A. OPENING PRAYER

Come, see the glorious things that our God can do!
Be still in God's presence.
Know that God alone is the one true God.
He will be honoured throughout the earth;
He will be honoured in every nation.

God alone is our shelter and strength. God alone defends and protects us.

Great is our God, and worthy of praise! God's goodness knows no limit; God's faithfulness toward us is boundless!

God, your majesty and glory surround us here. We've come together to celebrate your presence, and to offer songs of praise and worship. We've come to rejoice in your mighty acts, and to retell the story of your goodness throughout history and in our own lives.

Move among us as we worship together; may your Spirit guide and inspire our thoughts and actions as we spend this time in your presence.

In the name of our Saviour and Lord, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

B. PSALM

"Blessed are the people who know how to praise you. They walk in the light of your presence, O Lord." (Psalm 89:15)

Let us praise God ...

C. READING

Philippians 4:4-8

D. QUOTE

"In order to know GOD, we must often think of Him; and when we come to love Him, we shall then also think of Him often, for our heart will be with our treasure." (Brother Laurence, from *Practicing the Presence of God*)

E. PRAYER MEDITATION

Imagine throwing a pebble into the centre of a pond, and the circles of ripples that move out from the centre.

We pray firstly for those closest to us, our immediate family and closest friends for their health, needs, joys and fears.

(Silent prayer)

God of creation, God of Salvation **Hear the prayers of our hearts**

We pray for our extended family and friends who we might not see each week – thanking God for their love and concern for us, and praying for their wellbeing.

(Silent prayer)

God of creation, God of Salvation **Hear the prayers of our hearts**

As the ripples reach out still further, we pray for those who we only have contact with once a year or less - asking God to bless them.

(Silent prayer)

God of creation, God of Salvation **Hear the prayers of our hearts**

And as the ripples reach their furthest point, we pray for this world and its people - for the needs of this week and the future.

(Silent prayer)

God of creation, God of Salvation **Hear the prayers of our hearts**

F. LET US PRAY

"Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." (Matthew 18:19-20)

Let us pray ...

G. CIRCLE PRAYER

Circle me, Lord. Keep protection near and danger afar.

Circle me, Lord Keep hope within. Keep doubt without.

Circle me, Lord. Keep light near and darkness afar.

Circle me, Lord. Keep love within. Keep indifference out.

Amen.

CREDITS

A1. from <u>re:worship</u>
A2. from <u>re:worship</u>

E. by John Birch, godspace.wordpress.com

G. by David Adam, faithandworship.com

prayer sheet

God's presence doesn't just fill a space – it transforms it.

Prayer sheet prepared by Rev. Irene Bom, OLM in International Presbytery of the Church of Scotland.

First used in Scots International Church Rotterdam at the monthly prayer service in October 2015, adapted for general use.

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Theme

in God's presence