**Welcome**

Good morning! Good morning, do take a seat, and welcome to Emmanuel church Northstowe this morning as we gather to build one another up and worship god this morning! A particular welcome if you’re new or visiting this morning, we’re so please you’re here with us today. We usually stand to sing, sit for anything else – if it’s not clear then that’s probably because I haven’t been clear. Near the end of the service we’ll be taking part in what Christians call “communion” or the “Lord’s supper” – the bread and the wine which are here. This is something for people who have placed their faith in Jesus Christ as their Lord and saviour, and who are in good standing with their own church. If that’s not, you then please just let the bread and the wine pass you by when it comes to it. Don’t feel any embarrassment about that.

Let me pray for us all now as we get started.

*Heavenly father, our provider, our maker and our protector. Through your goodness, we are alive and healthy enough to gather and worship you. We praise you for all that you have given us and thank you in Jesus’ name. Holy Lord, we commit all of our time together now to you and ask that everything we do be done for your glory forever and ever. Amen*

“Oh how good it is when the family of God dwells together in spirit, in faith and unity.” Let’s bring our worship to God in song now as we stand and sing Oh how good it is, followed by all creatures of our God and king. Please stand

**Songs:** *Oh how good it is*

*All creatures of our God and King*

Do take a seat.This morning we’re going to be picking up with the next passage in Matthew’s account of Jesus life, as it is in the Bible. I’m going to read the first part of the passage now, and then Karuna is going to help us to start thinking about it.

***Children’s talk.***

Thank you **Karuna.** God has a plan. He has a plan for each of us, and for how each of us are involved in his great plan to bring his people, all people back into right relationship with him, so enjoy his blessings. This is a plan for the whole earth. God has used people to tell each of us here of the blessings which are on offer in Jesus, and many of use have experienced that for ourselves. One way we can express our gratitude to God for drawing us back to him is by raising our voices in song. Let’s do that now as we stand to sing together. Please stand.

**Song:** Blessing and Honour

Great, do sit down.

We’ve just been singing about a time when people from every nation will bow before our God. When every tongue in heaven and earth will declare His glory.

The book of Revelation comes right at the end of the bible, and is sometimes really hard to understand as the apostle John, the author, has this vision of the future and is trying to put into words the images he sees. But one part that’s always wonderful to read is the vision he has in Revelation 7. Just listen to what it says here ***[Read Rev 7:1-4, 9-10]***.

The bible looks forward to a time when first Israel, and then all people from every nation, ethnicity, language, and background will come together and be united in worship to our God.

This is John’s vision of the future, but it’s something that we already see in the Church today. All round the world there are people gathering week after week to worship God in their own languages and cultures. And it’s something we can even have a glimpse of in our church here at Emmanuel.

I’ve asked Kate Van Yperento come and lead us now in a time of prayer, especially focused on the cross-cultural vision of the church. Thanks Kate.

Thank you Kate

**Notices [ASK JOSH]**

**Break**

Great, let’s come together again now – do carry on those conversations together over a drink and a biscuit (or piece of cucumber) after the service.

In a moment Josh is going to come and preach for us, but first I’m just going to read the passage for us. This is Matthew 15 starting at verse 21 – the same that was read earlier in the service – but continuing on to verse 39. **[read Matt 15:21-39]**.

Josh.

Thank you Josh.

We’re now going to move to the table. Communion is a picture of a meal which Jesus put in place before his death and resurrection as a means of remembrance for the church to repeat throughout history. Communion is something else which unites us with Christians all over the world as this same meal is repeated in churches everywhere. And as we share in the same bread, and the same wine, there is a picture of the oneness amongst believers here in our church as well.

Before we take this though, we’re going to sing a song which reminds us of who we were or are without Christ, and the great lengths to which we went to win us. Let’s stand.

**Song:** *This is our communion*

Please sit, and let’s say together the words of the general confession, as they appear on the screen. Please say with me **[read]**.

The apostle Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 11 “For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.””

**Pray:** *Lord Jesus, as we take the bread representing Your life that was broken for us, we remember and celebrate Your faithfulness to us and to all who will receive You. We can't begin to fathom the agonizing suffering of Your crucifixion. Yet You took that pain for us. You died for us! Thank You, Jesus. Thank You for Your extravagant love and unmerited favour. Thank You that Your death gave us life—abundant life now, and eternal life forever. As You instructed Your disciples, we, too, receive this bread in remembrance of You. Amen*

If you’re participating, please take a bread and eat it as you receive it.

Paul Continues in 1 Corinthians: “In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.” For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.”

**Pray:** *Lord Jesus, in the same way, as we take this cup representing Your blood poured out from a splintered cross, we realise that You were the supreme sacrifice for all our sin: past, present, and future. Because of Your blood shed for us, and Your body broken for us, we can be free from the power and penalty of sin. Thank You for Your victory over death. You took the death that we deserved. You took our punishment. And today we remember and celebrate the precious gift of life You gave us through the blood that You spilled. Amen.*

Do hold onto your cups again so we can drink together as a sign of our oneness.

In Christ we are one.

**Pray:** *Each time we take communion, Lord, we want to recommit our lives, our hearts, our thoughts, our everything to You. Fill us today with Your powerful Spirit. As we leave this place, help us to hold this fresh remembrance and the story that never grows old close to our hearts. Help us to share its message faithfully as You give opportunity.*

We are one body, the church, unified in Christ under his Lordship. Let’s respond in song to the one who unites us.

**Song:** *Lord of the church*

**Close**