she was able to find such faith within herself, Mary, like all of us, first had to work through her initial fears. Mary was not only troubled by what she didn’t understand, but “greatly troubled” as Luke expresses it in verse 29. Travelling to visit her cousin Elizabeth gave her time to process and accept that she was going to give birth to the Son of God. Elizabeth welcomes her with joy: “How could this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?” On hearing the question Mary is overtaken with a spirit of praise. She is now able to respond with joy to her Saviour, God and sings of his mighty works for all humanity.

### Four Traditional Hymns

1. IPH 301 – Tell out my soul
2. IPH 302 – The people who in darkness walked
3. IPH 324 – It came upon a midnight clear
4. IPH 333 – See amid the winter snow

### One for the Choir:

Joy has dawned upon the earth – Keith & Kristyn Getty – Available on subscription through SongSelect or from Praise Charts <https://www.praisecharts.com/songs/details/20295/joy-has-dawned-sheet-music> . This could also be “One to Learn”.

Breath of Heaven – Amy Grant - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FWo3qlqyW1c>

### Video Praise for Listening and Reflection:

Do Not Fear by Sovereign Grace - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M9q9e1BoWk>

### One to Learn:

Christmas Offering – Paul Baloche – this is a reworking of an existing Paul Baloche hymn, with updated words for Christmas

Available on subscription through Song Select or to purchase from Praise Charts [Offering](#)

## 5.3 Embrace the waiting with peace – Shepherds

**Call to Worship:** Luke 2:14 Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.

**Bible Reading:** Luke 2:8-21

As the first visitors and witnesses of Jesus birth, the shepherds were greatly honoured by God. The dark sky was lit up with the glory of God and the wonderful news came that the Saviour of the world was born in Bethlehem. It was the start of a new ‘upside down’ kingdom, where the last would be first, where the weak would be strong, where those people who are normally excluded and shut out by others would be welcomed.

Jewish people really looked down their noses at shepherds and called them ‘sinners’. The law of the day wasn’t very nice about them either – they weren’t allowed to give evidence in a court of law because they were unreliable and incompetent! Not only that but when Jesus grew up, he said that the shepherds were in the group of people that he had come to save. Jesus said: I have not come to call the righteous but the sinners’ and if that wasn’t shocking enough Jesus told everyone that he himself was the ‘good shepherd’.

Jesus, the Prince of Peace had not only been born in Bethlehem, but his birth brought the potential for divine peace in every heart on earth. In Hebrew, the word for “peace” is shalom meaning whole and complete. Becoming people of peace means participating in the life of Jesus who reconciled all things in heaven on earth, restoring peace through his death and resurrection.

### Four Traditional Hymns

1. IPH 330 – O Little Town of Bethlehem
2. IPH 340 – While Shepherds Watched
3. IPH 306 – Angel voices, richly blending
4. IPH 324 – It came upon a midnight clear

### One for the Choir:

IPH 318 – God rest you merry, gentlemen  
A Celtic arrangement is available from the [Gettys](#).

### Video Praise for Listening and Reflection:

Noel by Chris Tomlin, featuring Lauren Daigle -  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jGg7KdN19rs>

If not used the previous week, Do Not Fear by Sovereign Grace -  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M9q9eI1BoWk>

### One to Learn:

Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery – Matt Papa & Matt Boswell. Available on subscription through Song Select or to purchase from Praise Charts [Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery](#)

## 5.4 Embrace the waiting with worship – Simeon & Anna

**Call to Worship:** Jeremiah 33:3 Call to me, and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know. Luke 2:30 For my eyes have seen your salvation.

**Bible Reading:** Luke 2:22-39

Simeon and Anna worshipped and waited their whole lives for the promised Messiah. They would be considered elderly by today's standards, and yet neither one of them thought that being old meant that God was finished with them. Simeon, prompted by the Spirit, came to the Temple. When Mary and Joseph brought Jesus for dedication as the Law required, Simeon took him into his arms and spoke prophetic words declaring that his waiting was over – the Messiah had come.

