

A Liturgy for a People who put Jesus at the Centre

Our Jesus
Our Alpha and Omega
Our Purpose
The axis on which the world turns
The centre on which our lives are held.

Forgive us, oh Lord
For where we have moved other idols
Into Your rightful place
Where we have worshipped
Our selves
Our spouses
Our children
Our comforts
Our monuments of success
Where we have not loved You with
the mosaic of ourselves.

How can we forget we are called
to live
With Your name painted on our
hearts
Cradling our minds
Echoing in our mouths
Defining our days
Enthroned in our bones?

We declare again, in collective
faith
You are our Time-Keeper
Our Shadow-Lifter
Our Reason-Maker
Our Noise-Shifter
Our Pathway-Pointer

We will attune our ears to Your
Good-Shepherd voice (oh how we
love Your voice)
We will follow You to green
pastures, even if we can't yet see
them

We will commit to hard-work
habits that keep our feet and souls
weighted in purpose

We will daily posture in surrender
to You - even when (especially
when) it feels too hard

We will fill our homes, heads and
hearts with notes of worship, so
Your words are loudest

We will wildly and tenaciously
grasp

The victory, the provision, the
power, the flourishing, the blessing
You have jaw-droppingly gifted us.

Our Saviour and Lord
In the middle of the storm
In the middle of the mountain-top
moment
In the middle of the stumbling, the
seeking and the sojourning
In the middle of our usual Tuesday,
our standard Thursday, our racing
Saturday, our corporate Sunday
In the middle of our identity where
You whisper 'my beloved'
In the middle of the fire that
flickers with Kingdom coals

There in the middle - be in the
middle.

There and then, and only there
and then (despite what the chatter
may say)

Is the Life we long for.
Is the Life we were born for.
Is the Life You love for.
Is the Life You gave for.

We put up our hands again today
for that Jesus-centred Life.

We're all in.
Amen.

A Liturgy for a People of the Word

Forgive us, oh Lord
For chasing shallow truth,
quick fixes and bland bread
In the chattering media
In token conversation
In puffed-up opinion
In the cavern of self
For placing your Word
under a pile of rowdy to-
dos.

Awaken us again to the
supernatural delight of your
Word

Oh sovereign Lord, let us
see You with Spirit-soaked
eyes

On those life-breathed and
life-breathing pages;

Those pages telling stories
of ache, victory, power and
humanity

Those pages threaded
together in an unending
narrative of Your love for
us.

We declare again that Your
Word will shape us, mould
us,

Transform us, search us,
lantern-light the path for us

Define and find us.

Oh Author of all
Author of our all
You who write the stars and
arrange the waves
We trust your Word
We love your Word
We bathe in the truth of
your Word
We will go on a
transformation treasure-
hunt

And receive, in the waiting
soil of our hearts,
The supernatural seed of
your Word.

By grace and in faith, we
heartily take a-hold with
two hands

That our best year in the
Bible

Is right within our reach,

So we open Your Good-
News pages again today.

Amen.

A Liturgy for a People of Discipleship Community

Oh Lord, You who by very definition and design is three-in-one

You who concretise perfect community

We stand mindful of the pervading pull to make it all about ourselves.

Forgive us again, oh relational God.

And draw us back towards the communal table.

May we break messy bread with others

May we roll up our sleeves and wash each other's tired feet

May we sing out of tune and out of time in collective love

May we be lavish with our generosity, not our criticism

May we learn to mute the voice of preference and instead kindle unity

May we attune our ears knowing wisdom can come like a gift from another's mouth

May we be engaged not in momentary glance, but with boots-and-all heartstrings.

May we always swing the pendulum towards giving, not just receiving

May we have the deep-breath courage to be accountable with a trusted few

May we remember the gripping honour and responsibility that we can help each other come more alive.

Oh sovereign Lord, we are reminded that

The work of a disciple is indeed work

Tangled, communal work

Following You, our Shepherd Jesus, work.

And your Church, your Bride Is the engine room, the building ground, the rolling-our-sleeves-up kitchen cafeteria

For those who have put their hands up for such work.

So together, covered and scaffolded by Your justice, truth, love and grace

We are indeed showing up.
Amen.

A Liturgy for a People who Grow as Influencers

We find ourselves here again
Shaking off our
preoccupation with self
Kicking to the curb our
comparison traps and pitfalls
And instead feet ready, heart
ready, goal ready and
'Forgetting what is behind,
straining towards what is
ahead
And pressing on towards
the goal to that we've been
called.'

This call is to grow in You.

This call is to take up space
in a room (and city), as we
are agents of change.

This call is to influence, not
be influenced.

Maker of all, let Your
Kingdom come in and
through us;

In our workplaces, our
schools, our homes and our
businesses.

That we will be care-takers
and meaning-makers of the
gifts that You have fashioned
within us.

Holy Spirit breathe on these
embers now and start a gift-
fire.

We commit to using these
gifts in the big and the little
In the extraordinary and the
ordinary
In the middle and the
muddle.

We see that we are a people
whose

Voices, pens, words, sounds,
systems, designs, colours,
creativity and conversations

Will go above the noise, the
clutter, the feasts, the chaos,
the 'look at me' dialogues,

To the ones, the tens,
thousands and millions

Because You have called
us to be story-tellers of
influence.

We surrender to Your 'let-
there-be' light growing in us
step by step and day by day;

A light that is up-lifting, door-
opening, service-bringing,
integrity-breathing, feet-
grounding.

We declare again, maker of
Heaven and Earth, grow us
from the inside out.

Form us in Your glory-
drenched light.

Amen.

