

Closing Worship

Leader: Why have you gathered here this afternoon?

People: We are here to say thanks to God for our time together and to say goodbye to each other.

Leader: With what mission will you be sent from this place?

People: We will respond to God's call as his chosen people and we will go to spread the gospel and serve humankind.

Hymn: "O thou who camest from above" *Public Domain*

1. O thou who camest from above
the pure celestial fire to impart,
kindle a flame of sacred love
on the mean altar of my heart.
2. There let it for thy glory burn
with inextinguishable blaze,
and trembling to its source return
in humble prayer and fervent praise.
3. Jesus, confirm my heart's desire
to work, and speak, and think for thee;
still let me guard the holy fire,
and still stir up thy gift in me –
4. Ready for all thy perfect will,
my acts of faith and love repeat,
till death thy endless mercies seal,
and make the sacrifice complete.

Prayer:

Reading: Matthew 28: 18-20 and 10: 5b-10 *The Message*

Jesus, undeterred, went right ahead and gave his charge: "God authorized and commanded me to commission you: Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the threefold name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you. I'll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age."

"Don't begin by traveling to some far-off place to convert unbelievers. And don't try to be dramatic by tackling some public enemy. Go to the lost, confused people right here in the neighborhood. Tell them that the kingdom is here. Bring health to the sick. Raise the dead. Touch the untouchables. Kick out the demons. You have been treated generously, so live generously.

"Don't think you have to put on a fund-raising campaign before you start. You don't need a lot of equipment. *You* are the equipment, and all you need to keep that going is three meals a day. Travel light.

Who me?

Hymn: "Thanks for friends" © Gary Hopkins. "Permission is granted to use these writings for non-commercial worship purposes."

Thanks for friends who keep on loving,
finding ways to help us grow,
celebrating our achievements,
sharing in our pain and woe.
God is glimpsed where love is faithful:
mirrored here in time and space.
Thanks to God for friends who love us:
Christ revealed in every face.

Other people help to shape us
when they take the time to share
words of wisdom, honest actions
through our journey in God's care.

In our faithful, honest learning
we discover things unknown.
Thanks to God for friends who teach us:
seeking talent yet ungrown.

Praise to God for this great gifting
of relationship and friend:
imaging divine relating;
found in heaven with no end.

Bless us Maker, Word and Spirit
as companions on the way.
Thanks to God for friends who help us
to fulfil our lives each day.

Litany of Conclusion

Ann: We have come to the end of our time together in this Assembly.

Right: We have worshipped together, learned new things together.

Left: We have listened for God's word together, enjoyed fellowship together.

Right: We have made new friends and strengthened old friendships.

Left: We have completed our business and elected new leaders.

Ann: We have responded as God's chosen people to the call to live holy lives.

Right: We have committed ourselves to proclaim Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour.

Left: We will proclaim him through our worship, our social action and our relationships.

Ann: And so we leave this place renewed, empowered, ready for action,

ALL: KNOWING THAT GOD, CREATOR, REDEEMER AND COMFORTER, HAS CALLED US AND GOES BEFORE US – EVERYWHERE AND ALWAYS. AMEN.

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**For you, deep stillness of the silent inland
for you, deep blue of the desert skies
for you, flame red of the rocks and stones
for you, sweet water from hidden springs.
From the edges seek the heartlands
and when you're burnt by the journey
may the cool winds of the hovering Spirit
soothe and replenish you.
In the name of Christ. In the name of Christ.**

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**Go now in peace, go now in peace;
may the love of God surround you
everywhere, everywhere you may go.**