Anna was a prayer warrior - she fasted and prayed night and day. Just like Simeon, she gave thanks to God for sending the Messiah, and then, not stopping there, she went out and spoke to everybody who was looking for redemption in Jerusalem. She went around telling people that their Saviour, their Redeemer had come.

Simeon and Anna did not wait for Christ on their own. They were members of the worshipping community at the Jerusalem Temple. And the Bible encourages us to keep meeting to worship together and hear God's Word preached so that our faith and hope will grow. As it says in Hebrews 10:25 "Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

### Four Traditional Hymns

1. Crown him with many crowns (Christmas) – Lyrics below, standard tune (IPH 449)
2. IPH 648 – I cannot tell (to the tune of Londonderry Air)
3. IPH 326 – Love came down at Christmas
4. IPH 316 – Come and sing the Christmas story

### One for the Choir:

What Kind of Greatness – Graham Kendrick. Available on subscription through Song Select or to purchase from Praise Charts [What Kind of Greatness](#). Also, The Source number 567.

### Video Praise for Listening and Reflection:

Is He Worthy? – Andrew Peterson - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P439vP9OS\\_A](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P439vP9OS_A) (Not a specific Christmas focus)

God is with us – Casting Crowns -<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EUMfe3jeekE>

### One to Learn:

In the bleak midwinter / Gloria by Keith & Kristyn Getty. This hymn takes the original words and tune of In The Bleak Midwinter and adds a refrain, based on Simeon's words from Luke 2.

Available on subscription through Song Select or to purchase from Praise Charts [In the Bleak Midwinter](#)

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Crown Him with many crowns  
The King who left His throne  
Creator of the universe  
Born to the world He holds  
And with that first drawn breath  
The Word has become flesh  
Emmanuel has come to us  
O crown Him, all the earth.

Crowned by the angel choir  
They tell His royal birth  
Sing glory in the highest height  
And peace upon the earth  
They break the silent night  
Announcing endless worth  
The King of grace and love is here  
O crown Him all the world.

Crowned by their royal gifts  
Gold, frankincense and myrrh  
Wise men approach this manger throne  
With honours from afar  
Behold the Son of God  
And bow down in this place  
The Prince of Peace has come to us  
O crown Him with your praise.

Crown Him with many crowns  
The Lamb upon His throne  
Hark! How the heavenly anthem drowns  
All music but its own  
Awake, my soul, and sing  
God sent His Son for me  
Now hail Him as thy matchless King  
Through all eternity.

(Chris Tomlin, Daniel Carson, Matt Redman, Colby Taylor, Dk Kim)

## 5.5 Embrace the waiting with trust – the boy Jesus at the Temple

**Call to Worship:** Matthew 19:14 Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”

**Bible Reading:** Luke 2:40-52

Advent and Christmas are a magical time for children because there are so many special activities happening in school and family life that involve them in celebrating the birth of Jesus. We know very little about Jesus as a child. But it was striking that in a first century Roman culture that did not value children the way we do today, Jesus welcomed them and made time for them.

Joseph and Mary marvelled at what Simeon prophesied about their son, but it can't have been easy to be the parents of a perfect child: “And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.” Luke 2:40 is the only information we have about Jesus from the time he was a baby up until the age of twelve. Jesus grew in wisdom, and this deepened further into adulthood (v52).

Joseph and Mary modelled their trust in God for Jesus through their faithfulness and obedience to the Law of Moses. In dedicating Jesus, they observed the purification laws, and it was their custom to celebrate the Feast of the Passover each year (v39, 41). After the panic of not being able to find Jesus on the way home, discovering him back at the Temple posing articulate questions, revealed his coming of age. Mary had just mentioned how she and Jesus' father were anxiously looking for Him. In response, Jesus draws a gentle, but distinct, line between Joseph as His earthly father and God as His true Father.

Jesus' words confirm what the angel had told Mary, as recorded by Luke in 1:32, 35, that her child would be called “Son of the Most High,” and that “the holy one to be born shall be called the Son of God.” Twice Luke tells us that Mary treasured all these things in her heart (2:19, 51). She must have often wondered, “Who *is* this unique Son of mine?” For Joseph and Mary, as for us, trusting God is a lifelong process and they did not have the benefit of being able to read Luke's gospel.

