



January 2, 2022

## CAN A BABY CHANGE US?

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Words are often cheap;  
but not Christ, the living Word of God.  
This Word is infinitely valuable,  
it is worth far more than the whole universe!

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.  
*And also with you.*

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT/PRAYER OF COUNTRY

This is God's Land.

Many people have gone before who have honoured God by caring for the Land,  
in the ways they have lived and in the stories they have shared.

We give thanks for the nations and people, who have held as sacred the duty of  
protecting the Land and living in harmony with it.

May God honour and bless them – now and to eternity. (C) 2017, A.Koh-Butler

### SONG

How Great Thou Art

<https://vimeo.com/worshipwell/download/625058316/c3d3d79251>


### ADORATION

Let us pray.

In the beginning, there was you God, just you; the Source and End of all things.  
You are the Mystery we cannot penetrate,  
the Power we cannot manipulate,  
the Love we cannot measure.

*In the beginning just you. God: The mind-blowing, awesome, loving Author of all.  
We bow in awe and adore you.*

Yet you have spoken one ultimate, living Word to planet earth.  
In Mary's Child you became embodied, and have revealed yourself  
to the poor and the meek, the foolish and the weak.



*In Christ Jesus, your invaluable Word has come among us, and we have seen his glory.  
We bow in awe and adore you.*

God the holy Love-Mystery,  
*we adore you.*  
Christ Jesus, the Divine Word who became human flesh,  
*we adore you.*  
Holy Spirit, Light which can never be smothered,  
*we adore you.*

You were and are and ever shall be, life and love and joy without end!  
***Amen!***

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Let us repent, not only our evil deeds, but also our foolish words, and seek the mercy of the Living Word.

Let us pray.

For covering our ignorance with slick speeches and whitewashing our sins with the sick chatter of self-justification, forgive and save us.  
*Forgive and save us, holy Friend.*

For rushing in with prattle when silence and awe are the only appropriate responses to your Living Word, forgive and save us.  
*Forgive and save us, holy Friend.*

For trying to cramp your Word within the cages of our many denominational biases or theological fashions, forgive and save us.  
*Forgive and save us, holy Friend.*

Most holy God, we can fool others sometimes, we can fool ourselves often, but we can never fool you. There is not a word on our tongue or a thought in our head, but you know it altogether. Please pity our foolish stunts and correct us, pity our wilful sinfulness and redeem us. Confront us with your incarnate Word: Surround us with it, capture us with it, enthrall us with it, wrap us up in it and reshape our lives by it. In the name of Christ Jesus, we pray.  
***Amen!***

### **ASSURANCE**

It is written: "To as many as receive Christ Jesus, he gives the authority, and the power to become children of God."  
Trust him, and you will receive pardon and a new beginning.  
*Thanks be to God!*

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

#### **SONG**

Indescribable



<https://vimeo.com/worshipwell/download/571495157/ca74bf051e>

## **OFFERING**

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

God of overflowing love.

We know your abundance in our lives in every moment.

As we dedicate this money here today,  
we know that it represents only some of the many gifts that you have gifted us  
with.

It is our prayer that this money might be a gift to others in the world. In the name  
of the great gift giver.

### **READINGS**

John 1: 1-18.

Ephesians 1:3-14

Jeremiah 31: 7-14

Psalms 147: 12-20

### **REFLECTION**

Can a baby change us?

<https://vimeo.com/worshipwell/download/659546421/cafc9f3a6d>

### **SILENCE**

Now let silence gently enfold us...

May the silence we now share quieten us, touch our need, refresh our courage,  
and enlarge our wonder.

### **SONG**

When I look into your holiness

<https://vimeo.com/worshipwell/download/571493132/beb4a8ce7c>

### **BLESSING**

Outside these doors, opportunity awaits you;  
far more opportunity than most of us realise.

Friends, hear and open your soul to the living Word of God.

*Jesus is our light and salvation.*

Take up your right to be both called the children of God,  
and receive the power to live as the children of God.

*We have seen his glory, and pray for the power to serve him gloriously.*

Abundant grace, mercy and peace,  
from the Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
will certainly be with you now and always.

***Amen!***

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Adapted from Bruce Prewer Year C, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Christmas <http://www.bruceprewer.com/DocC/C08xmas2.htm>

Acknowledgement of Country A.Koh-Butler, 2017