



**Order of Service**  
**28<sup>th</sup> August 2022**

**Welcome and Call to Worship**

At the beginning of our journey,  
we gather as your people, Lord,  
looking for life, for our life.

**Thanks for having us in your home  
and for opening the doors of your love.**

Your Word nourishes us,  
hugs from us renew our brothers and sisters,  
**Your Spirit encourages us  
to celebrate.**

For your grace abounds  
in your eyes and caresses.  
We sing, clap, smile  
and open the soul to find  
your presence and generous solidarity.

**We are a happy people  
and we want to serve you with joy.**

In times of confusion and so many doubts,  
in moments of selfishness and ambition,  
**we walk your ways of justice,  
hear your words of release,**

learn from your lawsuits serene  
extend, like yours, our open hands ...  
**May this gathering renew in us  
the ability to follow you and love you,  
every day, wherever you call us.**  
Let us worship God

**Acknowledgment of Country**

**Song** – TIS 693 – Come as you are

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**Prayer of Confession and Declaration of forgiveness**

Father, when our worship has been more about us than about you,  
**Lord have mercy.**

When our songs have ignored the pain of your broken body on earth,  
**Christ have mercy.**

When our services have been more of an escape for us, than good news to the poor,  
**Lord, have mercy.**

When we praise you with our lips, but deny you with our finances,  
**Christ, have mercy.**

When our instruments are louder than our cries for justice,



**Lord, have mercy.**

When we fail to learn from the sacrificial worship of brothers and sisters across the world,  
**Christ, have mercy.**

**Receiving forgiveness**

May God forgive us our sins,  
and fill us with his Holy Spirit,  
to lead lives of worship  
that bring his resurrection power  
to our broken world,  
and inspire services of worship  
which reflect his heart for justice,  
mercy and humility.

In the name of Christ your sins are forgiven.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Early Word**

**Song** – TIS 474 – Gather us in

**Readings**

Jeremiah 2: 4-13

Luke 14: 1, 7-14

**Message: ‘Beware where you sit’**

- Beware where you sit is something we are familiar with, whether we in a football match, a musical concert or even at church. This is because where you sit can reveal a little bit more about yourself.
- Our socio-economic and cultural/traditional matrix are often on display when we are required to sit. You don't sit on expensive seats in a football finals match if you didn't pay the right amount of money. You don't sit in honoured places if you are not an honoured guest.
- We read from the gospel story this morning how Jesus was invited to the house of a leading Pharisee on a particular Sunday. So Jesus focus in on the meal scene and saw how guests would chose the places of honour. Why not? I would!
- This may have reminded Jesus about his own place in the world and where he would finally be seated when all is being fulfilled.
- Jesus then responded by telling a parable to try and discourage his listeners from seeking the most prestigious seat, to avoid the humiliation of being displaced by someone more important. Therefore they should take the lowest places so that the host might elevate them to a more honourable place.
- And Jesus concludes with this reminder, “For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted” (14:11).
- Jesus was very much aware of the social expectation of the time and the social disparities especially during meal times. So Jesus does not castigate the system of honour at meal time and advices his isteners about humility which should be a mark of his followers.
- Then Jesus speaks directly to the host - the leading Pharisee. He asks the hosts not to invite friends , family, and the rich to his meal table since they are able to repay him with corresponding courtesy.
- Instead, Jesus asks for the inclusion of those who cannot return the invitation: “the poor, the crippled, the lame and the blind” (14:13).

**Song** – Come to the Banquet, there's a place for you – video on ppt

**Notices**



## **Offering**

Let us say together:

**God of abundance and love,  
who would feed us  
and satisfy us  
with the finest of wheat and honey;  
we offer our lives  
and the gifts of our living  
that others might be guests,  
fed and satisfied,  
at your banquet  
of justice and love. Amen**

## **Prayers for others**

**Song** – TIS 650 – Brother, sister, let me serve you

## **Blessing**

Where to sit, where to sit?

Always a dilemma.

Free choice and one might avoid particular guests.

Set places and one can be saddled with some of those particular guests –  
and they with you!

The host's prerogative, the Teacher says.

It's tempting to over-estimate one's importance,  
or standing.

But beware false humility and be glad:  
you are invited.

Invitations go to friend, neighbour, relative;  
those who might repay in kind.

These are safe seats.

The harder invitation,  
hospitality at the margins.

The Teacher,

always guest,

invites friend, neighbour, relative, rich, poor, marginalised, broken  
to a meal none can repay:

a feast 'with the finest of wheat,

and with honey from the rock',

where all the seats are safe seats (the host's prerogative):

and you are invited.

© Jeff Shrowder, 2013.

As we go from this place, where we are all invited into God's presence,

May you know God's presence in your life,

And your presence at God's welcoming table.

Go out into the world –

to invite others to join you at God's table,

to invite others to know of God's love,

as Jesus has invited you.

Amen.

**Sending out song** – TIS 779 – May the feet of God walk with you

Go out to love and serve the Lord.

Amen.