### Four Traditional Hymns

1. IPH 361 – Who is He, in yonder stall
2. IPH 354 – O sing a song of Bethlehem (to the tune of I heard the Voice of Jesus Say)
3. IPH 501 – I am trusting you, Lord Jesus
4. IPH 328 – O come, all you faithful

### One for the Choir:

Sing we the song of Emmanuel – Matt Papa, Aaron Keyes et al. Available from Song Select on subscription or from Praise Charts [Sing we the song of Emmanuel](#)

**Video Praise for Listening and Reflection:**

Who would have dreamed – Sovereign Grace -  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3LbzC0pii-s>

**One to Learn:**

I Will Trust My Saviour Jesus – CityAlight.

Resources freely available from CityAlight's website - <https://cityalight.com/song/i-will-trust-my-saviour-jesus/>

## 5.6 Embrace the waiting with assurance – one day we will meet Jesus

**Call to Worship:** Luke 21:36 Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.

**Bible Reading:** Luke 21: 25-36

The New Testament tells us that we should eagerly wait and anxiously look for the blessed appearing of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ (Rom 8:23-25; 1 Cor 1:7; 4:5; 1 Thess 1:10; Titus 2:13). Living with this in mind, knowing that Jesus could come today, or tomorrow, causes us to live with the right priorities. It causes us to live with eternity in focus.

The second coming of Jesus Christ in a cloud with power and great glory is in stark contrast with His first coming. True, there were manifestations of power and glory in that first coming: the angel announced the miraculous conception to Mary. The heavenly chorus sang and announced His birth to the shepherds. The miraculous star guided the wise men to where He was. Anna and Simeon gave prophecies about the future of this child. But there were also many commonplace events that masked His divine glory. He was born to an ordinary, working-class couple, not to royalty. Mary had to give birth in a stable. Common shepherds, not scribes, scholars, or kings, witnessed His birthplace. Jesus grew up in relative obscurity, working as a carpenter. There wasn't much divine power and glory manifested in His first coming.

There can be a lot of drunkenness around Christmas and New Year! Luke warns us about the dangers of temptation or allowing ourselves to be weighed down by the worries of the world. Instead, he encourages us to 'watch and pray' – living in daily dependence on Jesus and being ready for whatever lies ahead. It's a time for us to be awake and alert so we will not miss the light that dawns in the dark places of our own lives that at times feel desolate, confusing and beyond hope. The New Year has come with the potential for new life, new opportunities and new growth in Christ.

### Four Traditional Hymns

1. IPH 17 – All Creatures of our God and King
2. IPH 668 – Salvation Belongs to our God
3. IPH 325 – Joy to the world
4. IPH 408 – In Christ Alone

### One for the Choir:

Christus Victor – Matt Bowsell, Matt Papa et al. Available from Getty Music  
<https://gettymusic.store/products/christus-victor-amen>

### Video Praise for Listening and Reflection:

Matt Redman – One Day (When we all get to heaven) -  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VgDitpWV4Ro> or  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fu2UY88yHNc> for lyrics

**One to Learn:**

All Glory be to Christ – Sovereign Grace (tune of Auld Lang Syne)

Available from Song Select or Praise Charts. However, music for the tune is freely available online, and words are copied below. Video can be found -  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5zS1Peh17I4>

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V1. Should nothing of our efforts stand  
No legacy survives  
Unless the Lord does raise this house  
In vain its builders strive

V2. To you who boast tomorrow's gain  
Tell me, what is your life  
A mist that vanishes at dawn  
All glory be to Christ.

Ch. All glory be to Christ our King  
All glory be to Christ  
His rule and reign will ever sing  
All glory be to Christ.

V3. His will be done  
His kingdom come  
On earth as is above  
Who is Himself our daily bread  
Praise Him the Lord of love.

V4. Let living water satisfy  
The thirsty without price.

We'll take a cup of kindness yet  
All glory be to Christ.

Ch. All glory be to Christ our King  
All glory be to Christ  
His rule and reign will ever sing  
All glory be to Christ.

