



‘Worship at home’ August 31st 2025



We come to worship remembering that
God welcomes us and loves us always,
just as we are, as God welcomes and loves all people.

Opening

We are here to worship God, who welcomes each of us;

Let us consider how we might welcome others.

The love of Christ draws us to himself and to each other;

Let us consider how we show Christ’s love in our lives.

The Holy Spirit blesses us as we wait upon God;

Let us be renewed as we reflect on God’s Word. Amen

Have you ever been upgraded to First Class when travelling, or given a better room than you expected?

How did that make you feel? How did you respond?

Have you ever been dismissed, ignored or rejected when you felt you deserved something?

How did that make you feel? How did you respond?

At times we may feel unworthy, like we do not deserve what is offered to us. Other times we may feel a sense of entitlement or right because of our role or our experiences. Jesus reminds us that each of us is important, worthy, and loved by God. Although we are all unique, as we find

*Humility is not
thinking less of
yourself, it's
thinking of
yourself less.*

our place in the world, no one is more important or special than another. In this, Jesus teaches us humility.

At the root of *humility* is the Greek word *humus*, meaning *earth*. God made the earth and called it good, and, so one of the creation stories goes, God fashioned us from the earth. Humility is our fundamental recognition that we each draw our life and breath from the same source, the God who made us and calls us beloved. Humility does not only prevent us from seeing ourselves as more deserving or graced or better than another. It compels us also to recognize that we are no less deserving or graced than another.

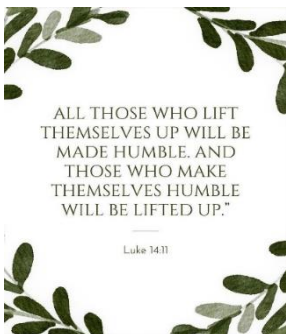
adapted from Jan Richardson

<https://paintedprayerbook.com/>

Luke 14:1, 7-11

One Sabbath day Jesus went to eat dinner in the home of a leader of the Pharisees, and the people were watching him closely... When Jesus noticed that all who had come to the dinner were trying to sit in the seats of honour near the head of the table, he gave them this advice: "When you are invited to a wedding feast, don't sit in the seat of honour. What if someone who is more distinguished than you has also been invited? The host will come and say, 'Give this

person your seat.' Then you will be embarrassed, and you will have to take whatever seat is left at the foot of the table! "Instead, take the lowest place at the foot of the table. Then when your host sees you, he will come and say, 'Friend, we have a better place for you!' Then you will be honoured in front of all the other guests. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted." New Living Translation



In Jesus' time, as in ours, there was a complicated hierarchy of social status and economic power, bringing certain expectations and responsibilities. This story is about humility, but also about power and how we use it, sometimes unintentionally. So often we can be unaware of our privilege and assumptions. We might need to be challenged on our expectations, and how we relate to others.

Luke 14:12-14

Then he turned to his host. “When you put on a luncheon or a banquet,” he said, “don’t invite your friends, brothers, relatives, and rich neighbours. For they will invite you back, and that will

be your only reward. Instead, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. Then at the resurrection of the righteous, God will reward you for inviting those who could not repay you.”

New Living Translation

As he often does, Jesus challenges his listener’s expectations and turns them upside down, welcoming those who would usually be excluded. In doing so, he gave them a sense of worth, a place in the community. We too are challenged to show hospitality to others, no matter their social status, ability, culture, beliefs, or sexuality.

It could be said that Australia has a pretty “flat” social structure, where we pride ourselves on being equal, and giving everyone a “fair go”. However, there are many who still feel they do not fit in, and are not invited to the “feast”.



**Who are those who struggle to find their place
in our society?**

Who are those who make you feel uncomfortable?

**Who are those who you might be challenged
to welcome or show care to?**

**This might be someone who is very different from you,
or someone you don’t like...**

what could you do to include them?



Hospitality is the way we come out of ourselves. It is the first step toward dismantling the barriers of the world. Hospitality is the way we turn a prejudiced world around, one heart at a time.

Rule of Benedictine

Jesus calls us to radical hospitality, where we put ourselves out and lay aside our own expectations in order to welcome or give to others, even those who can never repay us. This hospitality is more than superficial friendliness or acceptance.

This hospitality puts the other's needs first, placing them in the "seat of honour". This hospitality is not only about welcoming all in God's kingdom, but also about challenging the social norms that perpetuate injustice and oppression of those who are marginalised, and doing something about it ourselves.

Prayer

Open my eyes that they may see the deepest needs of people;
Move my hands that they may feed the hungry;
Touch my heart that it may bring warmth to the despairing;
Teach me the generosity that welcomes strangers;
Let me share my possessions to clothe the naked;
Give me the care that strengthens the sick;
Make me share in the quest to set the prisoner free.
In sharing our anxieties and our love,
our poverty and our prosperity,
we partake of your divine presence.

~ Canaan Banana, Zimbabwe

in *With All God's People: The New Ecumenical Prayer Cycle*

<http://prayersandcreeds.wordpress.com/2010/08/27/prayer-of-hospitality-compassion/>

Closing

O God, you invite us to participate in a hospitality which is something else! Help us not only to accept it with thanksgiving, but to freely share it with those whose lives are restricted or crushed by the meanness of this world. Make us not only receivers but generous and unpretentious givers. To the glory of your name, through Christ Jesus. Amen!

~ adapted from a prayer by Bruce Prewer <http://www.bruceprewer.com/>