

Welcome- Sept 18, 2022

**Call to worship:** (Based on Matthew 23, written by Thom Shuman)

When we stand at the edge of fear and worry,  
**God invites us to step into the waters of faith and trust.**  
When we stand at the edge of the world's pain and need,  
**Jesus invites us to step into the land of humble service.**  
When we stand at the edge of our hunger and thirst:  
**the Spirit invites us to sit at the Table of grace.**

**Song: All the Earth**

God's greeting

We greet each other

**Song: This is my Fathers world**

**Confession** (from re:Worship, based on Matthew 23:1-12)

Jesus, teacher and Lord,  
when we hear your criticism of the behaviour  
of the scribes and the Pharisees in the gospel today,  
we wonder what has changed.  
People still place unwarranted burdens on others,  
still demand preferential treatment,  
still abuse positions of leadership.  
We are ashamed to confess that this does not only happen  
in society at large,  
it happens also within the church.  
**Forgive our participation in practices  
which inflate our egos at the expense of others.**

Jesus, forgive us when we parade our piety  
and expect favoured treatment,  
forgetting that you emptied yourself of power  
so that you could be the servant and Saviour of all.  
**Forgive us when we care more for impressive outward appearances  
rather than inner dispositions shaped by tolerance and love.**

Jesus, forgive us for any behaviour  
which is experienced or perceived as hypocritical—  
any actions which lack integrity and justice.  
**Renew and refresh us with your gentle and selfless Spirit, Lord,  
so that we know what it is to be your followers  
not only in name, but in reality. Amen**

**Song: Lord I need you**

**Words of Assurance:** (from re:Worship, based on Colossians 2:13-14)

Hear the good news:  
God has forgiven us all our sins,  
erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands.  
This God set aside, nailing it to the cross.  
In Jesus Christ, therefore, we are forgiven.  
**Thanks be to God!**

**Song: Victory In Jesus** (birthday song Len Bosgra- please announce)

Children's Blessing

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture: Matthew 23:1-11 & 24:1-14

**Sermon-** *Staying Faithful in Difficult Times*

**Song- Build your Kingdom here**

Congregational Prayer

Offering- Pete Kuipers to speak

**Offering song: Until that day comes** (to be played during powerpoint presentation)

God's Parting Blessing

**Song- Now blessed be the Lord our God**