V5. When on the day the great I Am  
The faithful and the true  
The Lamb who was for sinners slain  
Is making all things new

V6. Behold our God shall live with us  
And be our steadfast light  
And we shall ere his people be  
All glory be to Christ.

Ch. All glory be to Christ our King  
All glory be to Christ  
His rule and reign will ever sing  
All glory be to Christ.

## APPENDIX EXTRA Scripture Union Northern Ireland in partnership with SU Scotland (with permission) – Back Issue



**This is an all-age service resource with ideas for PowerPoint slides, readings, prayers, talks and interviews.**

PPT Slide 1 Welcome Slide

We don't know what will happen this year, but one thing we can know for sure, whether we go to nursery, school, university, work, or anywhere in the Bible God says,

PPT Slide 2 – Bible verse

I am the Lord your God. I am holding your right hand. And I tell you, "Don't be afraid. I will help you." Isaiah 41:13 (ICB)

That's a great verse to learn and remember. We can know that God is with us, he loves us, and he has promised to help us wherever we go. Let's start by praising God for this as we sing...

PRAISE

Choose your own, or one of the following:

- Great is thy faithfulness (William M. Runyan, Thomas O. Chisholm, ©1923)
- Faithful God (Chris Bowater, ©1997) [Faithful God](#)
- Great are you Lord (Jason Ingram, David Leonard, Leslie Jordan, ©2014) [All Sons & Daughters - Great Are You Lord \(Lyric Video\)](#)

PPT Slide 3 – Tasty, Bright & Smelly

For those of us who are God's friends, it's important not only to believe that God is with us and helps us but to show we believe this by the way we live. Jesus, God's Son, taught his disciples what being God's friend looks like, and with the help of the Holy Spirit we can do

what he says and make a difference to those around us. We can be 'Tasty, Bright and Smelly'!

## **Bible Teaching 1 Tasty**

Tasty PPT Slide 4 – Let's hear what Jesus says about being 'Tasty' in Matthew 5:13. (You may wish to invite a young person to read these verses aloud.)

You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its salty taste, it cannot be made salty again. It is good for nothing. It must be thrown out for people to walk on. Matthew 5:13 (ICB)

Jesus doesn't mean that people are salt. Jesus is using picture language here, using something that people use in everyday life – salt – to help us understand what he is teaching. What word is used to describe something that is like something else? (Pause to allow someone to answer.) Jesus is using a simile. He is using salt, and what it is like, to help us understand what we should be like. So, what is salt like? What difference does it make? Let's find out!

ACTIVITY Choose one of the following illustrations: a) Invite someone out to wash their hands. Ask them to dip a finger in a glass of plain water, then another finger in a glass of salt water. Invite them to lick their fingers. Can they tell which is which? What is the difference between them? b) Invite someone to taste an unsalted crisp such as 'Salt n Shake' and then try a ready salted one. What is the difference between them?

PPT Slide 5 – Salt makes a difference

Salt is very important. We can't always see the salt, but when it is there, we can tell – we notice the difference. When Jesus said we are the salt of the earth, he meant that people like you and me can make a difference to the people around us. We might look like other people on the outside – but if we follow Jesus, we are different on the inside. People can't see Jesus living in us – but if we act like Jesus, people can see the difference Jesus makes, just like they can tell whether something has salt in it or not! We do this by copying Jesus and the kind of things he did. Not like Morph...

VIDEO Morph 'Portable hole' clip

[Cake! - Full Episode - PORTABLE HOLE](#)

The clip shows Morph tricking his friend. If preferred, choose another short film clip which illustrates naughty behaviour and will appeal to all ages.

PPT Slide 6 – Making a difference

In the second part of the Bible verse, Jesus is giving us a bit of a warning. "...if the salt loses its salty taste, it cannot be made salty again. It is good for nothing. It must be thrown out for people to walk on." v13 What he is saying is that we need to pay attention. We need to keep reminding ourselves to make a difference, letting others see what Jesus is like. We do this by copying Jesus and the kind of things he did, rather than the kind of things people around us are doing! But being salty means not just letting other people get a flavour of what Jesus is

like by the way we speak, and the things we do. It is much more. It is about bringing out the best in other people and making their lives better. For example, we might know someone who isn't confident. By getting alongside them we can encourage them with our words, help them see what they are good at, and give them the confidence to try new things. Jesus gives us something to think about this morning.

