

Liturgy B: Indian Christian Liturgy

Theme: Christ the Light of the World

A liturgy adapted by Jill Ford based on material that has been developed by the Imagine group in the UK

GATHERING

Seated on cushions in semi-circle, no shoes ladies head covering.

Tampura playing representing the constant presence of God

Symbols in the centre candles (Jesus the light), flowers in bowl of water (fragrance and water of life) bread (Jesus the bread of life) and grapes (Jesus the vine)

WELCOME AND EXPLANATION

OPENING DECLARATION & SCRIPTURE

Leader: lifts the Light towards North, South, East and West, saying:

*“Jesus Christ is the Light of the World, King of the Universe,
Lord of the whole Earth: North, South, East and West”*

THE LIGHTING OF LAMPS

Scripture 1: *Your Word is a lamp to my feet, a light to my path (Ps 119:105) participant*

Scripture 2: *The Lord is my light and my salvation (Ps 27:1) participant*

“The Son is the image of the invisible God” (everyone repeat)

“The firstborn over all creation.” (everyone repeat)

“For in him all things were created:” (everyone repeat)

“things in heaven and on earth” (everyone repeat)

PRAYER TOGETHER *joining hands*

Leader: Asadhoma sat gamaya

Response: Lead us from falsehood to truth

Leader: Tamasoma Jyotir Gamaya

Response: Lead us from darkness to light

Leader: Mrutyoma Amiritam gamaya

Response: Lead us from death to life

Leader: Shanti, shanti, shanti

Response: peace, peace, peace.

BHAJAN 1: JYOTI DO - Give us light, Give us life, Give us Peace

Jyoti Do (3) Prabu

Give us Light O Lord

Jeevan Do (3) Prabu

Give us Life O Lord

Shanti Do (3) Prabu

Give us Peace O Lord

SCRIPTURE: John 4:23-24 (NIV)

Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth."

BHAJAN 2: ARAADHANA PRABHU - Jesus is the **water and **bread** of life**

Intro (lead singer)

Araadhanaa prabhu aradhanaa,

Araadhanaa Yishu aradhanaa

Chorus 1 (call and response)

Araadhanaa prabhu aradhanaa,

Araadhanaa Yishu aradhanaa.

Verse 1 (lead)

Jivan(a) jal teri araadhanaa

Jivan(a) roti araadhanaa

Chorus 2 (together)

Araadhanaa prabhu araadhanaa,

Araadhanaa Yishu aradhanaa.

Worship the Lord Jesus, Worship the Lord.

Worship the Lord Jesus Worship the Lord.

Verse 2 (lead)

Water of Life,

May our hearts worship You.

Bread of Life, we praise You

We worship You.

Chorus 3

Worship the Lord Jesus,

Worship the Lord.

Araadhanaa prabhu aradhanaa,

Araadhanaa Yishu aradhanaa.

WORD

VISUAL MEDITATION: The Christ Light *Art work by Jyoti Sahi*

Reflecting with the eyes of our hearts and invitation to contemplate

Introduction to the piece Artist and context and the significance of Light

Questions:

What is the first thing that strikes you about this painting?

What do you notice about the shapes and colours?

How does it make you feel? What emotions does it convey?

What do you notice about this depiction of Christ? Does it remind you of any other images of Christ?

Take a moment and ask God to speak to you as you contemplate the image.

READ TOGETHER: Rom 12:1-2 linking prostration and worship

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is his good, pleasing and perfect will.

7 FOLD PROSTRATIONS Tamera plays in background. (Different participants read)

Psalm 95:6 *"Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker."*

Numbers 24: 4 *"The prophecy of the one who hears the words of God, who sees a vision from the Almighty, who falls prostrate, and whose eyes are opened."*

Deut 9:18 *“Then once again I fell prostrate before the Lord for forty days and forty nights.”*

2 Chron 20:18 *“Jehoshaphat bowed down with his face to the ground, and all the people of Judah and Jerusalem fell down in worship before the Lord.”*

Rev 7:11 *“All the angels were standing round the throne and round the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshipped God.”*

PRAYER

We will offer God our:

Feet: to express pilgrimage, that you are on a journey and the destination is God himself.

Knees: to express dependence and reverence; to kneel is to respect and it is also to ask God the rich king to meet your needs.

Hands: to express that you are offering your actions to God; your deeds are offered to him for his pleasure and use.

Chest: to express your heart. Your life must be in God, he is the source from which you live.

Tongue & lips: to express worship in words and song. Let your lips express thanks and reverence to God.

Eyes: are the windows of the soul they must be filled with the light of God as they look to the world.

Forehead: represents your thoughts and the things you meditate on. Your focus must be on God himself.

BHAJAN 3: MUKTI-DIL-AYE: He Saves

**Mukti-dil-aye Yesu naam
Shanti-dil-aye Yesu naam**

**Peace comes to you in Jesus' name
Salvation in no other name**

SENDING

Benediction

*May God, the Eternal Father, be your refuge and strength in the storms of life.
May Jesus, his son, the light of the world, lead and guide you as you help others follow him.
May his Spirit create springs of living water in and through you as you seek to refresh others.
Go in the Name of Jesus
Amen¹*

¹ Written Suneel Shivdasani

