

“For God So Loved the World”

This prayer service is best used at the conclusion of Chapters 9 and 10 of *Jesus Christ: God’s Revelation to the World*.

Gather on two sides with a crucifix in the middle.

Leader: We gather in the presence of our loving God. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life (John 3:16). O God, we give you thanks and acknowledge that you are the God who cannot *not* love us.

All: For you are love through and through, and you cannot not be *you*. With delight and full voices, we sing the song of your love—your Word made flesh.

Pray the following as a group or by alternating lines from side to side.

Group 1: The heavens were opened; God’s Word became flesh;

Group 2: And dwelt here among us, all life to refresh.

Group 1: He came as a servant, though God’s firstborn Son,

Group 2: To reach out with compassion to touch everyone.

Group 1: The blind found new vision; mutes’ tongues were untied

Group 2: The lame found new footing to walk by his side.

Group 1: The broken were healed; the hungry were fed.

Group 2: The dearly departed he raised from the dead.

Group 1: The outcasts were welcomed; young and old heard his call.

Group 2: The saints and the sinners, the Lord touched them all.

Group 1: The sick left their sickbeds; the deaf heard his song.

Group 2: The poor and the homeless were carried along

Group 1: By the joyful good news that Christ Jesus was bringing,

Group 2: And the great cadence swelled till the whole land was singing,

Group 1: All praising the love sent forth by God's hand,

Group 2: God's life-giving Word abroad in the land.

Group 1: That song's never faded; it's still being sung

Group 2: In every language, in every tongue

Group 1: By all those who follow, by all those who seek,

Group 2: By those who are stalwart, by those who are weak,

Group 1: By all who say, "Lord," when asked by the Lamb,

Group 2: "Who do you say, dear friend, that I am?"

All: Amen.