PPT Slide 7 – Questions to think about

- Do we think, speak and act differently because Jesus is our friend?
- Do we make a difference to the people around us? Are we good to be with? Do we cheer people up, and encourage them with kind words? Do we bless them, and point them to God? In other words, can we be like Jesus? When we use kind words and actions and encourage others, we are being tasty – like salt.

PRAISE

Something suitable for children. Own choice, or we suggest:

- I'm Ready to go (Getty music, ©2005) I'm Ready To Go
- Build Up (Fischy Music, www.fischy.com)
- We can do good (Fischy Music, www.fischy.com)

## **Bible Teaching 2 – Bright**

PPT Slide 8 - Bible verse

Jesus goes on to say, "You are the light that gives light to the world. A city that is built on a hill cannot be hidden. And people don't hide a light under a bowl. They put the light on a lampstand. Then the light shines for all the people in the house. In the same way, you should be a light for other people. Live so that they will see the good things you do. Live so that they will praise your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:14-16

Light is very powerful! (Turn on a strong beam of light, such as a powerful torch). Imagine if there was no sun, no moon, no streetlights. The world would be a very dark place indeed. We need light – it is very important.

PPT Slide 9 – illustrations

Light...

- Attracts (flies buzzing around a lamp)
- Shows the way (streetlight)
- Gives warmth and heat (blazing bonfire)
- Spreads and brings hope (dawn)

ACTIVITY The Light Test

Before the service, place a few items inside a bag. Suggested items: a banana, a mug, a watch, a ruler, a school tie, a sharpener, a sandwich box. Blindfold a child then invite them to feel inside the bag and guess an item. Pass the blindfold around so that others can have a turn. One by one bring all the items out into the light to reveal them.

We can only really know what these things are when they are out in the light. In the same way the Bible tells us that if we follow Jesus, we shouldn't keep it a secret and keep it in the dark. Rather, we should be happy to bring that good news into the open, to share it with our friends. Light is about being visible so others can see God: that means not hiding the good things we know about him and the great things he has done for us but spreading that to other people.

#### PPT Slide 10 – SHINE

Jesus tells us to “be a light for other people”. It was about not keeping following Jesus a secret. We are going to see how some of children and young people have ‘shone’ brightly over the summer.

An opportunity to show photos, video clips of summer activities or to interview young people who have served in camps or missions.

#### PPT Slide 12 – The Emerald City

So, how brightly are you shining in your school, or where you work or live? Jesus says a city on a hill cannot be hidden. That can be a good thing. A city on a hill can be attractive. People want to go there. It's so bright on a dark night, everyone can see it, like the Emerald City in the Wizard of Oz. But being like a city lit up on a hill is also a challenge, because a city on a hill can't be hidden. It is so bright, everyone can see it. When you shine brightly for Jesus, you stand out from the crowd. That can be scary! Sometimes sharing and doing what Jesus says is hard. It attracts attention. It might be embarrassing. It might even cause offence, because some people just won't want to know about Jesus! The Bible tells us to expect this.

Hold up a glowstick and break it open – or switch on a battery tealight.

On its own, this one single light can be very lonely, and not very bright. However, if it is joined by others, the light increases.

#### PPT Slide 13 – Glowsticks

Invite children to come forward and pick up a glowstick or a tealight. Instruct them to break open the glowstick, or switch on the tealight and stand together as a group.

The wonderful thing about being part of a church family is that we can get together to share the light of Jesus. When there are lots of us together, the light spreads! And suddenly the thought of letting others see the difference he makes isn't quite as scary. That's why we should get together as Christians as often as we can – to support and encourage one another in the playground or common room, at an SU Group, or here at church. And that's why it is important we all pray for those who are at school, asking God to shine his light through them. We can shine more brightly when we shine together. If space allows, invite school

staff, parents, and adults associated with schools to come forward, pick up a glowstick/tealight and join the children already up front. If they are associated with a few local schools you may like to ask them to group themselves according to the nursery or school community they belong to, holding up the name of their nursery/school, so there is a visible image of light shining in each of these places.

