

# Sunday Gathering Liturgy

What is Our Purpose?  
Ephesians 4:7-16 - Bradley  
Bell

January 23, 2022

Membership: Unimpressive  
But Authentic

## Length in mins

### 0:00 Call to Worship

Because Jesus Christ has conquered death and shared his power and strength with his people, the beginning of a gathering like this is always a call to worship. It's a call to hear the mighty voice from heaven that so many ignore and to respond with songs of praise. So this morning I'm going to read at length from Psalm 68 while the music plays. I invite you to close your eyes and focus on hearing the word of the Lord about his conquering King:

Read Psalm 68:1-10, 17-21

Now let's finish the psalm and respond with the underlined portion:

32 O kingdoms of the earth, sing to God;

sing praises to the Lord, Selah

33 to him who rides in the heavens, the ancient heavens;

behold, he sends out his voice, his mighty voice.

34 Ascribe power to God,

whose majesty is over Israel,

and whose power is in the skies.

Congregation:

35 Awesome is God from his sanctuary;

the God of Israel—he is the one who gives power and strength to his people. Blessed be God! Psalm 68:32-35

### 0:00 *His Mercy Is More* [ Default Arrangement in E ]

### 0:00 Confession

Before he departed Jesus said to his disciples and ultimately to us,

33 Little children...Where I am going you cannot come. 34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. 35 By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:33-35

In just a moment we'll be singing these lyrics together:

"In the longing of our souls

In the darkness where we go

You are there

You are love

You are altogether good

In the weakness of our faith

In the silence where we wait

You are here

You're enough

You are altogether good"

Church, for now, Jesus is not physically present with us. So in our longing and our darkness, in our weakness and in God's silence, how do we know he is there, and he is love, and he is altogether good? The answer is, when we love each other.

Let's take a moment before we sing, and acknowledge our need for the body of Christ to be the hands and feet of Jesus to us.

And as we sing, let's sing with the body of Christ in mind, and how it is a gift from the One who is altogether good.

### 0:00 *Altogether Good* [ Default Arrangement in Ab ]

### 0:00 *In Christ Alone* [ Default Arrangement in D ]

### 0:00 Sermon - Ephesians 4:7-16

### 0:00 Communion - 1 Corinthians 11:23-28

### 0:00 *Take My Life And Let It Be* [ Default Arrangement in D ]

### 0:00 *We Will Feast In The House Of Zion* February [ Default Arrangement in F ]

**Length  
in mins**

**0:00 Announcements, Giving, Benediction, & Sending**

You may be seated. Thank you for joining us in today's gathering! We hope that you have experienced the welcome of Jesus.

Giving & Visitors

1) Membership Emphasis - As you know this is our annual membership emphasis that includes asking current covenant members to re-sign a covenant. Unfortunately, we were not able to finish revising the 2022 covenant this week—it has been a bigger project than we anticipated. For example, the previous covenant included a long section on what the pastors commit to the members, but then nothing about what the members commit to the pastors (not to mention that it used to be five pages long—like terms of an agreement that nobody reads). We will release it for review this week and make it available for in-person signatures next Sunday.

Also, if you are not a previous member, instead of signing the covenant we ask that you walk through our membership process, which begins with a membership class on Sunday, January 30th at 9 AM. Please sign up if you plan to attend so we can prepare food and childcare.

2) Nursery - Exciting news, our nursery will re-open on Sunday, February 6th! We are opening with the minimum number of servants and trusting that more people will commit to serving as we go. If you're interested, please see Sarah O'Malley.

We begin each gathering with a call to worship and we end with a benediction which simply is a reminder that we are blessed to be a blessing. I invite you to hold out your hands as a posture of receiving this blessing:

Church, by this we know love, that Jesus laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. Therefore may you go into a watching world knowing that you are loved, and therefore loving one another. Based on 1 John 3:16 and John 13:35

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God the Father and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Let's say this together: We are sent.

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**0:00**