PRAYER Let's pray about that. Before the service identify children, teenagers and adults who might take part in the following prayer. Ask those taking part to come forward and invite the whole congregation to join in by saying together the phrase "Help me to shine brightly" after each person has spoken.

PPT Slide 14 – Responsive prayer

When I stop and help someone in the playground... [All] help me to shine brightly.

When I do the right thing and include people that others leave out... [All] help me to shine brightly.

When people laugh because I am the only one who doesn't swear... [All] help me to shine brightly.

When others mock me for going to my school SU Group... [All] help me to shine brightly.

When I am brave enough to invite friends along to church...[All] help me to shine brightly.

When I treat my pupils with love and respect... [All] help me to shine brightly. When I chat to others in the staffroom... [All] help me to shine brightly.

When I talk to parents and grandparents at the school gate... [All] help me to shine brightly.

When I faithfully pray for my school... [All] help me to shine brightly. AMEN.

PRAISE

Choose from the following, or select one of your own choice: For younger children:

- My lighthouse (Rend Collective, ©2014) [Rend Co. Kids - My Lighthouse \(Hand Motions\) \(Official Music Video\)](#)
- He is my Light (Getty, ©2016) [He is My Light- Lyric Video](#)
- I am a City on a Hill (Nick & Becky Drake, ©2015) [Nick & Becky Drake - City On A Hill // WORSHIP FOR EVERYONE](#)
- Shine from the inside out (Nick Jackson, ©2007 Powerpack [Shine \(From the Inside Out\) - Remix - Children's Sing Along Worship Lyric Video](#))
- This Little Light of Mine (Lifetree Kids, ©2016) [www.youtube.com/watch?v=ty9bZXN4uWA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ty9bZXN4uWA)

For older children and teenagers:

- This Little Light (LZ7, ©2010) is a good rap video to watch [LZ7 - This Little Light \(@rapzilla @LZ7\)](#)

### **Bible Teaching 3 – Smelly**

BIBLE PPT Slide 15 – Bible verse

As well as being like tasty and bright, the Bible tells us that we are smelly – but in a good way! We are the sweet smell of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are being lost. 2 Corinthians 2:14 (ICB) Let's think about what that might mean.

ACTIVITY The Sniff Test (For this activity you will need to pre-purchase Scratch 'n' Sniff stickers which are available from Amazon and other retailers). Invite children to smell some stickers. What are they smelling? What item does each sticker make them think of?

PPT Slide 16 – Images of things that smell nice

These stickers aren't the actual thing; they just help us to think about those things. This is a sticker of a strawberry. It isn't a real strawberry. It just reminds us of a strawberry when we smell it.

Let's think of the verse again. We are the sweet smell of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are being lost. 2 Corinthians 2:14 (ICB)

As followers of Jesus, we are the sweet smell of Jesus to others who don't know him. We remind people of Jesus, and what he is like. When we smell something nice, we want to find out more. We are attracted towards it – like freshly made bread, flowers, chocolate, or roasted coffee. If we want other people to be attracted to Jesus, then we need to spend time with him. The more we read of him in the Bible, the more we will want to get to know him better. The closer we become friends with Jesus, the more like him we will become. People will be attracted, not to who we are, but to who Jesus is as he lives in us.

So, as we finish. The Bible calls us as Jesus' followers to:

PPT Slide 17

- Make a difference to the lives of others
- Shine brightly for Jesus
- Attract others to Jesus. In other words, to be Tasty, Bright and Smelly!

Prayer

Our loving Heavenly Father, send us out from here with a desire to let others see the difference you make to our lives. Shine brightly in our hearts, so that others might be attracted to Jesus. Give us courage. Give us the help of your Holy Spirit. And may all the glory be given to you. Amen.

PRAISE OF YOUR CHOICE

PPT Slide 18 CLOSE

Thank you for joining with us at today's service. We assure all our children, young people and school staff of our continuing prayers as they return to school and seek to shine for Jesus in the school context. Please encourage them with a round of applause and speak to individuals after the service to find out what they would like prayer for.